A CHRISTMAS CAROL

FORM:

• 3RD PERSON. SCROOGE SEES EVENTS FROM OTHER PEOPLE’S PERSPECTIVES WHEN THE SPIRITS APPEAR. THIS COULDN’T HAPPEN IF IT WAS 1ST PERSON.

• THE NARRATOR INTERVENES SOMETIMES- 3RD PERSON INTRUSIVE CREATES A RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE NARRATOR(DICKENS) AND THE READER
THE NOVEL HAS ELEMENTS OF DIFFERENT GENRES:

• Gothic
• Parable
• Christmas tale
• Social criticism
• Ultimately, it is typically Dickensian: a novel full of memorable characters, grotesques, mystery and comedy – larger than life in some respects.
It is also Dickensian in its use of:

- Imagery
- Syntax
- Symbolism
- Contrast
- Humour
- Language – uses imagery, repetition, puns and hyperbole
CONTRAST

Dickens uses contrast to show his readers how a large part of the population (with whom the upper classes might not have much meaningful contact) actually lived. He wanted his readers to see they had a responsibility to help the poor.

The homes of the rich with the homes of the poor at Christmastime – Lord Mayor’s home with the poor men standing around their braziers shows social inequality. The different descriptions of the body of dead Scrooge contrast with the description of the dead Tiny Tim – this shows the contrast between a life lived in the warmth of a loving family and one lived in a miserly, solitary way.

FIND QUOTES TO SUPPORT THE IDEAS IN RED.
The fog can be seen as a symbol of ignorance (both of the higher classes knowledge of the poor and of Scrooge’s ignorance of the corrosive way in which he lives and its impact. The weather changes from gloomy and foggy to the bright light of redemption when Scrooge changes in Stave 5.

Music is often used to symbolise the joy of the Christmas season and the novel is indeed called *A Christmas Carol*. The naming of the chapters ‘staves’ further emphasises this musical symbolism.

Chains and cashboxes around Marley represent greed and avarice in life.
SYMBOLISM OF CHARACTERS

• Marley also creates a supernatural atmosphere at the start of the book. He is ‘dead: to begin with’

• Tiny Tim represents all poor and vulnerable children.

• The Ghost of Christmas Present represents the warmth and generosity of the Christmas spirit.

• The Ghost of Christmas Future represents the unknown future

• Scrooge represents the concept of change. He alters twice in the novel
MOTIFS

A motif is repeated symbol or idea. It is not a theme, but can help to add to the theme.

• Time

• Light and dark – link to the darkness of Scrooge’s soul at the beginning

• Cold (Scrooge) and Heat (Fred).

FIND QUOTES TO SUPPORT THESE IDEAS
THEMES:

• Poverty
• Isolation
• Importance of family
• True meaning of Christmas