

**HKTA Tang Hin Memorial Secondary School**  
**2011/2012 Inter-house Reading Competition (S1-S6)**

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Class: 5D

Class No.: 38

House: Blue

Title: A Christmas Carol

Author: Charles Dickens

Publisher: The Commercial Press

Essay-type English book report

The main character in this book is Ebenezer Scrooge. He is a penny-pinching miser. He does not care about the people around him and he lives only for money. He particularly hates Christmas which he views it as 'a time for finding yourself a year older, and not an hour richer'. Scrooge is visited by the ghost of his former partner Jacob Marley on Christmas Eve. Marley is also a miser like Scrooge. He is suffering the consequences after his death and he hopes to help Scrooge avoid his fate. He tells Scrooge that he will be haunted by three spirits. These three spirits are the ghosts of Christmas past, present, and future. They succeed in showing Scrooge what he has done wrong. Finally Scrooge grab this chance to turn over a new leaf.

In this book, I like Bob Cratchit most for several reasons. Although Scrooge treats him badly, gives him meager salary, he still sends him Christmas greetings. Also, as he is poor, it is difficult for him to maintain his family's living, but he still buy a turkey to celebrate Christmas with his family members. His purpose is to make his family has a happy Christmas. He is a great father to his children.

Actually, I really do not like Scrooge at the beginning. He is a miser and he only concerns making money. He never helps people and shares his things with others. He treats his clerk, Bob Cratchit, very badly. He looks down on his nephew, Fred. Luckily, he changes his mind at last; he sends a Christmas turkey to his long-suffering clerk, and spends the Christmas day with his nephew. I am happy to see this. Furthermore,

I think Scrooge is rather poor. He has no friends and no one loves him. The ghost of Christmas future shows Scrooge his future; no one misses him or grieves after his death. No one thinks he is a respected person. He just receives negative rating from other people. He does not feel happiness from friends or family, so I think he is a poor man. Besides, I think Marley is a good friend to Scrooge. Marley wants to help Scrooge whole-heartedly; he doesn't want Scrooge to suffer from what he does in the afterlife. Indeed, Marley gives Scrooge a great help and therefore Scrooge can avoid his fate.

Scrooge has some similarities to the Hong Kong people. Some Hong Kong people are money-minded. They believe money is the most important thing in their entire lives and money is much precious than the relationships between parents, friends and lovers. Some of them will make money unscrupulously; they will neglect their health and the communication between their beloved, or even use the wrong method to make money, such as breaking the law. However, they do not represent all Hong Kong people, as most of them are still caring; unlike Scrooge. Scrooge never helps the poor and the needy, but Hong Kong people will help others; they are keen on joining charitable activities. They have sympathy for the people who suffer from diseases and poverty. For example, in 2008 Sichuan earthquake, many Chinese died or got injured in this earthquake. Hong Kong people also felt sad about it. Hong Kong actor, Jackie Chan, donated \$1.57 million to the victims; many Hong Kong people also donate their money to the victims. It shows that we are not the same as Scrooge, for we will show our sympathy for others and be willing to give them a helping hand.

The book is meaningful. I have learnt 'it is more blessed to give than receive'. Scrooge becomes a good friend, a good master, and a good man in the end. His new-found benevolence continues as he raises Cratchit's salary and vows to assist his family, which includes Bob's crippled son. He enjoys his life after changing his mind. I have learned that being selfish will only cause loneliness to me while sharing and offering help will make my life more joyful and fruitful. I am more eager to do voluntary work after reading this book for helping the needy will enrich my life. I can sell flags, visit the orphans or the elderly. I can help the charities to collect funds. I can chat with the orphans and the elderly to let them know they are surrounded by love. Although I am not as rich as Scrooge, I cannot donate a huge amount of money to help the poor, I can devote my time. Nothing is important than love and care. We should not be a miser, otherwise we will become the next Scrooge. All these are what I have learnt in this book.