

Literature Revision

Analyse that quotation!

“You are fettered,” said Scrooge, trembling. “Tell me why?”

“I wear the chain I forged in life,” replied the Ghost. “I made it link by link, and yard by yard; I girded it on of my own free will, and of my own free will I wore it.”

— Charles Dickens, A Christmas Carol

“I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year. I will live in the Past, the Present, and the Future. The Spirits of all Three shall strive within me. I will not shut out the lessons that they teach!”

— Charles Dickens, A Christmas Carol

- “They are Man's and they cling to me, appealing from their fathers. This boy is Ignorance and this girl is Want. Beware them both, and all of their degree, but most of all beware this boy for on his brow I see that written which is Doom, unless the writing be erased.”

— Charles Dickens, A Christmas Carol

“But you were always a good man of business, Jacob,' faltered Scrooge, who now began to apply this to himself.

‘Business!' cried the Ghost, wringing its hands again. "Mankind was my business; charity, mercy, forbearance, and benevolence, were, all, my business. The deals of my trade were but a drop of water in the comprehensive ocean of my business!"

— [Charles Dickens, A Christmas Carol](#)

“There are many things from which I might have derived good, by which I have not profited, I dare say,' returned the nephew. 'Christmas among the rest. But I am sure I have always thought of Christmas time, when it has come round—apart from the veneration due to its sacred name and origin, if anything belonging to it can be apart from that—as a good time; a kind, forgiving, charitable, pleasant time; the only time I know of, in the long calendar of the year, when men and women seem by one consent to open their shut-up hearts freely, and to think of people below them as if they really were fellow-passengers to the grave, and not another race of creatures bound on other journeys. And therefore, uncle, though it has never put a scrap of gold or silver in my pocket, I believe that it *has* done me good, and *will* do me good; and I say, God bless it!”

— [Charles Dickens, A Christmas Carol](#)

“And it was always said of him, that he knew how to keep Christmas well, if any man alive possessed the knowledge. May that be truly said of us, and all of us! And so, as Tiny Tim observed, God bless Us, Every One!”

— Charles Dickens, A Christmas Carol

“Really, for a man who had been out of practice for so many years it was a splendid laugh!”

— Charles Dickens, A Christmas Carol

“I don't know what to do!” cried Scrooge, laughing and crying in the same breath; and making a perfect Laocoön of himself with his stockings. “I am as light as a feather, I am as happy as an angel, I am as merry as a school-boy. I am as giddy as a drunken man. A merry Christmas to every-body! A happy New Year to all the world! Hallo here! Whoop! Hallo!”

— [Charles Dickens, A Christmas Carol](#)

“And how did little Tim behave?” asked Mrs Cratchit, when she had rallied Bob on his credulity and Bob had hugged his daughter to his heart’s content.

“As good as gold,” said Bob, “and better. Somehow he gets thoughtful, sitting by himself so much, and thinks the strangest things you ever heard. He told me, coming home, that he hoped the people saw him in the church, because he was a cripple, and it might be pleasant to them to remember upon Christmas Day, who made lame beggars walk, and blind men see.”

— [Charles Dickens, A Christmas Carol](#)

“You fear the world too much,' she answered gently. 'All your other hopes have merged into the hope of being beyond the chance of its sordid reproach. I have seen your nobler aspirations fall off, one by one, until the master passion, Gain, engrosses you. Have I not?’”

— [Charles Dickens, A Christmas Carol](#)

“If they would rather die, . . . they had better do it, and decrease the surplus population.”

— Charles Dickens, A Christmas Carol

“Oh! But he was a tight-fisted hand at the grindstone, Scrooge! a squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous, old sinner! Hard and sharp as flint, from which no steel had ever struck out generous fire; secret, and self-contained, and solitary as an oyster.”

— [Charles Dickens, A Christmas Carol](#)

A pair of star-crossed lovers take their life.
(Chorus, Prologue)

Abraham: Do you bite your thumb at us, sir?
Sampson: I do bite my thumb, sir.
(Act 1 Scene 1)

But, soft, what light through yonder window breaks?
It is the east, and Juliet is the sun.
(Romeo, Act 2 Scene 1)

O Romeo, Romeo, wherefore art thou Romeo?
(Juliet, Act 2 Scene 1)

That which we call a rose
By any other word would smell as sweet.
(Juliet, Act 2 Scene 1)

Parting is such sweet sorrow.
(Juliet, Act 2 Scene 1)

For this alliance may so happy prove,
To turn your households' rancour to pure love.
(Friar Laurence, Act 2 Scene 2)

These violent delights have violent ends.
(Friar Laurence, Act 2 Scene 5)

A plague o' both your houses!
(Mercutio, Act 3 Scene 1)

Mercy but murders, pardoning those that kill.
(Prince, Act 3 Scene 1)

O deadly sin! O rude unthankfulness!
(Friar Laurence, Act 3 Scene 3)

Hang thee, young baggage, disobedient wretch!
I tell thee what: get thee to church o'Thursday,
Or never after look me in the face.
(Capulet, Act 3 Scene 5)

Romeo, Romeo, Romeo! Here's drink: I drink to thee.
(Juliet, Act 4 Scene 3)

O true apothecary,
Thy drugs are quick. Thus with a kiss I die.
(Romeo, Act 5 Scene 3)

O happy dagger,
This is thy sheath: there rust, and let me die.
(Juliet, Act 5 Scene 3)

All are punished.

(Prince, Act 5 Scene 3)

For never was a story of more woe
Than this of Juliet and her Romeo.

(Prince, Act 5 Scene 3)

Eric

By jove, yes. And as you were saying, dad, a man has to look after himself- (Act 1)

He could. He could have kept her on instead of throwing her out. I call it tough luck. (Act 1)

Why shouldn't they try for higher wages? We try for the highest possible prices. And I don't see why she should have been sacked just because she'd a bit more spirit than the others. You said yourself she was a good worker. I'd have let her stay. (Act 1)

Eric

(bitterly) You haven't made it any easier for me, have you, mother? (Act 2)

Yes. And that's when it happened. And I didn't even remember – that's the hellish thing. Oh – my God! - how stupid it all is! (Act 2)

Yes. I wasn't in love with her or anything – but I liked her – she was pretty and a good sport--

Eric

- No. she didn't want me to marry her. Said I didn't love her – and all that. In a way, she treated me – as if I were a kid. Though I was nearly as old as she was. (Act 2)
- (miserably) Yes. That was the worst of all. She wouldn't take any more, and she didn't want to see me again. (Act 2)
- (nearly at breaking point) Then – you killed her. She came to you to protect me – and you turned her away – yes, and you killed her – and the child she'd have had too (Act 2)

Eric

Well, I don't blame you. But don't forget I'm ashamed of you as well – yes both of you. (Act 3)

(bursting out) What's the use of talking about behaving sensibly. You're beginning to pretend now that nothing's really happened at all. And I can't see it like that. This girl's still dead, isn't she? Nobody's brought her to life, have they? (Act 3)

The money's not the important thing. It's what happened to the girl and what we all did to her that matters. And I still feel the same about it, and that's why I don't feel like sitting down and having a nice cosy talk. (Act 3)

Gerald

(laughs) You seem to be a nice well-behaved family – (Act 1)

(lightly) Sure to be. Unless Eric's been up to something. (nodding confidentially to Birling.) and that would be awkward, wouldn't it? (Act 1)

(showing annoyance) Any particular reason why I shouldn't see this girl's photograph, inspector? (Act 1)

Getting a bit heavy-handed, aren't you, inspector?
(Act 1)

So – for god's sake – don't say anything to the
inspector. (Act 1)

(to Sheila) thanks. You're going to be a great help, I
can see. You've said your piece, and you're
obviously going to hate this, so why on earth don't
you leave us to it? (Act 2)

No, it wasn't. (he waits a moment, then in a low, troubled tone.) she told me she'd been happier than she'd ever been before – but that she knew it couldn't last – hadn't expected it to last. She didn't blame me at all. I wish to God she had now. Perhaps I'd feel better about it. (Act 2)

I insisted on a parting gift of enough money – though it wasn't so very much – to see her through to the end of the year. (Act 2)

in that case – as I'm rather more – upset – by this business than I probably appear to be – and – well, I'd like to be alone for a while – I'd be glad if you'd let me go. (Act 2)

Mr Birling

Perhaps we may look forward to the time when Crofts and Birlings are no longer competing but are working together – for lower costs and higher prices. (Act 1)

As a hard-headed business man, who has to take risks and know what he's about – I say, you can ignore all this silly pessimistic talk (Act 1)

I've always been regarded as a sound useful party man. So – well – I gather there's a very good chance of a knighthood – so long as we behave ourselves, don't get into the police court or start a scandal – eh?(Act 1)

the way some of these cranks talk and write now, you'd think everybody has to look after everybody else, as if we were all mixed up together like bees in a hive – community and all that nonsense. (Act 1)

Still, I can't accept any responsibility. If we were all responsible for everything that happened to everybody we'd had anything to do with, it would be very awkward, wouldn't it? (Act 1)

This girl. Eva Smith, was one of them, she'd had a lot to say – far too much – so she had to go. (Act 1)

Rubbish! If you don't come down sharply on some of these people, they'd soon be asking for the earth. (Act 1)

(angrily) Inspector, I've told you before, I don't like the tone nor the way you're handling this inquiry. And I don't propose to give you much rope. (act 2)

(dubiously) I must say, Sybil, that when this comes out at the inquest, it isn't going to do us much good. The press might easily take it up—(Act 2)

That fellow obviously didn't like us. He was prejudiced from the start. Probably a socialist or some sort of crank – he talked like one. And then, instead of standing up to him, you let him bluff you into talking about your private affairs. (Act 3)

(triumphantly) There you are! Proof positive. The whole story's just a lot of moonshine. Nothing but an elaborate sell! (Act 3)

(jovially) But the whole thing's different now. Come, come, you can see that, can't you? (Imitating Inspector in his final speech.) You all helped to kill her. (pointing at Sheila and Eric, and laughing.) and I wish you could have seen the look on your faces when he said that. (Act 3)

(pointing to Eric and Sheila) Now look at the pair of them – the famous younger generation who know it all. And they can't even take a joke- (Act 3)

Mrs Birling

Please don't contradict me like that. And in any case I don't suppose for a moment that we can understand why the girl committed suicide. Girls of that class—(Act 2)

That – I consider – is a trifle impertinent, inspector.
(Act 2)

(with dignity) Yes. We've done a great deal of useful work in helping deserving cases. (Act 2)

Yes, I think it was simply a piece of gross impertinence – quite deliberate – and naturally that was one of the things that prejudiced me against her case. (Act 2)

If you think you can bring any pressure to bear upon me, Inspector, you're quite mistaken. Unlike the other three, I did nothing I'm ashamed of or that won't bear investigation. (Act 2)

I'll tell you what I told her. Go and look for the father of the child. It's his responsibility. (Act 2)

She was giving herself ridiculous airs. She was claiming elaborate fine feelings and scruples that were simply absurd in a girl in her position. (Act 2)

I didn't see any reason to believe that one story should be any truer than the other. Therefore, you're quite wrong to suppose I shall regret what I did. (Act 2)

I'm sorry she should have come to such a horrible end. But I accept no blame for it at all. (Act 2)

If, as she said, he didn't belong to her class, and was some drunken young idler, then that's all the more reason why he shouldn't escape. He should be made an example of. If the girl's death is due to anybody, then it's due to him.
(Act 2)

(shocked) Eric! You stole money? (Act 3)

Well, I must say his manner was quite extraordinary; so – so rude – and assertive – (Act 3)

Really, from the way you children talk, you might be wanting to help him instead of us. Now just be quiet so that your father can decide what we ought to do. (Looks expectantly at Birling.) (Act 3)

Sheila

But these girls aren't cheap labour- they're people.
(Act 1)

If she'd been some miserable plain little creature, I don't suppose I'd have done it. But she was very pretty and looked as if she could take care of herself. I couldn't be sorry for her. (Act 1)

It's the only time I've ever done anything like that, and I'll never, never do it again to anybody. (Act 1)

(laughs rather hysterically) why – you fool – he knows. Of course he knows. And I hate to think how much he knows that we don't know yet. You'll see. You'll see. (Act 1)

(eagerly) I know I'm to blame – and I'm desperately sorry – but I can't believe – I won't believe – it's simply my fault that in that in the end she – she committed suicide. That would be too horrible –(Act 2)

We all started like that – so confident, so pleased with ourselves until he began asking us questions. (Act 2)

(slowly, carefully now) you mustn't try to build up a kind of wall between us and that girl. If you do, then the inspector will just break it down. And it'll be all the worse when he does. (Act 2)

I'm not a child, don't forget. I've a right to know.
(Act 2)

(rather wildly, with laugh) No, he's giving us the rope – so that we'll hang ourselves. (Act 2)

We've no excuse now for putting on airs and if we've any sense we won't try (Act 2)

I behaved badly too. I know I did I'm ashamed of it. But now you're beginning all over again to pretend that nothing much has happened- (Act 3)

(flaring up) It's you two who are being childish – trying not to face the facts. (Act 3)

(bitterly) I suppose we're all nice people now.(Act 3)

(flaring up) Well, he inspected us all right. And don't let's start dodging and pretending now. Between us we drove that girl to commit suicide. (Act 3)

(tensely) I want to get out of this. It frightens me the way you talk. (Act 3)

I tell you – whoever that Inspector was, it was anything but a joke. You knew it then. You began to learn something. And now you've stopped. You're ready to go on in the same old way. (Act 3)

The Inspector

I'd like some information, if you don't mind, Mr Birling. Two hours ago a young woman died on the infirmary. She'd been taken there this afternoon because she'd swallowed a lot of strong disinfectant. Burnt her inside out, of course. (Act 1)

(coolly, looking hard at him) There might be.(Act 1)

They might. But after all it's better to ask for the earth than to take it. (Act 1)

(dryly) I don't play golf. Act 1)

(slowly) Are you sure you don't know? (He looks at Gerald, then at Eric, then at Sheila.) (Act 1)

(steadily) That's more or less what I was thinking earlier tonight when I was in the infirmary looking at what was left of Eva Smith. A nice little promising life there, I thought, and a nasty mess somebody's made of it. (Act 1)

Sometimes there isn't much difference as you think. Often, if it was left to me, I wouldn't know where to draw the line [between respectable citizens and criminals]. (Act 1)

(harshly) Yes, but you can't. It's too late. She's dead. (Act 1)

You think young women ought to be protected against unpleasant and disturbing things? (Act 2)

(sternly to them both) You see, we have to share something. If there's nothing else, we'll have to share our guilt. (Act 2)

(cutting in, with authority) he must wait his turn. (Act 2)

(sharply) your daughter isn't living on the moon. She's here in Brumley too. (Act 2)

(massively) Public men, Mr Birling, have responsibilities as well as privileges. (Act 2)

(very deliberately) I think you did something terribly wrong – and that you're going to spend the rest of your life regretting it. (Act 2)

(very sternly) Her position now is that she lies with a burnt-out inside on a slab. (As Birling tries to protest, turns on him.) Don't stammer and yammer at me again, man (Act 2)

(firmly) Yes. (As Birling looks like interrupting explosively.) I know – he's your son and this is your house – but look at him. He needs a drink now just to see him through. (Act 3)

Each of you helped to kill her. Remember that. Never forget it. (He looks from one to the other of them carefully.) But then I don't think you ever will. (Act 3)

- One Eva Smith has gone – but there are millions and millions and millions of Eva Smiths and John Smiths still left with us, with their lives, their hopes and fears, their suffering and chance of happiness, all intertwined with our lives, and what we think and say and do. We don't live alone. We are members of one body. We are responsible for each other. And I tell you that the time will soon come when, if men will not learn that lesson, then they will be taught it in fire and bloody and anguish. Good night. (Act 3)

