



Mr. Scrooge

Study Guide

November 19 – December 22, 2018

Book by William Goldsmith

Music and Lyrics by Janet Yates Vogt and Mark Friedman

Based on Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol

About the Story

“Mr. Scrooge” is based on, “A Christmas Carol” by Charles Dickens. This story was first published in London in 1843 by Chapman & Hall. This holiday classic tells the story of Ebenezer Scrooge, an unfriendly and greedy old man, who is visited by the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and Future. The three experiences given to Scrooge help him learn more about who he is and helps him become a more friendly and caring man. Dickens was inspired to write this story after visiting Field Lane Ragged school, an establishment for underprivileged children in London. “A Christmas Carol” was written on the 19th of December, and the story was so popular the first edition was sold out by Christmas Eve. It only grew more popular, and one year after its publication, thirteen editions had been released. Today, there are numerous movies and play adaptations based on this timeless tale.



About William Goldsmith

William Goldsmith has over 32 years of experience in working with young audiences. He was the first Youth Theatre Director at Players Theatre of Columbus where he developed the Youth Theatre Program. He founded Youth Performing Companies in Columbus, Texas and California. He has directed over 170 productions and performed in over 50. He has authored 35 scripts for young audiences which have toured the state playing to over 800,000 children in Ohio. He has taught theatre classes from Connecticut to California, including Professional Theatre, Community Theatre, Middle School, High School, and at three Universities. He implemented the prestigious International Youth Theatre Program at CCT, which took 26 Young Adult Actors in the CCT Pre-Professional Company to Britain & Scotland three times to perform in the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. The company also toured to France in 1994. He has served as President of the Ohio Theatre Alliance, President of the Central Ohio Theatre Roundtable, as a member of the Spring Grants Panel for the Greater Columbus Arts Council, and as a panel member for the Ohio Arts Council Artists-in-Education Program and Teacher Fellowship Program.



Student Preparation

- Talk with your students about the holiday classic "A Christmas Carol". Familiarize them with the book and film adaptations.
- Have students do the activities in this guide to help them learn more about the background and get excited about the show.
- Discuss theatre etiquette with students.
- Talk about what show the students are going to see. Mr. Scrooge is a play with just dialogue.



Theatre Etiquette

Live theatre is very exciting and may be a new experience for many audience members. These are general guidelines for etiquette during a performance:

- Arrive on time
- For the safety of the actors and the audience, please stay seated for the performance
- Visit the restroom before the performance begins
- The use of electronic devices, other than those used for accessibility of the performance, is strictly prohibited
- Please do not talk to your neighbor during the performance.
- If you like something that you see, you may clap or laugh - it shows the actors that you like what they are doing!

Suggested Reading

"A Christmas Carol"

By Charles Dickens

Grades 6-12, Scholastic Books

"A Christmas Carol"

By Karen Hesse, Charles Dickens, illustrated by Dean Morrissey

Grades 3-12, Scholastic Books

"A Christmas Carol: A Young Reader's Edition of the Classic Holiday Tale"

By Charles Dickens

Running Press

Grades 3-12



What's Involved In Putting On A Show?



Performances at Columbus Children's Theatre are a result of groups of people working together. Many people know and understand what an actor is—the people on the stage telling the story. But did you know there are many more people working hard “behind-the-scenes” to make the performance happen? Below are just a few of those people,

The Director

- Responsible for the overall concept of the show—they guide a vision to create a world on stage in which the show may exist.
- Works with the actors to help them interpret their character and move on stage.
- Works closely with designers in planning the sounds, lights, scenery, costumes, props, - basically, everything you see on the stage.

The Designers

- Work with the director and with each other to create the look of the lights, scenery, costumes, make-up, sound and special effects. They make the world on stage come to life.

The Stage Manager

- Organizes every aspect of the production—schedules, resources and communications.
- In charge of making everything run smoothly from rehearsal to performance.
- Guarantees the same great performance every single time, whether you attend a show during the school day, or with your family in the evening or on the weekend.

The Crew

- There are a lot of different crew people. Some help build the scenery, costumes, and props you see on the stage, and some are working backstage during the show helping actors change costumes, moving pieces of scenery on and off, or operating the lights and sound.

The Cast

- Cast is what we call all of the actors who are on stage performing the characters in front of the audience.

The Audience

- This is where you come in! The show you see would not exist without you. The hard work everyone puts in to create a show is all meant to share a story with you.



Learn some of the fun words used in the play Mr. Scrooge. Use a dictionary to look up the words you don't know.



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|---------------------|---|
| ____ 1. Covetous | A. Wanting what other people have |
| ____ 2. Shrewdly | B. Free from blame |
| ____ 3. Dismal | C. Needed material or supplies |
| ____ 4. Proprietor | D. Acting practical and clever |
| ____ 5. Provision | E. Extremely poor |
| ____ 6. Destitute | F. A feeling of sadness |
| ____ 7. Idle | G. Continuing to act or exist |
| ____ 8. Surplus | H. Gloomy |
| ____ 9. Persist | I. Tries or attempts |
| ____ 10. Impeccable | J. Not busy; lazy |
| ____ 11. Melancholy | K. Extra, leftover |
| ____ 12. Endeavors | L. A person who owns something, like a business |

A Scrooge Timeline:

Family
Activity

Throughout the story, Scrooge is visited by three ghosts, the past, the present, and the future and is taught valuable life lessons. The Ghost of Christmas Past shows the value of perspective, which gives a sense of what really matters. The Ghost of Christmas Present shows the importance of knowing your current reality and seeing where you stand in the moment of today. The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come tells us to be brave and to seek transformation for the future - you must look forward at all times to identify where you want to be and to make adjustments.

In this project, you will use these "ghosts" to create a timeline of events that have shaped you from your past, things you are working on in your present, and things you wish for in your future. This timeline can look any way you want as long as it includes the three "ghosts".



We Can't Wait
To Perform
For You!