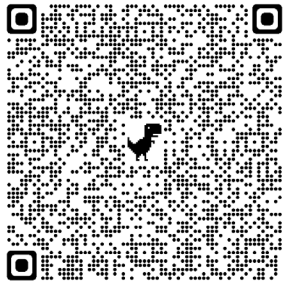


Year 7 – A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens

Plot	Literary Techniques	QR Codes
Stave One: It is Christmas Eve. Ebenezer Scrooge, a money-lender, hates Christmas and turns down an offer from his nephew Fred to join his family for Christmas dinner. At home that evening, Scrooge is visited by the ghost of his dead business partner, Jacob Marley, who warns him that he will receive visits from three further spirits who will teach him a valuable lesson. Stave Two: Scrooge is visited by the Ghost of Christmas Past who takes him back to memories of the Christmas Eves he spent at boarding school and with his old employer, Mr Fezziwig, as well as the night his fiancée, Belle, released him from their engagement. Stave Three: Scrooge is visited by the Ghost of Christmas Present who shows him the spirit of Christmas and how it is celebrated, not only in London, but around the nation. The Ghost also shows Scrooge how the families of Fred and his clerk, Bob Cratchit, are celebrating Christmas and Scrooge begins to understand what he is missing out on. Before departing, the Ghost shows Scrooge the boy and girl beneath his robe: Ignorance and Want. Stave Four: Scrooge is visited by the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come and sees a possible future where his death is welcomed by those whose lives he has made a misery. In this bleak future, Bob Cratchit’s disabled son, Tiny Tim, dies, and Scrooge finally realises he must change in order to avoid this nightmare from coming true. Stave Five: Scrooge awakes on Christmas morning and is so relieved to find himself alive that he resolves to become a new man. He arranges for a huge turkey to be delivered to the Cratchit family and joins Fred and his family for lunch. In time, he becomes a second father to Tiny Tim.	Pathetic fallacy – where the environment is given human emotions to reflect a character’s mood. Example: <i>‘It was cold, bleak, biting weather.’</i> Simile – where one thing is compared to another using ‘like’ or ‘as’. Example: <i>‘The sound resounded through the house like thunder.’</i> Metaphor – where an object is said to be something that isn’t literally true but captures its essence. Example: <i>‘the haggard winter of his life’.</i> Personification – where something that isn’t human is given human attributes. Example: <i>‘There were Spanish onions...winking from their shelves in wanton slyness at the girls...’</i> Symbolism – the use of objects to represent ideas Example: The chain Marley’s ghost wears symbolises his greed and his guilty conscience. Imagery Onomatopoeia – where the sound of a word is very similar to its meaning. Example: <i>‘a clanking noise’</i> Listing – where the writer uses a list of items to emphasise a point they are making. Example: <i>‘it was made of cash-boxes, keys, padlocks, ledgers, deeds, and heavy purses...’</i> Foil characters – characters who contrast with the main character to highlight the main character’s qualities. Example: Fred is a foil character to Scrooge. Atmosphere – the use of settings to create a particular feeling for the reader. Example: <i>‘The ways were foul and narrow; the shops and houses wretched.’</i>	Punctuation Guide  Further Reading: Ghosts in A Christmas Carol – British Library Article 
Characters	Themes	Thinking & Writing About Texts Using What – How – Why 
Ebenezer Scrooge – is the protagonist (main character) of the story. He is a ‘tight-fisted’ money lender with no friends, living ‘solitary as an oyster’. Thanks to the series of visits by the ghosts, Scrooge realises the importance of empathy and generosity and becomes a changed man. Jacob Marley – was Scrooge’s business partner. He has been dead for 7 years, but Scrooge has never painted over his name on their office sign. Like Scrooge, Marley was only interested in making money. His ghost returns to warn Scrooge that ‘mankind’ should be his ‘business’. Fred – is Scrooge’s nephew, the son of Scrooge’s sister, Fan. Fred is the antithesis of Scrooge, a warm-hearted, generous fellow who tries to encourage his uncle to celebrate Christmas. Bob Cratchit – is Scrooge’s under-paid clerk. He is young at heart and loves spending time with his large family, especially his disabled son, Tiny Tim. Mr Fezziwig – was Scrooge’s employer when Scrooge was a young apprentice. Unlike Scrooge, Fezziwig treats his employees with generosity and respect, throwing fantastic Christmas parties. Belle – was Scrooge’s fiancée when he was younger. She releases him from his promise to marry her, recognizing that ‘Another idol has replaced me.’ Scrooge had come to love money more than her. The Ghost of Christmas Past – is the first of the three spirits that Marley’s ghost promised would visit Scrooge. He is a peculiar mix of a child and an old man, with a flame for a head, like a candle. The Ghost of Christmas Present – is the second spirit to visit Scrooge. He is a giant and uses his torch to sprinkle the Christmas spirit on all those around him. The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come – is the last spirit to visit Scrooge. He is like the Grim Reaper.	Change and Transformation – Dickens creates a powerful positive message in the novella – everyone can change. By emphasising Scrooge’s initial extreme attitudes and rejection of Christmas, he shows that even the most hard-hearted people can change for the better. Poverty and Wealth – The Cratchit family represent the poor in the novella. They are only just about getting by on Bob’s salary and have no money to spare for luxuries. The charity collectors remind readers that ‘Many thousands are in want of common necessities.’ Responsibility – Dickens believed that every individual had a responsibility to those around them. Fred tells Scrooge that Christmas is a time of year when men and women ‘think of people below them as if they really were fellow-passengers to the grave’. Education – Dickens feels he needs to teach his readers a lesson so that they don’t become like the horrific boy, Ignorance, who lives under the cloak of the Ghost of Christmas Present. He shows the power of stories to make life better when the young Scrooge looks out of his school window and imagines seeing his favourite characters passing by. The Supernatural – the genre of ghost stories was popular in Victorian England and Dickens uses this to entertain his readers so that they don’t feel they are being preached to. Isolation – The novel demonstrates the need that human beings have for companionship. Scrooge is left alone at school and then grows into a man who focuses on making money at the expense of personal relationships. The Family – families such as those of Bob Cratchit and Fred are used to show Scrooge that the joys of family life are so much greater than the love of money.	

Literacy – A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens			
Tier 2 Vocabulary		Tier 3 Vocabulary	
destitute – lacking the means to provide for oneself.	parsimonious – unwilling to spend money or use resources.	allegory – a story that can be interpreted to reveal a hidden meaning, usually a moral or political one.	juxtaposition – where two things are placed next to each other to highlight their contrasts.
dignified – behaving in a way that deserves respect.	penury – extreme poverty.	antithesis – the direct opposite of someone or something else.	novella – a short novel
indignant – feeling or showing annoyance at what is perceived as unfair treatment	redemption – the action of saving or being saved from sin, error or evil.	didactic – intended to teach or behaving in the manner of teacher.	social commentary – where a writer uses their text to provide their perspective on society & its problems.
miserly – ungenerous	transformation – a significant change in shape, appearance or personality.	gothic – a literary genre which focuses on concepts of haunting and fear.	stave – the five lines on which musical notes are written. Dickens calls his chapters ‘staves’ to fit with the idea of the book as a carol.
Language for analysing a text		Speak like a text analyst	
builds	implies	The story is an allegory about the importance of tackling poverty.	Dickens juxtaposes Scrooge’s dark, cold and grim shop with the colourful stalls full of Christmas food.
connotes	infers	Good-natured and generous Fred is the complete antithesis of his miserly uncle Scrooge.	This Victorian novella reminds readers of the true message of Christmas.
develops	positions	This didactic novella’s message is one of hope and redemption.	Dickens uses his novella as social commentary on the plight of the poor.
explains	reinforces	The three spirits and the use of fog to create a mysterious atmosphere are some of the novella’s gothic elements.	Each stave shows us a step in Scrooge’s transformation.