

## Dickens | A Christmas Carol

Fremdsprachentexte | Englisch



# Charles Dickens

## A Christmas Carol

Mit Illustrationen von Arthur Rackham  
Herausgegeben von Herbert Geisen



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## Author's Preface

The narrow space within which it was necessary to confine these Christmas Stories, when they were originally published, rendered their construction a matter of some difficulty, and almost necessitated what is peculiar in their machinery. I never attempted great elaboration of detail in the working out of character within such limits, believing that it could not succeed. My purpose was, in a whimsical kind of masque which the goodhumour of the season justified, to awaken some loving and forbearing thoughts, never out of season in a Christian land.



1 **preface:** Vorwort. Dickens stellte dieses Vorwort seiner 1852 veröffentlichten Sammlung *Christmas Books* voran, die folgende Geschichten enthielt: *A Christmas Carol* (1843), *The Chimes* (1844), *The Cricket on the Hearth* (1845), *The Battle of Life* (1846) und *The Haunted Man* (1847).

In den folgenden Jahren veröffentlichte Dickens in der von ihm herausgegebenen Zeitschrift *Household Words* zahlreiche Kurzgeschichten zur Weihnachtsthematik. \* 5 **to necessitate:** erforderlich machen. \*

6 **machinery:** hier: Aufbau, Konstruktion. Dieser Ausdruck wurde im Epos vornehmlich für die Götterwelt verwandt. \* 8 **whimsical:** spaßig, seltsam. \* 9 **masque:** Maskenspiel (ursprünglich höfische Unterhaltung, später gehörten solche Maskenspiele auch zu den typischen Unterhaltungen der Weihnachtszeit in England). \* 10 **forbearing:** nachsichtig, geduldig. \*

## Preface

I have endeavoured in this Ghostly little book to raise the Ghost of an Idea which shall not put my readers out of humour with themselves, with each other, with the season, or with me. May it haunt their houses pleasantly, and no one wish to lay it. 5

Their faithful Friend and Servant,  
C.D.

December 1843.

## Characters

10

BOB CRATCHIT, *clerk to Ebenezer Scrooge*

PETER CRATCHIT, *a son of the preceding*

TIM CRATCHIT (*"Tiny Tim"*), *a cripple, youngest son of Bob Cratchit*

MR. FEZZIWIG, *a kind-hearted, jovial old merchant*

15

FRED, *Scrooge's nephew*

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST, *a phantom showing things past*

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT, *a spirit of a kind, generous, and hearty nature*

20



3 **to put out**: hier: verstimmen, ärgern. \* 6 **to lay**: hier: (einen Geist) bannen. \* 11 **Cratchit**: sprechender Name: abgeleitet von *to scratch* ›kratzen (auf dem Papier)‹. \* **Scrooge**: sprechender Name: Geizhals. \*

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS YET YO COME, *an apparition showing the shadows of things which yet may happen*  
GHOST OF JACOB MARLEY, *a spectre of Scrooge's former partner in business*

5 JOE, *a marine-store dealer and receiver of stolen goods*  
EBENEZER SCROOGE, *a grasping, covetous old man, the surviving partner of the firm of Scrooge and Marley*

MR. TOPPER, *a bachelor*

DICK WILKINS, *a fellow-apprentice of Scrooge's*

10 BELLE, *a comely matron, an old sweetheart of Scrooge's*

CAROLINE, *wife of one of Scrooge's debtors*

MRS. CRATCHIT, *wife of Bob Cratchit*

BELINDA and MARTHA CRATCHIT, *daughters of the preceding*

15 MRS. DILBER, *a laundress*

FAN, *the sister of Scrooge*

MRS. FEZZIWIG, *the worthy partner of Mr. Fezziwig*



3 **spectre**: Geist (eines Toten). \* 5 **marine-store**: Handlung für Schiffsbedarf. \* **receiver of stolen goods**: Hehler. \* 6 **covetous**: habgierig. \* 10 **comely**: anmutig. \* **matron**: Hausfrau (impliziert Würde und Erfahrung). \* 15 **laundress**: Wäscherin. \*



# A Christmas Carol

In Prose being

*A Ghost Story of Christmas*







## Stave I Marley's Ghost

Marley was dead, to begin with. There is no doubt what-  
ever about that. The register of his burial was signed by  
5 the clergyman, the clerk, the undertaker, and the chief  
mourner. Scrooge signed it. And Scrooge's name was good  
upon 'Change for anything he chose to put his hand to.

Old Marley was as dead as a door-nail.

10 Mind! I don't mean to say that I know, of my own knowl-  
edge, what there is particularly dead about a door-nail. I  
might have been inclined, myself, to regard a coffin-nail as  
the deadest piece of ironmongery in the trade. But the wis-



[Titel] carol: Jubellied. \* 1 stave: Strophe. \* 7 'Change: Börse. \* to put  
one's hand to s.th.: etwas unterzeichnen. \* 12 ironmongery: Eisen-  
waren, Eisenartikel. \*