

Theatre IV is a non-profit, professional touring theatre company which has been headquartered in Richmond, VA for over 35 years. Theatre IV provides outstanding educational entertainment designed to tour and innovative instructional programs that enrich our nation's schools. Each year, Theatre IV brings stories to life for over half a million students, teachers and parents in all corners of the United States. Theatre IV's adaptation of *The Christmas Carol*, perhaps the best loved holiday story of all time, is particularly suited to children. The show features a magnificent score by Julie Styne, the composer of Broadway's immortal *Peter Pan*, *Gypsy* and *Funny Girl*. All the joy, sentiment and meaning are here, without being too scary for young audiences. Come see how Theatre IV continues to "set the stage for learning!"



As an integral part of the Performing Arts Series, APPlause! offers a variety of performances at venues across the Appalachian State University campus that feature university-based artists as well as local, regional and world-renowned professional artists. These affordable performances offer access to a wide variety of art disciplines for K-12 students. The series also offers the opportunity for students from the Reich College of Education to view a field trip in action without having to leave campus.

Among the 2013-2014 series performers, you will find those who will also be featured in the Performing Arts Series along with professional artists chosen specifically for our student audience as well as performances by campus groups. All shows in the 2013-2014 series are performed at the newly renovated Schaefer Center for the Performing Arts.

Before you arrive. . .



Familiarize your students with what it means to be a great audience member by introducing these theatre etiquette basics:

- Arrive early enough to find your seats and settle in before the show begins (20-30 minutes).
- Remember to turn your electronic devices OFF so they do not disturb the performers or other audience members.
- Remember to sit appropriately and to stay quiet so that the audience members around you can enjoy the show too.
- Show appreciation to the performers by applauding and reacting to funny or impressive feats.



NOTE: All audience members arriving by car should plan to park in the Rivers Street Parking Deck. There is a small charge for parking in the deck. Buses should plan to park along Rivers Street – Please indicate to the Parking and Traffic Officer when you plan to move your bus (i.e. right after the show, or after lunch) so that they can help keep everyone safe.



Classroom Connections

For teachers and students grades K - 5



In the Classroom

A *Christmas Carol* and this Classroom Connections Study Guide are produced in support of the teaching of: the Language Arts, History, Geography, Character Development, Music, and Theater



At the Library

[A Christmas Carol: A Young Reader's Edition of the Classic Holiday Tale](#), by Charles Dickens

[Christmas Ghost Stories](#), by Charles Dickens

[Great Expectations](#), by Charles Dickens

[Oliver Twist](#), by Charles Dickens



On the Web

A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens, Electronic Text Center, UVA Library

<http://etext.virginia.edu/toc/modeng/public/DicChri.html>

A Christmas Carol Quotes

http://www.litquotes.com/quote_title_resp.php?TName=A%20Christmas%20Carol

ReadWriteThink Unit Plan

Beyond the Story: A Dickens of a Party

<http://www.readwritethink.org/classroom-resources/lesson-plans/beyond-story-dickens-party-238.html>

Squidoo – Lesson Plans (and free downloadable e-book) for Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol

<http://www.squidoo.com/Dickens-Christmas-Carol>

A Christmas Carol

Book by Steve Perigard Music and lyrics by Paul Deiss



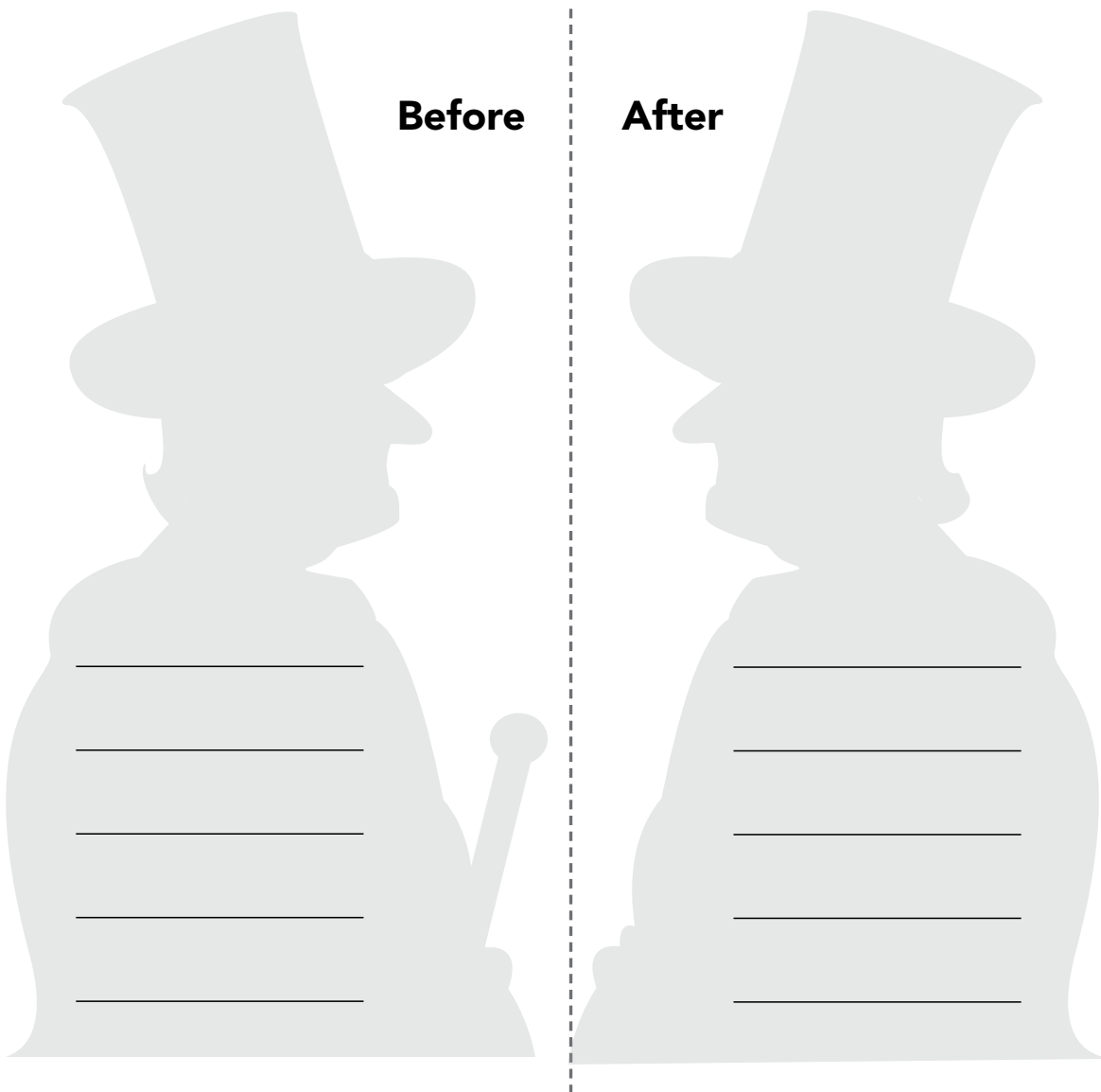
Play Synopsis: Based upon the famous classic by Charles Dickens, *A Christmas Carol* is a heartwarming story of the transformation of Ebenezer Scrooge from a greedy, heartless miser to a generous, loving man. When the play opens, Scrooge is in his counting house in London. He is a "squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous old sinner!" Three ghostly visits – from the ghosts of Christmas past, present, and future – leave an indelible impression on Ebenezer. Filled with love and the true spirit of the Christmas season, he begins to change his selfish ways and open his heart to those around him. Delight in this classic tale of Ebenezer, the ghosts, Bob Cratchet, and Tiny Tim. Theatre IV brings them all to life on stage in this lively and heartwarming musical performance.

DID YOU KNOW? Even today, the word "Scrooge" is used in the United States, the United Kingdom, and beyond, to describe someone who is overly miserly, or always glum and complaining.

A Change of Character

Throughout the play, Ebenezer Scrooge's personality changes a lot.

Read the traits listed in the box on the right. Choose at least five traits that describe Ebenezer Scrooge at the beginning of the play, and at least five traits that describe Ebenezer Scrooge at the end of the play. Use a dictionary to help.



Character Traits

arrogant	jealous
bold	just
bored	kind
brave	lonely
cautious	merry
civil	mischievous
confident	miserable
considerate	miserly
cooperative	modest
courteous	negative
disdainful	petty
determined	polite
eager	respectful
envious	rude
exhausted	sad
fair	selfish
focused	selfless
friendly	shy
frightened	sneaky
gentle	spiteful
giddy	stingy
giving	sympathetic
glum	tolerant
greedy	thoughtful
happy	timid
helpful	tricky
honest	trustworthy
honorable	unhappy
humble	unpleasant
inquisitive	unwilling

Think about it What do Ebenezer Scrooge's possessions say about his personality? What types of things does he spend time with at the beginning of the play? What does he learn about his possessions from the spirits that visit him?

Character Acrostic

An **acrostic** is a type of poem that describes something (in this case a character from the play *A Christmas Carol*) by using each of the letters in the word as the beginning of a line of poetry.

For example, an acrostic about America might read:

Apple Pie from ear to ear!
Majesty in its purple mountains
Easy to love
Revolutionary men set us free
Independent from any other nation.
Caring people live here
America is a wonderful nation!



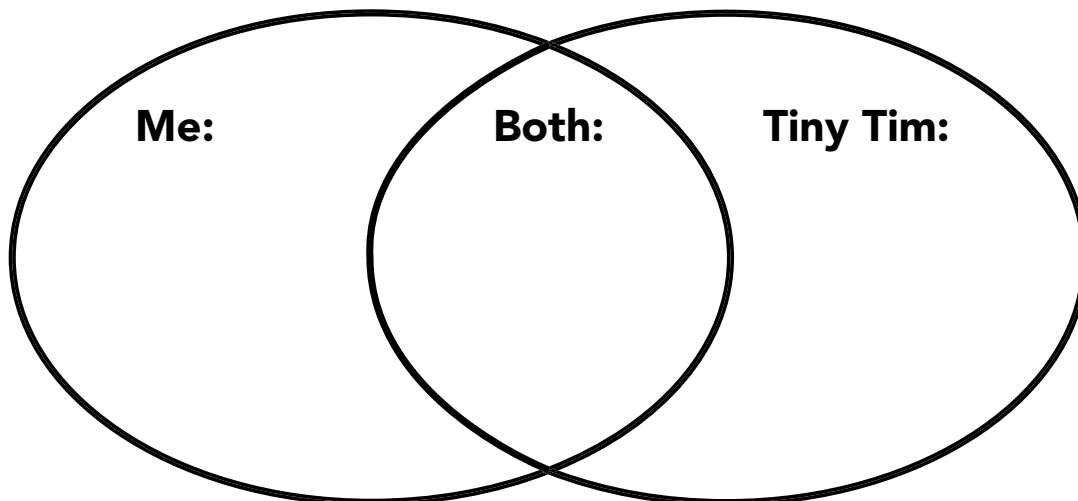
On the Web

For resources on sharing and creating poetry with children, check out:
www.poetryfoundation.org



Writing Poetry

Write your own acrostic about your favorite character from *A Christmas Carol*.



Challenge

Using the Venn diagram on the left, compare Tiny Tim's character traits with yours. How are you alike? How are you different?



THEATRE IV

114 West Broad St.
Richmond, VA 23220
1.800.235.8687
www.TheatreIV.org

Theatre IV Presents...

A Christmas Carol
Based on the story by
Charles Dickens

Theatre IV

Bruce Miller,
Artistic Director

Phil Whiteway,
Managing Director

Classroom Connections Study Guides

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Cues at the Theatre

People who work on musical plays like *A Christmas Carol* need to know all about the following:

Playwright: (n.) a person who writes a play

Play: (n.) a story acted out with dialogue

Adapted: (v.) changed to fit a new use or situation (such as a story that was in a book being adapted to become a play)

Musical: (n.) a play that includes songs

Dialogue: (n.) words spoken by the characters in a play

Lyrics: (n.) words of a song

Using the list above, fill in the correct word:

A _____ that uses music is called a _____.

Actors in a play speak words called _____ and sing _____ of a song.

The person who writes a play is called a _____.

Often, a play is _____ from a book or another source.

Resources

Elementary

- *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens • Illustrated by Brett Helquist • Abridged by Josh Greenhut (ASU IMC Stacks Fic D548ch)
- *Ben's Christmas Carol* by Toby Forward • Illustrated by Ruth Brown (ASU IMC Stacks E F7455be)
- *A Boy Called Dickens* by Deborah Hopkinson • Illustrated by John Hendrix (ASU IMC Stacks 92 D548ho)
- *Charles Dickens: Scenes From an Extraordinary Life* written and illustrated by Mick Manning & Brita Granström (ASU IMC Stacks 92 D548ma)
- *Christmas Around the World* by Emily Kelley • Illustrated by Joni Oeltjenbruns (ASU IMC Stacks 394.2663 K29ch)

Middle & Secondary

- *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens • Adapted by Stephen Krensky • Illustrated by Dean Morrisey (ASU IMC Stacks Fic K92ch)
- *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens adapted and illustrated by Lisbeth Zwerger (ASU IMC Stacks Fic D548ch3)
- *Charles Dickens: The Man Who Had Great Expectations* by Diane Stanley & Peter Vennema • Illustrated by Diane Stanley (ASU IMC Stacks 92 D548st)
- *Charles Dickens and Friends* adapted and illustrated by Marcia Williams (ASU IMC Stacks Fic W7248ch)
- *Charles Dickens: England's Most Captivating Storyteller* by Catherine Wells-Cole • Including Extracts from the Works of Charles Dickens (ASU IMC Stacks 92 D548we)
- *A Ghost Tale for Christmas Time* by Mary Pope Osborne • Illustrated by Sal Murdocca (ASU IMC Stacks Fic O814gh)
- *Rags and Riches: Kids in the Time of Charles Dickens (A Nonfiction Companion to A Ghost Tale for Christmas Time)* by Mary Pope Osborne & Natalie Pope Boyce • Illustrated by Sal Murdocca (ASU IMC Stacks 362.740941 O81ra)
- *Christmas Around the World* by Mary D. Lankford • Illustrated by Karen Dugan (ASU IMC Stacks 394.2663 L289ch)

Reference

- *Charles Dickens (Importance of Series)* by Eleanor H. Ayer (ASU IMC Stacks 92 D548ay)
- *Classic Readers Theatre for Young Adults* by Suzanne I. Barchers & Jennifer L. Kroll (ASU IMC Stacks 812.54 B243cl)
- *The World Encyclopedia of Christmas* by Gerry Bowler (ASU IMC Stacks 394.2663 B787wo)
- *Celebrations Around the World: A Multicultural Handbook* by Carole S. Agnell (ASU IMC Stacks 394.26 A583ce)

Multimedia

- *The Night Before Christmas Carol* --DVD (ASU Movies PN1997 ENGL .N542 2000)
- *A Christmas Carol* • Performed by Patrick Stewart --Cassette (ASU Audiobooks PR4572 .C68 1991)

Idea Factory

The Idea Factory is located in room 031 of the IMC on the lower level of Belk Library and Information Commons. The Idea Factory is designed to assist ASU Cooperating Teachers, K-12 Watauga County Public School teachers, and ASU Education majors access to resources for enhancing classrooms and to assist in creating quality lesson units.

www.imc.library.appstate.edu/ideafactory



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Header artwork, "School Days" by Dacia Trethewey.