

Disney's A Christmas Carol

Study Notes



Directed by: Robert Zemeckis
Certificate: PG (contains mild threat, scary scenes and mild language)
Running time: 95 mins
Release date: 4 November 2009

Synopsis

Ebenezer Scrooge begins the Christmas holiday with his usual miserly contempt, barking at his faithful clerk and his cheery nephew. But when the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Yet to Come take him on an eye-opening journey revealing truths Old Scrooge is reluctant to face, he must open his heart to undo years of ill will before it's too late.

Before seeing the film

1. Look up the different versions of A Christmas Carol – in books, cartoons and films. How many can you find? What do you think makes it such a popular story that has been told in so many ways?
2. What was Christmas like for rich and poor people in Victorian London? Use books, the internet and other resources to find out. How was it different to Christmas now?
3. What was the best Christmas that you can remember? What are you hoping for this Christmas and how do you think Christmas will be different in the future? What do you think makes Christmas special?

After seeing the film

1. How faithful to the book do you think this re-telling of A Christmas Carol was? How does it compare to the other versions you know? What did this new adaptation offer that you hadn't seen before?
2. A Christmas Carol was the first book Charles Dickens chose to read aloud in public to an audience. Dickens felt his story was ideal for listening to, as well as reading. This Christmas, as a class, why not give your own reading of A Christmas Carol. Practice reading extracts of the book aloud and think about expression and tone. Use the film as inspiration. Can you add sound effects, music, images or drama?
3. What if Charles Dickens himself was able to travel forward in time with the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come and see this new version of his story in 3D? Write a film review in his voice or try hot seating. Would he be happy with this way of telling his story? What would he think of the special effects?

Written by: Matthew Poyton