**A Christmas Carol – Stave Five Questions**

1. How is the first word of this stave simple, but effective? What does it tell us about Scrooge? (p.71)
2. What do you think the line “the time before him was his own” means? (p. 71)
3. Look back at Scrooge’s speech that starts “I don’t know what to do….” What technique does Dickens use to describe what Scrooge is like? What is the significance of all of these comparisons? (p. 71)
4. What errand does Scrooge hire a boy to do? What does he plan to do with it? (p. 72-3)
5. How do passers-by react to Scrooge now? How does this contrast to how they acted in stave one? (p. 73)
6. Scrooge meets the “portly gentlemen” who visited his office in Stave One. In your own words, explain what Scrooge tells this man. (p.74)
7. Tell how Scrooge is welcomed at his nephew’s house. What four wonderful things does Scrooge enjoy there? (p.75)
8. What joke does Scrooge play on Bob Cratchit? What is Bob’s first reaction to the new Scrooge? (p.75-76)
9. How does Scrooge’s relationship with the Cratchit family change? (p.76)
10. At the end of Stave Five, Scrooge does not mind that some people laugh at him for being generous. What does this attitude tell you about how deep his change of heart is? (p.76)

[](http://0.tqn.com/d/classiclit/1/G/z/q/2/13_scrooge.jpg)

Aim higher: Writer’s intentions and word-level analysis

* Why might Dickens have included the section where Scrooge meets the charity collectors in the street?
* What can we learn about Scrooge’s change of heart by the way he talks to the girl at Fred’s door?
* Dickens’ choice of final sentence is very deliberate. Sum up his message, paying close attention to the language used.