1. Pick up the “About the Author” page from the box on the front table.

2. Read it!

A Christmas Carol
by Charles Dickens

English Pds. 1, 3, 4, 6

Stage Directions

A Christmas Carol

Drama as a form of literature!

- **Drama** - literature meant to be performed by actors.
- **Script** - the written form of any drama.
- **Dialogue** - one of the two components of a script. Dialogue is the words spoken by the actors; the conversation among them.

Stage Directions
- Usually printed in *italics*.
- These are a playwright’s notes to actors, directors, and readers. They tell how actors should move, speak, and look. Stage directions also describe the setting, sound effects, and lighting of the play.
- **Act** - dramas are often divided into parts called acts. These might be similar to sections of a novel, such as Part 1, Part 2, and so forth.
- **Scene** - smaller parts within an act. Scenes are similar to chapters in a novel.

Drama as a form of literature!

1. stage directions – instructions for the director, actors, and stage crew
2. climax – the moment of highest tension and excitement in the plot of a drama
3. foil – a character who provides a sharp contrast to the qualities of the main character
4. props – the objects the actors use during the play (cup, chair, book)
5. scenes & acts – divisions in a drama (similar to chapters in a novel)
A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens

- Overview—Ebenezer Scrooge, a tight-fisted and bitter man, is visited by three spirits to bring about his redemption before his death. He learns to love his fellow man after being shown the love and generosity that symbolizes Christmas.

Introduction by Charles Dickens

- PREFACE

I am much in this Ghostly Tale, to raise the Heart of any Man, which shall not put on sudden use of kindness with themselves, with such others, with the meanest, or with me. May it hasten them, with all possible, and me one wish to try it.

Their faithful friend and servant.

C. B.

December 31st, 1843

Charles Dickens

- Charles Dickens (1812-1870), English Victorian era author wrote numerous highly acclaimed novels.
  - Dickens' writing style is flowing and poetic, with a strong comic touch.
  - Many people thought of Dickens as an advocate for the poor, at a time when there was little sympathy towards those in poverty.
  - Dickens other works include: Great Expectations, David Copperfield, Oliver Twist, A Tale of Two Cities, Bleak House, Nicholas Nickleby, The Pickwick Papers and many others!

A Christmas Carol

- It's hard to imagine a Christmas season without the story of old Scrooge, Bah Humbug! and "God bless us, every one."
- At the time this story was written (1843), the generous spirit of Christmas charity didn't exist in England. Many people did not believe in generosity to the poor. Instead, they believed the poor somehow brought poverty upon themselves.

A Quick Review

- Setting- The time and place of a story
  Example: It was December 24th, 1824, on a snowy Christmas eve in Victorian London.
- Personification- Giving human characteristics to non-human things
  Example: The knife and fork looked on happily as father began to carve the turkey.
- Foreshadowing- Hinting at things to come
  Example: Scrooge wished he could rid himself of the sick feeling in his gut that told him something terrible was going to happen.
The character of the Grinch is based on the protagonist of "A Christmas Carol" – Scrooge. As we read the drama, note similarities in the two main characters and the plot of both the book and the play.

“A Christmas Carol” is unusual because Scrooge, the Protagonist (usually the good guy), is a very BAD guy. The antagonist (usually the bad guy) is the good guy. Remember that the antagonist is the person who causes the conflict for the protagonist. They are not always good guys or bad guys.

Scene 1 - opening

Jacob Marley, Scrooge’s partner has been dead, seven years to the day that our story begins. The first scene unfolds in the cold, cheerless office of Scrooge’s counting house.

A Christmas Carol

As his faithful clerk Bob Cratchit toils, Scrooge is visited by his nephew and invited to Christmas dinner the next day. Scrooge declares that those who celebrate Christmas should be boiled in their own pudding and dismisses him. Two men who come seeking donations for the poor are dismissed with Scrooge’s wish that the poor would die and “decrease the surplus population.”

A Christmas Carol

Jacob Marley’s visit is dismissed as “more gravy than grave” by Scrooge, but it ends up setting the stage for the three ghosts. Think about this question as we read the play: Which ghost’s message most resembles that of Jacob Marley’s?
**A Christmas Carol**

- Pay careful attention to the three ghosts. Each message has a specific effect on Scrooge.
- What does the ghost of Christmas past remind Scrooge of?
- Whose generous heart touches Scrooge in the present?
- What does Scrooge’s future hold if he continues to be greedy and self-absorbed?

**Personification**

- Dickens portrays Ignorance and Want as two frail, ghastly children.
- Do you think the main causes of poverty are ignorance and want? Think about your answer as we read.

**As you read, pay careful attention to:**

- **S**—Setting (where and when the story takes place)
- **P**—People (describe the main characters)
- **A**—Action (summarize the plot)
- **C**—Climax (the most dramatic part of the story)
- **E**—Ending

**Movie Posters**

**Richard Williams Animated Version of A Christmas Carol**
Literary Elements and Devices for “A Christmas Carol”

- **Characterization:**
  - The process by which the writer reveals the personality of a character. Characterization is revealed through **direct characterization** and **indirect characterization**.

- **Direct Characterization:** tells the audience what the personality of the character is.
  - Example: “The patient boy and quiet girl were both well-mannered and did not disobey their mother.”
  - Explanation: The author is directly telling the audience the personality of these two children. The boy is “patient” and the girl is “quiet.”

- **Indirect Characterization:** shows things that reveal the personality of a character.
  - There are five different methods of indirect characterization: speech, thoughts, effect on others, actions, looks (STEAL)

- **Setting:**
  - The general locale, historical time, and social circumstances in which the action of a fictional or dramatic work occurs; the setting of an episode or scene within a work is the particular physical location in which it takes place.

- **Theme:**
  - The message about life that comes out of a story. Theme can either be stated or unstated in a story.

- **Symbolism:**
  - Something concrete that stands for something abstract. A symbol may be a person, place, thing, or action. It may stand for an idea, belief, feeling, or attitude. A symbol keeps its own meaning while also standing for something else.
Literary Elements and Devices for “A Christmas Carol”

- **Imagery:**
  - Words or phrases that appeal to the senses and conjure up mental images. Imagery helps the reader imagine the sights, sounds, smells, tastes, and feelings associated with a character’s or author’s experiences. Imagery appears extensively in setting, character description, and nature poetry.

- **Flashback:**
  - An interruption in a story to tell about events that happened earlier. Flashbacks can appear as character memories or dreams, or in dialogue or narration. Flashbacks provided background information that clarifies current actions in the story.

- **Foreshadowing:**
  - The use of clues early in a story to give hints about events that will happen later.

- **Dynamic character:**
  - Character changes, grows or learns something by the end of the story.

- **Static character:**
  - Character experiences no major change in the story.

Let’s review some elements of figurative language!
You’ll see these when you read A Christmas Carol!
Simile: a way of describing something by comparing it with something else using "like" or "as"

I am hungry as a horse.

You run like a rabbit.

She is happy as a clam.

He is sneaky as a snake.

Metaphor: A way of describing something by comparing it to something else

The girl was a fish in the water.

The clown was a feather floating away.

Personification to compare something that is not human as if it had human characteristics

The flowers danced in the wind.

The friendly gates welcomed us.

The Earth coughed and choked in all of the pollution.
Alliteration: Repetition of the first consonant

Stan the strong surfer saved several swimmers on Saturday.

Tiny Tommy Thomson takes toy trucks to Timmy’s on Tuesday.

Onomatopoeia: Words that are sounds

Yeeeeee Ahhhhhhhhh

Swish swish swish

Chug chug chug!!

Gluppp Gluppp Gluppp

Imagery:

Using words that appeal to the five senses

We studied this one before! Remember?

Let’s start reading the play!

☐ Turn your books to page 645.
☐ Assign parts
☐ Read!
Two final handouts...

☐ Act I vocab list
  - Quiz date: Weds., Dec. 5th!

☐ Assign Act I questions packet
  - Due: Thursday, December 6th!
  - Answer in COMPLETE sentences!