A Christmas Carol – Exemplars

GRADE 5

Scrooge is very saddened at what he had become and we see this in the very opening of this extract when "it sent a pang across his heart". Dickens makes it clear that at the end of the novella, Scrooge has changed and he now has human feelings. This label "pang" also seems like it won't go away and gives us great evidence of his transformation.

GRADE 7

At the beginning of the novella, Scrooge's sole focus is money and his well-being. When originally discussing issues with the charity men, Scrooge explains his views on the lower classes using the phrase, "decrease the surplus population". The extremity of his views are suggested by the hyperbole which makes Scrooge look greedy and pretentious to the reader. Throughout this stave, Dickens uses the lexis of economics to symbolise Scrooge's constant, selfish desire: money. Opinions about the lower classes would have been very common amongst the upper classes, which originated from economist, Thomas Malthus in the 1800s. His theory suggests that available resources were being overtaken by the spike in the population.

Inference

Writer

Reader/Audience

Language techniques

Awareness of question

Context linked to quote