



Activity Pack

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

By Gary Owen



English Version

OVERVIEW

This pack offers a variety of activities for children that can be completed in any order, either independently, with an adult, or in a group setting. Whether you are using it before seeing *A Christmas Carol*, or afterwards, we hope it inspires lots of creativity and that you enjoy exploring the key themes of the show.

If you are coming to see *A Christmas Carol* with your school, look out for our *Teachers Tips* with ideas for extension activities for the classroom.

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PART 1: DESIGNING THE WORLD OF THE PLAY

ACTIVITY 1: WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THEATRE DESIGN?

Our version of *A Christmas Carol* is set in Victorian Cardiff in the year 1843. To create the world of the play, there are several design elements, which support the storytelling and help to transport the audience. Each one has a different impact on the audience and they also reinforce the themes of the play.

Read the descriptions below and see if you can match them to the different design elements.

Set Design

Reveals a character's personality and status through clothing and accessories. Can change throughout the performance to indicate character development.

Costume Design

Creates mood and atmosphere through colour and intensity. Helps to indicate time of day and location and focuses the audience's attention.

Lighting Design

Provides a sense of location and enhances emotional impact through ambient sound. Punctuates the drama and action through specific sound effects.

Sound Design

Creates the physical environment of the play. Depicts location and establishes atmosphere through the use of texture, colour and scale.

ACTIVITY 2: THINKING ABOUT COLOUR

Colour is integral to many elements of design including costume, set and lighting. Think about the words listed below. How do you think these emotions, ideas, or adjectives might be represented through different colours? Try to think about the full range of colours and be specific and descriptive in your choice.

WORD	COLOUR
Cold	<i>Frosty light blue, crystal white</i>
Joyful	
Dreamy	
Romantic	
Wealthy	
Poor	
Morning	
Night	
Youthful	
Old	

ACTIVITY 3: MAKING A MOOD BOARD

Our Designer, Hayley Grindle, used mood boards to help her create her vision for the set and costumes for *A Christmas Carol*. A mood board features images, including photos or drawings, colours, textures and even some keywords, which all give a flavour of a location or character. Mood boards for a set might also include important pieces of furniture and for costumes they sometimes have fabrics attached.

Designers do a lot of research to develop their ideas, especially when they are creating set and costumes for different time periods. They have to think about different materials and what things would have been made from in the past.

Mood boards help a designer get their ideas out of their head and onto paper so that they can explain them to other members of the creative team. Now that you have thought a bit about colour and design, choose a character or a location from the list below and create your own mood board. You can use the template here or get a larger piece of paper or cardboard to put your ideas on. You can also undertake your own research by looking at images or pictures of the Victorian era online.

CHARACTERS	LOCATIONS
Scrooge Jacob Marley The Ghost of Christmas Past/Present or Future	The Workhouse Mr. Fezziwig's Office The Cratchits House

Remember colours are what you see, but can also communicate a feeling eg. cold steel grey, frosty white, fiery orange. Textures are what you can feel eg. rough, smooth, spiky, silky. Drawings or images could include types of buildings, rooms and furniture, or items of clothing and accessories from the time period you are depicting.

Teachers Tip – Extend this activity by inviting pupils to present their mood boards to the rest of the class, or use an old shoe box to create a model box of your mood board, with everything you have included in 3D form. Items can be made from cardboard and scraps of material and decorated using paints and coloured pens.

COLOURS

TEXTURES

IMAGES

PART 2: REFLECTING ON TIME

ACTIVITY 4: A VICTORIAN DIARY

Life was very different for children in the Victorian era and a lot of their treatment and quality of life depended on their social class. Those in rich households had clockwork toys to play with and servants to take care of them. Many children in poor households, however, had to work to help support their families, often doing long hours in difficult, dangerous jobs, for very little money. They didn't have toys to play with but sometimes made their own. In *A Christmas Carol*, Ebbie Scrooge is taken away from her mother and put to work because she is poor. Use the space below to write your own diary entry for day in the life a child living in Cardiff in 1843. You can find more ideas to support your writing by researching this topic online.



Teachers Tip: Bring the pupils' diary entries to life through improvisation, create some tableaux, or devise short group scenes based on key moments from a diary entry.

ACTIVITY 5: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

In *A Christmas Carol* Ebbe Scrooge meets three ghosts that make her think about Christmas in the past, the present and the future. What do you remember about your past, what are you like now; and what do you think your future will hold?

Use the space below to reflect on what you were like as a small child, what did you enjoy or look forward to, what things have you learnt to do, or enjoy more as you've grown and what are your hopes and aspirations for when you are older.

PAST

PRESENT

FUTURE

Teachers Tip: Use this exercise as a starting point for a conversation about what children imagine the future will be like. How much will it have changed since Charles Dickens' day?

ACTIVITY 6: WHAT MATTERS TO ME

In *A Christmas Carol* Scrooge eventually learns that money is, in fact, not the most important thing after all.

What are the things that matter most to you?

On the lines, create a poem about what matters to you, using the letters at the start to begin your sentence. This could be friends, family, hobbies, or causes that matter to you, such as the protecting the environment.

W _____

H _____

A _____

T _____

M _____

A _____

T _____

T _____

E _____

R _____

S _____

T _____

O _____

M _____

E _____

Teachers Tip: Create a display of the pupils' poems and invite them to decorate their poems, or make borders for them, with pictures of what matters to them.

PART 3: FESTIVE FUN

ACTIVITY 7: A CHRISTMAS CAROL WORDSEARCH

Can you find the characters from *A Christmas Carol* hidden in this wordsearch?

U N Q Q H W F V I H Y I W V O O Z B M W
I I R T U Q Q D L A J Y T V G L F U G K
G I P O W H B C C G O Y N H E P M N H Z
L F E O O H E X B E S P D U P J R Y O G
D W M C A V F O Q E Z S A T E C V Z S X
K R I T C U V E M L G K N D N H M N T H
N B O B C R A T C H I T X C E U C D V Z
T F D E D V O D T C S U B A T R G Y G D
R F S H O S V J O J H C Y H O W B Y A C
B B P A S T I H T R Y P Y F I E K E Q C
A C V M A B C Y X D R F Q V L X U G A S
B E J R F B I R J Q W F E Z Z I W I G U
S B R Y F O K U X K V N A Q Z O P M P E
Z X T D K U I S C R O O G E Z I M I J C
R W F Y U R J W H E O K D H Z C A E Y E
M Y C N N P K I F U T U R E V L R J V I
C F S J A D F M H G U F B R Y S L O N B
H S D I H T I N Y T I M B W R F E Z A L
K W S W Y V K Q G T C I W K N Z Y P V L
G P R E S E N T S J M Q U L E S W U F Q

SCROOGE

BOB CRATCHIT

PAST

MARLEY

PRESENT

BEAU

TINY TIM

GHOST

FEZZIWIG

FUTURE

ACTIVITY 8: MAKE YOUR OWN RICE KRISPIE CHRISTMAS PUDDINGS

At the end of *A Christmas Carol*, Scrooge is reformed and joins in the celebratory feasting. Have a go at making your own Rice Krispie festive treats.



STEP 1: Add the chocolate and the butter into a saucepan, and gently melt over a low to medium heat.

STEP 2: Then add the mini marshmallows and gently stir until they've melted and combined.

STEP 3: In a large mixing bowl, add the Rice Krispies. Pour over the marshmallow and chocolate mixture and stir together until fully coated. Leave the mix to cool.

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Sherman Theatre 2024. For more information contact community@shermantheatre.co.uk

STEP 4: Using a tablespoon divide the mixture into equal amounts and roll each into a pudding ball. Dampen your hands a little before rolling, it helps your puddings to not stick to your hands too much.

STEP 5: Place on a baking tray lined with baking parchment. Allow the puddings to cool in the fridge for 30 minutes.

For the decorations:

STEP 6: Melt the white chocolate by adding the chocolate to a small heatproof bowl, place over a saucepan of simmering water. Make sure that the bowl does not touch the water. Heat until all the chocolate has melted.

STEP 7: Place in a piping bag or freezer bag and set aside to cool.

STEP 8: Colour white icing with red and green food colouring gels. Use the green for holly leaves and roll the red into small balls for the berries.

STEP 9: When the puddings are chilled, snip the end off the piping bag or freezer bag and drizzle the white chocolate over the top. Decorate with the holly and berries.