

Vocabulary Worksheets *A Christmas Carol*

Stave 3 The Second of the Three Spirits

Part I: Using Prior Knowledge and Context Clues

Below are the sentences in which the vocabulary words appear in the text. Read the sentence. Use any clues you can find in the sentence combined with your prior knowledge, and write what you think the underlined words mean on the lines provided.

1. Awaking in the middle of a prodigiously tough snore, and sitting up in the bed to get his thoughts together, Scrooge had no occasion to be told that the bell was again upon the stroke of One.

2. . . . and was sometimes apprehensive that he might be at that very moment an interesting case of spontaneous combustion, without having the consolation of knowing it.

3. This garment hung so loosely on the figure, that its capacious breast was bare, as if disdaining to be warded or concealed by any artifice.

4. For the people who were shovelling away on the housetops were jovial and full of glee. . . and now and then exchanging a facetious snowball--better-natured missile far than many a wordy jest. . . .

5. "Why, bless your heart alive, my dear, how late you are!" said Mrs. Crachit, kissing her a dozen times, and taking off her shawl and bonnet for her, with officious zeal.

6. . . . Master Peter, and the two ubiquitous young Crachits went to fetch the goose, with which they soon returned in high procession.

7. Suppose somebody should have got over the wall of the back-yard, and stolen it, while they were merry with the goose; a supposition at which the two young Crachits became *livid*!

8. "It should be Christmas Day, I am sure," said she, "on which one drinks the health of such an *odious*, stingy, hard, unfeeling man as Mr. Scrooge."

9. But when at last he caught her; when, in spite of all her silken rustlings, and her rapid flutterings past him, he got her into a corner whence there was no escape; then his conduct was the most *execrable*.

10. In almshouse, hospital, and jail, in misery's every refuge, where vain man in his little brief authority had not made fast the door, and barred the Spirit out, he left his blessing, and taught Scrooge his *precepts*.

Part II: Determining the Meaning Match the vocabulary words to their dictionary definitions.

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| _____ 1. prodigiously | A. very bad; offensive |
| _____ 2. consolation | B. comfort; compassion |
| _____ 3. disdain | C. meddlesome; self-important |
| _____ 4. facetious | D. humorous; merry |
| _____ 5. officious | E. hateful |
| _____ 6. ubiquitous | F. treating with scorn or contempt |
| _____ 7. livid | G. practical rules guiding conduct |
| _____ 8. odious | H. being everywhere |
| _____ 9. execrable | I. enormously; hugely |
| _____ 10. precepts | J. angry; furious |