

## Stave II: Analyze Repetition and Sensory Details

(1) The First of the Three Spirits

(2) When Scrooge awoke, it was so dark, that looking out of bed, he could scarcely distinguish the transparent window from the opaque walls of his chamber. He was endeavouring to pierce the darkness with his ferret eyes, when **the chimes of a neighbouring church struck the four quarters**. So he listened for the hour. To his great astonishment **the heavy bell went on from six to seven, and from seven to eight, and regularly up to** twelve; then **stopped**. **Twelve**. It was past two when he went to bed. The clock was wrong. An icicle must have got into the works. **Twelve**. He touched the spring of his repeater, to correct this most preposterous clock. **Its rapid little pulse beat** **twelve: and** **stopped**.

(3) “Why, it isn’t possible,” said Scrooge, “that I can have slept through a whole day and far into another night. It isn’t possible that anything has happened to the sun, and this is **twelve** at noon.”

(4) The idea being an alarming one, he scrambled out of bed, and groped his way to the window. He was obliged to rub the frost off with the sleeve of his dressing-gown before he could see anything; and could see very little then. All he could make out was, that it was still very foggy and extremely cold, and **that there was no noise of people running to and fro, and making a great stir**, as there unquestionably would have been if night had beaten off bright day, and taken possession of the world. This was a great relief, because “three days after sight of this First of Exchange pay to Mr. Ebenezer Scrooge or his order,” and so forth, would have become a mere United States’ security if there were no days to count by.

(5) Scrooge went to bed again, and **thought**, and **thought**, and **thought** it **over** and **over** and **over**, and could make nothing of it. The **more** he **thought**, the **more** perplexed he was; and the **more** he endeavored not to **think**, the **more** he **thought**. Marley’s Ghost bothered him exceedingly. Every time he resolved within himself, after mature

inquiry, that it was all a dream, his mind flew back again, like a strong spring released, to its first position, and presented the same problem to be worked all through, "Was it a dream or not?"

(6) Scroogelayinthisstateuntilthechimeshadgonethreequartersmore, when he remembered, on a sudden, that the Ghost had warned him of a visitation when the bell tolled one. He resolved to lie awake until the hour was past; and, considering that he could no more go to sleep than go to Heaven, this was perhaps the wisest resolution in his power.

(7) The quarter was so long, that he was more than once convinced he must have sunk into a doze unconsciously, and missed the clock. At length it broke upon his listening ear.

(8) "Ding,dong!" (Also repetition)

(9) "A quarter past," said Scrooge, counting.

(10) "Dingdong!"(Also repetition)

(11) "Half past!" said Scrooge.

(12) "Ding dong!"(Also repetition)

(13) "A quarter to it," said Scrooge.

(14) "Ding dong!"(Also repetition)

(15) "The hour itself," said Scrooge, triumphantly, (16) "and nothing else!" (17)Hespokebeforethehourbell sounded,whichitnowdidwithadeep,dull,hollow,melancholyOne. Light

flashed up in the room upon the instant, and the curtains of his bed were drawn.

(18) The curtainsofhisbedweredrawnaside, I tell you, by a hand. Not thecurtains at his feet, nor the curtains at his back, but those to which his face was addressed.Thecurtainsofhisbedweredrawnaside; and Scrooge, starting up into a half-recumbent attitude, found himself face to face with the unearthly visitor who drew them: as close to it as I am now to you, and I am standing in the spirit at your elbow.

(19) It was a strange figure – like a child: yet not so like a child as like an old man, viewed through some supernatural medium, which gave him the appearance of having receded from the view, and being diminished to a child's proportions. Its hair, which hung about its neck and down its back, was white as if with age; and yet the face had not a wrinkle in it, and the tenderest bloom was on the skin. The arms were very long and muscular; the hands the same, as if its hold were of uncommon strength. Its legs and feet, most delicately formed, were, like those upper members, bare. It wore a tunic of the purest white, and round its waist was bound a lustrous belt, the sheen of which was beautiful. It held a branch of fresh green holly in its hand; and, in singular contradiction of that wintry emblem, had its dress trimmed with summer flowers. But the strangest thing about it was, that from the crown of its head there sprung a bright clear jet of light, by which all this was visible; and which was doubtless the occasion of its using, in its duller moments, a great extinguisher for a cap, which it now held under its arm.

(20) Even this, though, when Scrooge looked at it with increasing steadiness, was not its strangest quality. For as its belt sparkled and glittered now in one part and now in another, and what was light one instant, at another time was dark, so the figure itself fluctuated in its distinctness: being now a thing with one arm, now with one leg, now with twenty legs, now a pair of legs without a head, now a head without a body: of which dissolving parts, no outline would be visible in the dense gloom wherein they melted away. And in the very wonder of this, it would be itself again; distinct and clear as ever.

Today we focused on Dickens' use of repetition and sensory details focused on sound. Choose **one** of these stylistic choices and respond to the following question: How does Dickens' use repetition **or** sensory details focused on sound impact our understanding of Scrooge's character?

Sample response; accept any relevant responses that can be supported with text evidence.

Dickens use of sound devices and repetition help readers understand Scrooge's perspective and better understand his feelings of anxiety and uncertainty of what is to come.

Evidence:

In the text, Dickens describes Scrooge with the following phrase, "Scrooge went to bed again, and thought, and thought, and thought it over and over and over, and could make nothing of it. The more he thought, the more perplexed he was; and the more he endeavored not to think, the more he thought."

Explanation:

By repeating the word "thought" and "over and over," Dickens shows readers that Scrooge cannot think of anything else, which shows his anxiety and worry over Marley's warning.