**A Christmas Carol: Scrooge and Marley, *Act II,* by Israel Horovitz**
# Literary Analysis: Stage Directions

**Stage directions** are the words in the script of a drama that are not spoken by characters. When a play is performed, you can see the set, the characters, and the movements, and you can hear the sound effects. When you read a play, you get this information from the stage directions. Stage directions are usually printed in italic type and set off by brackets or parentheses.

**DIRECTIONS:** *Read the following passages, and answer the questions that follow each one.*

[BOB CRATCHIT *enters, carrying* TINY TIM *atop his shoulder. He wears a threadbare and fringe- less comforter hanging down in front of him.* TINY TIM *carries small crutches and his small legs are bound in an iron frame brace.*]

1. Who appears in this scene?

   _____

2. What does the description of Bob Cratchit reveal about the Cratchit family?

   _____

3. What does the description of Tiny Tim reveal about him?

   _____

   _____

**SCROOGE.** Specter, something informs me that our parting moment is at hand. I know it, but I know not how I know it.

[FUTURE *points to the other side of the stage. Lights out on* CRATCHITS. FUTURE *moves slow- ing, gliding . . .* FUTURE *points opposite.* FUTURE *leads* SCROOGE *to a wall and a tombstone. He points to the stone.*]

Am I that man those ghoulish parasites so gloated over?

4. Who appears in this scene? How do you know?

   _____

   _____

5. What do the stage directions reveal that the dialogue does not reveal?

   _____

   _____

   _____

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# Vocabulary Builder

**Word List**

astonish    audible    compulsion    intercedes    meager    severe

**A. DIRECTIONS:** *Think about the meaning of the italicized word from the Word List in each sentence. Then, answer the question, and explain your answer.*

1. Scrooge's new attitude will *astonish* his family. Will they be surprised by it?

   _____

2. Scrooge has a *compulsion* to go with each of the ghosts. Can he easily resist going?

   _____

3. Mrs. Cratchit's judgment of Scrooge is *severe.* Does she think highly of him?

   _____

4. Scrooge paid Cratchit a *meager* salary. Was the salary generous?

   _____

5. The actor's voice is *audible* when he whispers. Can the audience hear him?

   _____

6. The Ghost of Christmas Future *intercedes* on Scrooge's behalf. Does the ghost help Scrooge?

   _____

**B. WORD STUDY:** *The Latin prefix* inter- *means "between, among." Read the following sentences. Use your knowledge of the prefix* inter- *to write a full sentence to answer each question. Include the italicized word in your answer.*

1. Have your parents ever *interceded* on your behalf?

   _____

2. If a ball is *intercepted*, does it reach its destination?

   _____

3. Is a highway *intersection* a place where two roads meet?

   _____

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# Integrated Language Skills: Grammar

## Double Negatives

**Double negatives** occur when two negative words appear in a sentence, but only one is needed. Examples of negative words are *nothing, not, never,* and *no.* You can correct a double negative by revising the sentence.

| Incorrect | Correct |
|---|---|
| I do <u>not</u> have <u>no</u> homework tonight. | I do <u>not</u> have <u>any</u> homework tonight. |
| You <u>never</u> said <u>nothing</u> about that movie. | You <u>never</u> said <u>anything</u> about that movie. |

**A. Directions:** *Put a checkmark (✓) next to each sentence that uses a negative word correctly. Put an ✗ next to each sentence that contains a double negative.*

_____   1. Do not ever say nothing to Mom about the surprise party.
_____   2. You never told me anything about your new coach.
_____   3. The team never had time to make a comeback.
_____   4. We do not have no reason to get up early tomorrow.
_____   5. They did not have no money for the movie.

**B. Writing Application:** *Rewrite each sentence to eliminate the double negative.*

1. We do not have no bread for sandwiches.

   _____

2. The spy never had no intention of giving himself up.

   _____

3. This article does not have nothing to do with our assignment.

   _____

4. They are not going to no championship game tonight.

   _____

5. Our dog will not ever eat no food she does not like.

   _____