Charles Dickens
Spring Showcase

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Due 4/10/2020
1. 20 June 1837 - Queen Victoria takes the throne after William IV passes away
2. 1 August 1838 - Slavery is abolished in the British empire
3. 17 September 1838 - London-Birmingham line opens and the railway boom starts
4. September 1845 - Irish potato famine begins
5. 28 March 1854 - Britain and France declare war on Russia and the Crimean War begins
6. 9 December 1868 - William Gladstone becomes prime minister for the first time
Images of Charles Dickens and three of his famous books

Images representing three of Charles Dickens’ famous novels
Quotes from Charles Dickens’ Novels

Three quotes from three of Charles Dickens’ famous novels

1. “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times.” (Famous Quote from “A Tale of Two Cities”)
2. “It is because I think so much of warm and sensitive hearts, that I would spare them from being wounded.” (Famous Quote from “Oliver Twist”)
3. “There is nothing in the world so irresistibly contagious as laughter and good humor.” (Famous Quote from “A Christmas Carol”)
A summary of “A Christmas Carol” by Charles Dickens

The main character in “A Christmas Carol” is Ebenezer Scrooge. Scrooge is a miserable old man who hates love, family, happiness, generosity, and Christmas. The story takes place on Christmas Eve when Scrooge is complaining about having to give his clerk Bob Cratchit Christmas Day off with pay. Scrooge goes to bed that night and dreams that he is visited by his dead business partner Jacob Marley. Marley tells Scrooge that the dead who live bad lives are forced to roam the world and will never be at peace. Scrooge needs to fix his ways before it is too late. He tells Scrooge he will be visited by three ghosts during that night.
Scrooge doesn’t believe that he is really seeing Jacob Marley’s ghost, but soon he is visited by the ghost of Christmas past. The first ghost shows Scrooge some childhood memories of when Scrooge was himself a neglected boy. He also points out places in Scrooge’s life where he made the wrong choices.

Scrooge is then visited by the second ghost, The Ghost of Christmas Present. The second ghost shows Scrooge what his friends and family are doing on Christmas Day. The ghost shows him his nephew’s house where everyone is having fun, but the ghost also shows Scrooge the clerk Cratchit’s family, who are dirt poor and have a very sick son named Tiny Tim.
The final ghost, the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come, visits Scrooge and shows him a horrible future. Scrooge is dead and nobody mourns his death. The Cratchit family are bankrupt and their son Tiny Tim has died.

Scrooge wakes up and it is Christmas Morning. Scrooge vows to change his life for the better. He sends a giant turkey to his clerk Cratchit’s house and goes to his nephew Fred’s Christmas party. Scrooge also makes a large donation to a charity. Scrooge lives the rest of his life with generosity, good cheer, and compassion toward the worse off. Scrooge now loves Christmas.
A biography of Charles Dickens’ life

- Charles Dickens was a British author who wrote many beloved British classics. Dickens was known as one of the most important and influential writers of the nineteenth century and was praised for “providing a stark portrait of Victorian-era underclass helping to bring social change.”

- Charles Dickens was born on February 7, 1812 in Portsmouth, England. Charles Dickens’ family was very poor, Dickens’ father John was sent to prison for debt in 1824 when Charles was just 12 years old. This influenced Charles Dickens’ life greatly.
Luckily for Charles Dickens, his father was released from prison after receiving a family inheritance and paying off his debt. Charles was able to return to school.

When Charles Dickens was 15 years old, he had to stop going to school to help support his family, but the job started his writing career. Charles Dickens started working as a reporter at the law courts of London, and from there he started publishing papers in the monthly magazines.

In 1836, Charles Dickens’ first book was published, which was also the same year that Charles married Catherine Hogarth with whom he had 10 children.

Charles’ life went downhill in the 1850s when his daughter and his father died and when he and his wife filed for a nasty divorce.
During Charles Dickens’ life, Charles published 15 novels. His first famous novel was *Oliver Twist* about a poor child living in the streets. Charles Dickens knew about the subject matter because he had grown up in a poor family.

In 1843, Charles Dickens published *A Christmas Carol*, which is a timeless Christmas story. Charles Dickens was also known for his novels *David Copperfield*, *A Tale of Two Cities*, and *Great Expectations*.

On June 9, 1870, Charles Dickens suffered a stroke and died at the age of 58 at his country home in Gad’s Hill Place, which is close to Kent, England.
Sources for presentation of Charles Dickens