

A CHRISTMAS CAROL: MOVIE VERSION

Study Guide compares the novel *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens to the movie version *A Christmas Carol* (1984) starring George C. Scott, Frank Finlay, Angela Pleasence, Edward Woodward, David Warner, and Susannah York. Directed by Clive Donner.



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SAMPLE A CHRISTMAS CAROL: MOVIE VERSION

THE MOVIE VERSION OF *A CHRISTMAS CAROL* IS NOT LIKE THE BOOK by Charles Dickens

RECOMMENDED MOVIE: *A Christmas Carol* (1984) starring George C. Scott, Frank Finlay, Angela Pleasence, Edward Woodward, David Warner, and Susannah York. Directed by Clive Donner. A made for TV movie originally aired on CBS December 17, 1984. This is an outstanding movie version that is fairly accurate. A plus is the setting. The film was shot on location in Shrewsbury, England.

HOW ACCURATE IS THE MOVIE VERSION OF THE BOOK?

Plot: ★★☆☆☆ **Characters:** ★★☆☆☆ **Setting:** ★★★★★
Structure: ★★★★★ **Symbols:** ★★☆☆☆ **Theme:** ★★★★★

THE MOVIE: SUMMARY

The following is a scene-by-scene comparison of the movie to the corresponding chapters in the book.

THE MOVIE: STAVE 1

Opening Scene: Jacob Marley’s funeral hearse moves through the streets of London in the 1840s. (**ERROR:** Not in the book) A narrator says, “Old Marley was as dead as a door-nail.” (**ACCURATE**) There is a festive atmosphere in the streets full of carolers and people buying food for Christmas dinner. (**ACCURATE**) Bob Cratchit is a clerk in a counting house owned by Ebenezer Scrooge. (**ACCURATE**) Bob Cratchit reminds Scrooge that his business partner Jacob Marley died seven years ago. (**ERROR:** Not in the book) Scrooge left Marley’s name on the office door of the counting-house. (**ACCURATE**)

On Christmas Eve Scrooge works late in his counting-house. (**ACCURATE**) The weather outside is cold and damp. (**ACCURATE**) Scrooge’s office door is open so he can keep an eye on Cratchit. (**ACCURATE**) Scrooge lectures Cratchit on wearing more clothes to keep warm instead of burning more coal. (**ERROR:** Not in the book) Scrooge declares that no more coal will be burned today. (**ERROR:** In the book the coal box is in Scrooge’s office which makes Cratchit afraid to ask for more coal)

Scrooge’s nephew Fred pays his uncle a visit. (**ACCURATE**) When he wishes his uncle, “Merry Christmas,” Scrooge replies, “Humbug!” (**ACCURATE**, but in the book the Scrooge says, “Bah! Humbug!”) Scrooge says Christmas is just a time to buy things you don’t need, find yourself older, and not richer. (**ACCURATE**) Scrooge says those who celebrate Christmas should be boiled in their own pudding and buried with a stake of holly through their hearts. (**ACCURATE**) Scrooge asks his nephew what reason he has to be happy at Christmas. (**ACCURATE**)

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QUIZ

This quiz compares the movie *A Christmas Carol* (1984) starring George C. Scott with the novel *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens.

- ___ 1. In the movie and the book although Ebenezer Scrooge's business partner Jacob Marley has been dead for seven years, Scrooge still has Marley's
- a. birthday circled on the calendar
 - b. portrait on the office wall
 - c. desk and chair
 - d. name on the office door
- ___ 2. In the movie and the book Scrooge keeps his office door open so he can see
- a. customers enter the front door
 - b. Bob Crachit at work
 - c. the weather conditions outside
 - d. his competitor across the street
- ___ 3. In the movie and the book Scrooge is invited to share Christmas dinner with
- a. Bob Crachit
 - b. Belle
 - c. his nephew Fred
 - d. Marley's daughter

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