ACTIVITIES

Before Reading

1 The title of this story is *A Christmas Carol*. Do you think it is going to be about . . .

1 Christmas music? 3 changes in someone’s life?
2 a party in winter? 4 a baby girl?

2 Read the story introduction on the first page of the book, and the back cover. What have you found out? Cross out the words that are wrong.

1 Scrooge is a *kind/cross*, *miserable/happy*, *mean/generous* old man, who *enjoys/hates* Christmas and is only interested in *family life/making money*.
2 Bob Cratchit is Scrooge’s *clerk/partner* and he works in a *warm/cold* office/library with a *small/large* fire.
3 Jacob Marley, Scrooge’s *clerk/partner*, is *dead/alive*.
4 *Frightening/Enjoyable* things happen to Scrooge on *Christmas Day/Eve*, and he sees *three/four* ghosts.
5 By Christmas Day, Scrooge is a *changed man / has forgotten all about it*.

3 How much do you know about Christmas in Britain? Think about these questions.

1 Do people give presents?
2 What kind of food do people eat?
3  Do people go to work, or to church, or stay at home?
4  Do people visit friends or family?
5  What do people say when they meet in the street?

What do you do in your country for special holidays like Christmas?

4  This is a ghost story. What do you think about ghosts?
   1  What time of day or night do ghosts usually appear?
   2  Are ghosts always frightening?
   3  What do you expect a ghost to look like?
   4  What kinds of message do ghosts often bring?
   5  Do you believe in ghosts?
   6  Have you ever seen a ghost?
   7  Do you know anyone who has seen a ghost?

5  ‘Scrooge learns a lesson that he will never forget.’ Can you guess what kind of lesson? Choose Y (Yes), N (No) or P (Perhaps) for each of these ideas.
   1  He loses all his money. Y/N/P
   2  He dies of heart trouble. Y/N/P
   3  His family refuses to speak to him. Y/N/P
   4  He finds the love of his life again. Y/N/P
   5  He has no one to work for him. Y/N/P
   6  He sees what the future holds for him. Y/N/P
   7  He learns to like people. Y/N/P
   8  He has his tongue cut out. Y/N/P
‘A CHRISTMAS CAROL’
ACTIVITY ANSWER KEY

Before Reading Activities

Activity 1

Students will find out as they read that the best answer is number 3.

Activity 2

1. Scrooge is a cross, miserable, mean old man, who hates Christmas and is only interested in making money.
2. Bob Cratchit is Scrooge’s clerk and he works in a cold office with a small fire.
3. Jacob Marley, Scrooge’s partner, is dead.
4. Frightening things happen to Scrooge on Christmas Eve, and he sees four ghosts.
5. By Christmas Day, Scrooge is a changed man.

Activity 3

Encourage discussion. Possible answers:

1. Yes, most people give presents to family and friends.
2. The traditional meal is roast turkey with vegetables, followed by a Christmas pudding.
3. It is a holiday for almost everybody, so most people stay at home or perhaps go away for a few days. Some people go to church.
4. Many people visit friends or family.
5. ‘Merry Christmas!’ ‘And a Merry Christmas to you too!’

Activity 4

Encourage discussion. Open answers.

Activity 5

Students will find out as they read that the ‘yes’ answers are numbers 6 and 7.