

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:** ★★★★★

WHAT'S IN THE BOOK THAT'S NOT IN THE MOVIE?

Bob Cratchit's comforter, the boy caroler, spirits in the air, the lamplighter, blessings from the torch of Christmas Present, the aging of Christmas Present, miners, the men in the lighthouse, sailors on ships at sea, games of forfeits, Yes and No, and blind man's buff, the couple in debt to Scrooge, the bag of money, and the calico shirt.

WHAT'S IN THE MOVIE THAT'S NOT IN THE BOOK?

The Exchange, Scrooge's corn deal, Marley's hearse, female Christmas Past, Fan as a young woman, Scrooge's father, game of similes, the poulter, the homeless family, Christmas Present's beard.

WHAT'S THE SAME?

Marley's ghost, the three spirits, Tiny Tim, Scrooge's transformation from stingy grouch to generous celebrator of Christmas.

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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**) Fred says Christmas is a time to open your heart to others through charity and to think about friends and family who have died. (**ACCURATE**) Fred says his attitude toward Christmas is, "God bless it!" (**ACCURATE**) Bob Cratchit applauds Fred's sentiments. (**ACCURATE**) Scrooge tells Cratchit to be quiet or he will fire him for another outburst. (**ACCURATE**)

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