

<電影賞析>

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I. Aim of the activity:

In celebration of the upcoming Christmas, I want my students to reflect on what is Christmas time to them except a time for reveling.

II. Film: *A Christmas Carol*

An adapted version of Charles Dickens' classic work – it is a story of a stingy bank owner named Emily Scrooge, who was visited by three ghosts at Christmas Eve and then woke up to the poor fate of being a miser.

III. Fiction: *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens

The simplified edition of Longman Classics is the reading assignment.

IV. Introduction about Charles Dickens

Photos:





Charles Dickens (1812-70), English Victorian era author wrote numerous highly acclaimed novels including his most autobiographical David Copperfield. It had not been easy for Dickens to become the best-selling writer in English in his time. His childhood, like many of those portrayed in his novels, was not a happy one, owing to his father's inability to stay out of debt. When his father was sent to prison, Dickens was sent to work in a blacking warehouse. Memories of the time haunted him for the rest of his life. Dickens' early troubled have meant stories by a writer who really knew poor people and the difficulty of their lives. He understood them, and the books probably did more than anything else to make life better for them. During his lifetime Dickens became known the world over for his remarkable characters, his mastery of prose in the telling of their lives, and his depictions of the social classes, mores and values of his times. Some considered him the spokesman for the poor, for he definitely brought much awareness to their plight, the downtrodden and the have-nots.

V. Questions on the whole story:

Read the story and think hard about the questions before you answer them. Some of the questions ask for your opinion, and there is no fixed answer.

1. Which of the ghosts did the most to cause a change in Scrooge? Give a reason for your opinion.
2. Give one example of the way in which each of these people was kind:
 - a. Bob Cratchit
 - b. Marley's ghost
 - c. Scrooge's nephew Fred
 - d. Scrooge (in the end)
3. Find these words in the book, and then answer the questions that follow them.
 - a. "What reason have you to be merry? You're too poor to be

merry.”

1. Who said it?
 2. Who were the words spoken to?
 3. What answer did the speaker get?
 4. Can you give one reason why the person spoken to was “too poor”?
- b. “Prisons and workhouses can’t really make people merry at Christmas time.”
1. Who said it?
 2. Who were the words spoken to?
 3. Why did the speaker talk about prisons and workhouses?
 4. What happened when the two people met again?
- c. “I am wearing the chain that I made during my life.”
1. Who said it?
 2. What was the chain loaded with?
 3. Why do you think the speaker had those things on his chain?
 4. Who had a heavier chain although he didn’t know it?
- d. “God bless us all, every one!”
1. Who said it?
 2. Where and when the words spoken?
 3. What happened to the speaker in the end?
4. What do you think were Charles Dickens’s chief reasons for writing *A Christmas Carol*?

VI. Students’ reflections on the film

a. 許富傑

The movie “A Christmas Carol” isn’t like other occasional festival movies full of joyful atmosphere. It reminds people of the spirit – sharing and thinking about others—which is being forgotten in the frozen cities in modern society. Maybe there are a few people like Mrs. Scrooge, who is too stingy to give a penny to others. Furthermore, her employees are all paid with the lowest salary. Being so cold to everyone, she left nothing behind in the end. There were “no flowers, no condolence and even without a funeral held” for her.

Fortunately, the miserable fate she ended up with was not a fact but a nightmare the three ghosts intended to give her warning. She since has turned over a new leaf: begins to help those in need devotedly. Indeed,

it's never too late to do good things. We can make our life more meaningful as long as we are open-minded and generous to offer help.

b. 蘇柏呢

This is a story about a woman who is stingy and selfish. Her mind is full of money only. She regards making money as a top priority. All that she does everyday is work laboriously. She feels no concern for those around her, her employees and neighbors included.

When she meets the ghosts, she sees her past, present and future. Until then, she comes to realize that she has gone a wrong way. She tries hard to change it. She helps the poor and saves the sick. Eventually, she rescues herself and enjoys a warm Christmas.

After watching the film, I think we should have a caring heart and dedicate our life to helping those in need rather than to making money. A kind heart will warm up such a cold Christmas Eve.