

## Scrooge, Bob Cratchit

SCROOGE: Well, Cratchit, what do you want?

CRATCHIT: Mr. Scrooge, sir, I just wanted to remind you, that is, the bells just chimed five o'clock, sir.

SCROOGE: So?

CRATCHIT: Well, it's Christmas Eve, sir, and I wanted to do a tiny bit of shopping.

SCROOGE: Shopping? On fifteen shillings a week?

CRATCHIT: Ah — yes, sir.

SCROOGE: Hmph!

CRATCHIT: And you did say that I could leave early today.

SCROOGE: (STARTLED.) I did? When did I say that?

CRATCHIT: Well, sir —

SCROOGE: Bah! Never mind! If you're going to pace around the office telling me what time it is for two more hours, you might as well go. You're no good to me here.

CRATCHIT: Thank you, sir!

SCROOGE: Bah!

CRATCHIT: Yes, sir.

SCROOGE: You'll want all day tomorrow off, I suppose?

CRATCHIT: If it's quite convenient, sir.

SCROOGE: Well, It is not convenient. And it's not fair.

CRATCHIT: No, sir.

SCROOGE: It's not fair that I pay you a day's wages for no work.

CRATCHIT: But, it's only once a year, sir.

SCROOGE: Humbug! That's a poor excuse for picking a man's pocket every twenty- fifth of December! But I suppose you must have the whole day.

CRATCHIT: Ah, yes, sir, if I may —

SCROOGE: Hmph! (CRATCHIT STARTS TO LEAVE.) But be here all the earlier the next morning!

CRATCHIT: Oh, yes, sir, I will, sir. I promise.

SCROOGE: Bah!

CRATCHIT: Yes, sir. I thank you, sir. Good night, sir. (PAUSES AT THE DOOR.) And — Merry Christmas, sir!

SCROOGE: Humbug!