

The Ghost cried out. It shook its chain. And it wrung its shadowy hands.

'Why are you carrying that chain?' asked Scrooge, trembling.

'I wear the chain that I made in life,' replied the Ghost. 'I made it link by link, and metre by metre. I wound it around myself. Does it look strange to you?'

Scrooge trembled more and more.

'Would you like to feel the weight of the chain you are carrying?' continued the Ghost. 'It was as heavy and as long as this seven Christmas Eves ago. You have worked very hard on it, since. It is a huge chain now!'

Scrooge looked at the floor around him. But there was no chain. 'Jacob,' he cried. 'Old Jacob Marley, explain everything to me!'

THE CHAIN

Marley's chain is symbolic. What is it a symbol of?

- a The things that are important in life.
- b The things that were important to Marley when he was alive.
- c The things that Marley forgot when he was alive.

Glossary

- **huge:** very big
- **shadowy:** like a ghost
- **shook:** (v. to shake) moved quickly from side to side
- **trembled:** shook/moved with fear and shame
- **wrung its hands:** – (v. to wring) twisted its hands round and round in unhappiness

'I can't,' the Ghost replied. 'I can't stay long. I have to travel all the time! I can't rest. I can't stay anywhere.'

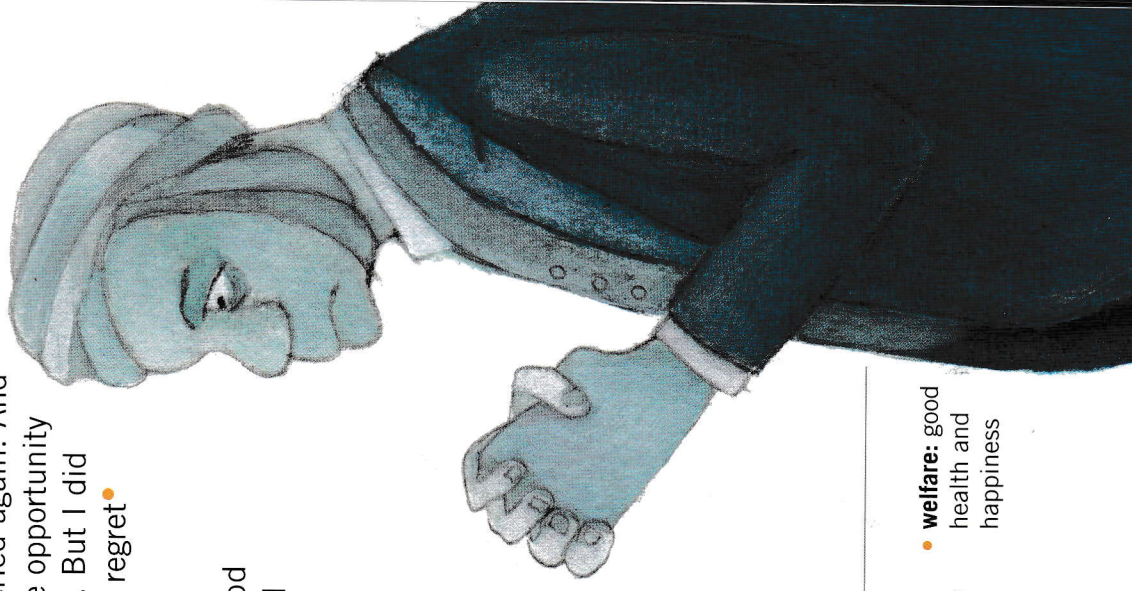
'You have been dead for seven years,' said Scrooge, 'Have you been travelling the whole time?'

'Yes, the whole time,' said the Ghost. 'No rest, no peace!' The Ghost of Marley cried again. And it clanked its chain. 'I had the opportunity to be kind and do good in life. But I did nothing. And now I'm dead, I regret that,' cried the Ghost.

'But you were always a good businessman, Jacob,' said Scrooge.

'Business!' cried the Ghost, wringing its hands again.

'The welfare of mankind was my business. Charity, kindness, and generosity were all my business. My job was only a drop of water in the huge ocean of my business!'



- **mankind:** people; everybody
- **regret:** feel sorry that he did/didn't do something
- **welfare:** good health and happiness