

## MARLEY

Jacob Marley says his job was “a drop of water in a huge ocean”. What does he mean here? It is a metaphor. Can you find any more metaphors in the story? Look for them while you are reading.

The Ghost held up its chain. Then it flung the chain heavily on the ground again.

‘At this time of the year,’ the Ghost said, ‘I suffer most. Why did I ignore the suffering and poverty around me, when I was alive?’

Scrooge was very upset to hear the Ghost talking like this.

‘Listen to me!’ cried the Ghost.

‘I will,’ said Scrooge. ‘But please don’t be hard on me, Jacob!’

‘I don’t know why I am visible to you now. I have sat invisible beside you many times.’

It was not a nice idea. Scrooge trembled at the thought of it.

### Glossary

- **alive:** living
- **flung:** (v. to fling) threw
- **ignore:** take no notice of
- **poverty:** people with no money
- **upset:** unhappy
- **visible:** you can see it

## A Christmas Carol

‘I’m here tonight to warn you. You can still escape my fate. I’m giving you a chance, Ebenezer,’ continued the Ghost.

‘You were always a good friend to me,’ said Scrooge. ‘Thank you!’

‘Three ghosts will come and haunt you,’ continued the Ghost.

Scrooge’s jaw fell almost as low as the Ghost’s. ‘I – I don’t want them to come,’ he said.

‘Without their visits,’ said the Ghost, ‘you can’t avoid my fate. The first will come later, when the clock strikes. One.’

‘Can’t I see them all at once, Jacob?’ pleaded Scrooge.

‘The second will come on the next night at the same time. The third ghost will come just after the second one. You won’t see me again but remember my words!’

The Ghost took its bandage from the table, and wound it around its head again. Then the Ghost walked backwards away from Scrooge. And at every step it took, the window opened a little. When the Ghost finally reached the window, it was wide open.

Scrooge heard voices crying outside. After listening for a moment, Marley’s Ghost started crying too. Then it floated out into the dark night.

- **avoid:** do something to stop another thing from happening
- **warn:** tell a person about a danger before it happens
- **fate:** destiny; end; what happens to you
- **floated:** moved slowly through air
- **pleaded:** asked in a strong and serious way
- **strikes:** sound of a clock
- **wide open:** completely open
- **wound:** (v. to wind) wrap/put around