

knocker which starts off the suspense, it then continues in the fireplace tiles. Dickens then uses the symbolism of old, disused bells ringing to increase the suspense, "a disused bell... purpose now forgotten... rang out loudly, and so did every bell in the house." We then hear unknown noises making their way towards Scrooge, the tension is ever-increasing. The supernatural aspect carries on, we see the ghost of Jacob Marley and his long chains, he warns Scrooge and tells him that he has arranged to have three other phantoms haunt him so that Scrooge might have a chance of escaping his own fate. Marley then goes out through the window and joins hundreds more spectres. The next supernatural aspect is the ghost of Christmas past, "light flashed up in the room upon an instant... by an unearthly visitor..." Dickens has used the adjective unearthly to increase the ghost's abnormality.

The last thing that makes "A Christmas Carol" a gothic novella is the aspect of mysteries and twists that run throughout the staves. These include how the ghosts behave, "the voice was soft and gentle." We expect that the ghosts would be scary and horrible; however, they are in fact kind, soft, jolly and gentle. This also applies also to the second of the three ghosts. Dickens is often credited for inventing the traditional Christmas that we celebrate today. The ghost of Christmas present is the jolly giant that we may associate with Father Christmas, but in fact he is supposed to represent religion, the scabbard without a sword represents peace and his "over eighteen thousand" brothers each represent a different religion. Dickens, however, was not a particularly religious man but he was a humanitarian and believed that if we all followed basic teachings from the bible then the world would be a better place. Another twist in the novella is when Scrooge wakes up in his own bed on Christmas morning and is overjoyed that he can still make amends, "they are not torn down..." "they are not torn down rings and all. They are here..." Dickens uses repetition to emphasize Scrooges delight.

In conclusion, I have proved that "A Christmas Carol" is a gothic novella by showing that it consists of and contains key gothic elements such as: romance, the darkness within, the architecture and setting, death, the supernatural and mysteries and twists. These aspects are maintained throughout the novella, primarily to create anticipation and suspense and to scare the reader into being kind and charitable to the poor, not only at Christmas but always.