

In stave 3, through the use of two almost animalistic children, allegories of two major social issues 'Want' and 'Ignorance', Dickens presents the overall alteration of Scrooge's character, showing how he regrets affecting negatively both of those children, products of the society he contributed to. Dickens chose to represent both issues using members of both genders to portray this major universal issue as a matter that affects anyone and anything despite their gender. These two children are a poignant symbol to the uncomfortable audience that the conditions of poverty do not arise in a vacuum as a "natural phenomenon" of sorts, but that they are the direct result of none other than mankind itself. Immediately, the audience, like Scrooge, begin to feel regret and the need to aid those terrible looking children. Dickens appears to be hinting at the fact that Victorian England has both created and perpetuated this problem, and if this is indeed the case, then "Man" must also come up with a solution for said circumstances. Furthermore, via the vile appearance of the children, the uneasy audience are given an understanding of the conditions others in their society live in. They learn to not take their possessions for granted as poverty could strike at any moment and to aid others in need. Those unwanted, neglected children are everyone's fault and each member of their society has contributed to their abandonment somehow. Dickens portrays the children in such a disgusting manner in order to achieve as much sympathy, from the uneasiness of his audience, as possible. Personally, the description of those mistreated children creates for me an extremely vivid image of the corruption within our current society and that of the Victorian era. As a reader my initial response towards them was pity and perhaps fear, considering those children are the future generation of that era and are destined to take over eventually. In my opinion that future generation cannot be fixed by itself unless society reaches out to aid them. Like the Ghost warned Scrooge, Ignorance has 'Doom' written across his forehead therefore meaning that if the rich remain oblivious to the living conditions among the poor members of society and the poor continue without primary education, they will all be doomed to repeat the same cycle of mistakes.

Throughout the novel, Dickens tends to use children to represent the physical and mental abuse applied to the neglected lower class of the Victorian Era. Their denied childhoods are not only mentioned to achieve a feeling of sympathy from the reader but also to show how the majority of issues in the adult world (such as criminals) originate from children that their society refused to accept.

Overall, Scrooge's major change in character can be viewed by the fact that within stave 2 he managed to feel pity for those closest to himself but by now he feels pity for the whole of mankind- 'mankind's children'. Despite the age of this novella, problems spotted within the society it was based on, can still be visible today. The novella has an extremely consistent message of love throughout and encourages redemption for everyone. Through its heart-warming imagery and the constant topic of family and togetherness, it manages to touch the deepest aspects of our soul. Adding further to that feeling of warmth and sympathy are its engaging characters and incredible effects of the literary variety. The descriptions are so vivid, and the themes so memorable, that it is hard for us not to be engaged and often find ourselves considering our own morals. I also think that to a certain extent the characters and story have become a part of our tradition and have massively altered the way in which Christmas is celebrated and viewed.