

Name - _____

Start time - __ : __

End time - __ : __

Read the following passage from a 19th-century novel and answer the questions that follow.

From the folding's of its robe, it brought two children; wretched, abject, frightful, hideous, miserable. They knelt down at its feet, and clung upon the outside of its garment.

"Oh, Man! look here. Look, look, down here!" exclaimed the Ghost.

They were a boy and girl. Yellow, meagre, ragged, scowling, wolfish; but prostrate, too, in their humility. Where graceful youth should have filled their features out, and touched them with its freshest tints, a stale and shrivelled hand, like that of age, had pinched, and twisted them, and pulled them into shreds. Where angels might have sat enthroned, devils lurked, and glared out menacing. No change, no degradation, no perversion of humanity, in any grade, through all the mysteries of wonderful creation, has monsters half so horrible and dread. Scrooge started back, appalled. Having them shown to him in this way, he tried to say they were fine children, but the words choked themselves, rather than be parties to a lie of such enormous magnitude. "Spirit! are they you" Scrooge could say no more.

"They are Man's," said the Spirit, looking down upon them. "And they cling to me, appealing from their fathers. This boy is Ignorance. This girl is Want. Beware them both, and all of their degree, but most of all beware this boy, for on his brow I see that written which is Doom, unless the writing be erased. Deny it!" cried the Spirit, stretching out its hand towards the city. "Slander those who tell it ye! Admit it for your factious purposes, and make it worse. And bide the end!" "Have they no refuge or resource?" cried Scrooge.

"Are there no prisons?" said the Spirit, turning on him for the last time with his own words.

Are there no workhouses?"

"The bell struck twelve.

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Questions:

1. How does the physical appearance of Ignorance and Want contribute to the symbolic nature of their characters in the context of the story?
2. Explore the symbolic significance of the Ghost of Christmas Present bringing Ignorance and Want to Scrooge. What broader societal issues or themes might they represent?
3. Analyze the author's use of descriptive language in portraying Ignorance and Want. How does the choice of words contribute to the overall tone and mood of the passage?
4. In what ways does the passage serve as social commentary on the conditions of the time? How might it reflect the author's views on poverty and social inequality?
5. Examine Scrooge's initial reaction to Ignorance and Want and his attempt to justify their condition. How does this moment contribute to Scrooge's overall character development in the story?
6. Discuss the impact of the author's decision to have the Ghost of Christmas Present reveal Ignorance and Want through visual representation rather than dialogue. How does this choice enhance the narrative?