A Christmas Carol Socratic Seminar Questions

1. *A Christmas Carol* was originally written in 1843 and has since been adapted into countless plays, movies, children’s books, cartoons, etc. Why do you think this story stands the test of time? Why do you think this story is important to tell?

2. Why is Mr. Fezziwig, a fairly small role in the play, such an important part of Scrooge’s life?

3. Each ghost that visits Scrooge behaves and looks very differently, why is this? What does each ghost symbolize to Scrooge? Do they symbolize something else to you?

4. Which ghost do you think had the greatest effect on Scrooge? Why?

5. Why does Charles Dickens use ghosts in the story at all? What do they represent?

6. Charles Dickens was very thoughtful in selecting his characters’ names. Why did he name his character Ebenezer Scrooge? When you hear the name Scrooge does it evoke an emotion? Why did he use the names Cratchit, Fezziwig or Belle?

7. *A Christmas Carol* can be considered a “morality tale,” a story intended to teach readers or viewers a lesson about how to be a better person. What is the lesson Scrooge learns in *A Christmas Carol*? What other stories do you know that teach us how to be better people? What are the morals or lessons taught by those stories?

8. The Grinch can be considered the twentieth century Scrooge. How do the two characters compare? Are their stories similar? Do they share the same message and themes? How are the two stories different?

9. At the beginning of the story, what are Scrooge’s interpersonal relationship skills like? As the story progresses, do they change? At the end of the novella?

10. How does this novella fit into the unit of Interpersonal Relationships?

11. What are the most important things in life? What brings true happiness?

12. Relationships Bring Happiness. Agree or Disagree?

13. What is Christmas all about?

14. What is really important in life?

15. How am I treating others? Am I doing what I can to make the world a better place?
16. Do you believe that the society in which you live is captivated by wealth and material goods? In what ways is wealth desirable? In what ways is it harmful?

17. Have you, like Madame Loisel in “The Necklace,” ever wished for a material possession or wished to be accepted by a particular person or group?

18. Jim and Della wanted to show how much they love each other through their Christmas gifts to each other. Both of them sold their prized possession just to buy their loved one a gift. Do you think that they acted foolishly or wisely? Explain your answer.

19. If Della and Jim hadn’t sold their prized possessions, would they have realized how much they loved each other? Explain your answer.

20. Do you dream of being very rich or having lots of money? What would you be willing to do to become rich?

21. Mme. Loisel believes that material wealth, or owning many expensive things, will make her more important in the eyes of other people. In today’s world, do you think people still judge objects and other people by their appearance? Is looking rich and fashionable important to you, too?

22. What is the real cause of Mme. Loisel and her husband falling into poverty? Is it the outrageous debts, the careless loss of the necklace, or Mme. Loisel’s ambitions? Explain.

23. If you were Mme. Loisel’s husband, would you have gotten angry at Mme. Loisel for losing the necklace? Why or why not?

24. What makes you feel connected to people you have never met before?

25. What makes people support each other, even strangers, during a crisis?