



Book Club
HOSTING KIT





Book Club Hosting Kit

A Suggested 90-Minute Gathering

Below is a simple format to help your gathering flow naturally—from easy conversation at the start, to lively discussion, and a lighthearted finish at the end.

Feel free to adjust the timing to fit your group.

Arrival & Refreshments — 10 Minutes

Let guests settle in, greet one another, and get comfortable.

1. Opening Icebreaker: Victorian Trivia — 10 Minutes

Break the ice with a few surprising questions from the Victorian era.

2. Main Conversation — 40 Minutes

Use the guide to explore the story, characters, choices, and themes.

3. Exclusive Deleted Scene — 15 Minutes

Read an unpublished scene from the world of *Cratchit* and talk about the follow-up questions.

4. Fun Finish: Cast the Movie — 15 Minutes

End the evening by choosing your dream cast for a film adaptation of the novel.

1. Opening Icebreaker

Every good evening begins with a little conversation.

Use these surprising and entertaining trivia questions from the Victorian era to get people talking, laughing, and guessing before the main discussion begins. There's no need to keep score unless you'd like to—half the fun is hearing the guesses.

Depending on your time frame, use them all, or simply pick your favorites.

Victorian Trivia



1. Victorians sometimes placed what body part from loved ones into jewelry?

Answer: Human hair

2. Wealthy Victorians sometimes hosted parties to view something old and unusual that had been recently unwrapped. What was it?

Answer: Egyptian mummies

3. Queen Victoria survived how many assassination attempts during her lifetime?

Answer: Eight

4. What material was commonly used in Victorian false teeth before modern dentures?

Answer: Porcelain

5. What material filled many Victorian mattresses and could hide all sorts of unpleasant surprises?

Answer: Straw or horsehair

6. Some Victorians rented a certain fruit for parties—not to eat, but to display as a sign of wealth. What fruit was it?

Answer: A pineapple

7. Queen Victoria wore black mourning clothes for how many years after Prince Albert died?

Answer: About 40 years

8. What deadly poison was used in some fashionable green wallpaper and clothing dyes?

Answer: Arsenic

9. What sweet treat was once sold in London streets wrapped in paper twists and called “penny licks”?

Answer: Ice cream

10. What royal figure helped popularize the Christmas tree in Britain?

Answer: Prince Albert (with Queen Victoria)

11. What item did some wealthy Victorians place under glass domes in their parlors as decoration?

Answer: Stuffed pets and birds

12. What invention caused some Victorians to fear their soul could be captured?

Answer: Photography

13. Some Victorians wore jewelry made to resemble what animal as a symbol of eternal love?

Answer: A snake

14. What non-food item did some dishonest Victorian bakers reportedly add to bread to make it look whiter?

Answer: Chalk

15. What object was sometimes hidden in cake at celebrations, so the finder was promised good luck?

Answer: A coin

[Click here](#) if you'd like to download a PDF of the trivia questions.



2. Main Conversation

Now that everyone has settled in, turn the conversation to the story itself.

These questions are designed to spark light and lively discussion about the characters, relationships, choices, and themes found in the book.

Use as many or as few questions as you like. If conversation takes off, feel free to stay with it as long as it remains on track. Rather than trying to cover every question, give the ones that inspire lively discussion more time.

Let's Talk About the Book



The Story

1. Before reading this novel, what did you imagine life became for the Cratchit family after *A Christmas Carol*?
 2. Which character from *A Christmas Carol* were you happiest to see again?
 3. Which scene in the novel resonated the most with you—or simply became your favorite?
 4. Which character did you feel the most sympathy for?
 5. Which character would you most like to invite over for Christmas dinner?
 6. Most readers would choose Thatch as the villain of the story, representing 'evil.' Which character would you choose to represent 'good'?
 7. Which character do you think would be the most difficult to live with? To work with?
 8. Which relationship in the novel felt the most authentic or believable?
 9. Do you think this story would make a good movie or TV series? If so, why?
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Family & Relationships

10. Belinda often takes on the role of peacemaker, trying to heal tensions in the family. Why is that role often more difficult than it appears?
 11. Tim confides to Ebenezer that he feels like a dog kept on a short leash, unable to speak freely without disappointing his father. Do you think Tim's frustrations are justified? What do you think he wants most from his father?
 12. Bob insists that he's trying to prepare Tim for the harsh realities of the world. Do you believe that, or is he trying to control his son's future? Has he crossed the line?
 13. Randall chooses to risk everything for Belinda, while Belinda chooses loyalty to her father over her future with Randall. Both are making huge sacrifices. Given the circumstances, which decision do you think was the right one?
 14. Ebenezer Scrooge remains a steady presence in the family's life years after his own transformation. Why do you think he never confronted Bob about his betrayal, when he seemed to know the truth all along?
 15. Mary often challenges both Bob and Tim Cratchit when others are reluctant to do so. Why is she such an important figure in their lives? Why do you think Thatch is so condescending to her?
 16. Cratchit had promised Belinda the first dance at the Christmas party, and he broke that promise. Is forgetting a promise different from deliberately breaking one? Does the distinction matter to the person who was hurt?
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Choices & Consequences

17. When Cratchit first realizes the Spirits have come to change him, he becomes indignant. When Abigail confronts Bob about being drunk at their daughter's wedding, he immediately turns the blame back on her. Why do you think he's so reluctant to admit when he's wrong?
18. In his mind, Cratchit believes that Scrooge has 'stolen' his son. Why does he view Ebenezer's relationship with Tim as a threat rather than a blessing?
19. Cratchit chose to confess his betrayal of Scrooge publicly—to Peter, Mary, and the four businessmen. Why do you think he did that? Was his apology a sign of weakness or strength?

20. Belinda gives her father his flask before he goes off to work. How should we interpret her actions? Is she helping him, enabling him, protecting him, or something else?
 21. At the end of Stave Four, Cratchit finally realizes that the men he trusted had been deceiving him. Was their betrayal any different from the way Cratchit betrayed Ebenezer? If so, how?
 22. Forgiveness is a major theme of the story. Ebenezer forgives Bob for betraying him, even though Bob never asked for absolution. If you had been in Scrooge's position, would you have forgiven Bob? Can acts of forgiveness help the one who was wronged as much as the one forgiven?
 23. As Bob returns to the husband and father his family remembers, what was the greatest obstacle standing in the way of his redemption?
 24. The novel suggests that one person's choices can affect many lives. Which character's decisions had the greatest impact on others, and why?
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Final Thoughts

25. What lessons did Bob learn over the course of this story?
26. Was there anything in the story you found yourself wanting to talk about with the group that we haven't touched on yet?
27. Undoubtedly, this is the happiest Christmas for Bob Cratchit in a long while. Looking back, what was your happiest Christmas, and what made it special?



3. Book Club Exclusive: Deleted Scene

As an exclusive feature for your book club, the author is sharing unseen, unpublished pages from the world of Cratchit.

Have the Deleted Scene printed out to distribute to each member of your group so that they can take a few minutes to read it for themselves. Alternatively, you could simply read the Deleted Scene aloud to the group.

But before that, read aloud the short explanation of why this scene was deleted (shown below). After the scene is read, there are follow-up questions that should invite interesting discussion (also shown below).

[Click here](#) to view pages of the Deleted Scene online

[Click here](#) to download a printable PDF copy of the Deleted Scene

Explanation of Deleted Scene (read to group)

In the process of writing a novel, some scenes are removed for pacing. Others because another path ultimately served the story better.

During the writing of *Cratchit: A Christmas Carol Continues*, one scene was set aside as the novel took its final shape. Bob Cratchit visiting the mystic Katura on Christmas Eve night wasn't in earlier drafts. The original scene had Marley's Ghost appearing before Cratchit to warn him of the Spirits to come.

Though the now-deleted scene worked, the author felt it was too similar to the encounter with Marley's Ghost from *A Christmas Carol*, and so chose to rewrite it using a new character and setting. Among other things, this change provided the opportunity to include Cratchit's walk through Seven Dials—an allegory for the choices in life that confront us all.

Follow-Up Questions for Deleted Scene



1. This deleted scene features Marley's Ghost, while the finished novel introduces Katura instead. Which version feels more surprising or memorable to you—and why?
2. How does the mood of the deleted scene differ from the final Katura scene? Which one better prepares the reader for what is to come?



3. Marley's appearance closely echoes *A Christmas Carol*, while Katura introduces an entirely new path. Why do you think the author chose to move away from the familiar and create something original?
4. The finished scene introduces Seven Dials and the phrase, "The secret lies in the ledgers." What do those additions contribute to the story that a straightforward warning from Marley could not?
5. Katura is worldly, dangerous, and unpredictable in a way Marley is not. What does her presence add to the world of the novel?
6. If you had read the deleted Marley scene first, how might it have shaped your expectations for the rest of the book differently?
7. Authors often remove scenes they like because another version serves the story better. After reading both, do you agree with the final choice—or would you have kept the original? Is there anything that you would have kept from the deleted scene?

4. Fun Finish

End the evening on a light note.

Your group has been tasked with casting the movie for “Cratchit: A Christmas Carol Continues”. Any and all suggestions are welcome!

Compare your picks, defend your casting decisions, and see where the room agrees—or doesn’t. You can either take a few minutes to allow the group to write down their answers—or begin throwing names out at once.

Cast The Movie



If *Cratchit: A Christmas Carol Continues* were adapted for film or television, who would you cast in each role?

Choose actors from any era—past or present. Serious choices, unexpected choices, and wild-card picks are all welcome.

Bob Cratchit: _____

Belinda Cratchit: _____

Tim Cratchit: _____

Peter Cratchit: _____

Mary Fielding: _____

Randall Yates: _____

Ebenezer Scrooge: _____

Mr. Thatch: _____

Katura: _____

Mrs. Cratchit: _____

Bonus Questions

What style should it be?

- Dark Victorian Drama
- Warm Holiday Classic
- Prestige Miniseries
- Gothic Ghost Story
- Romantic Period Drama
- Other: _____

Which actor would steal the movie? _____

Which scene would audiences remember most? _____

Bonus Activity (Time Permitting)

Six Degrees of Bob Cratchit



The classic game “Six Degrees of Kevin Bacon” challenges players to connect any famous person to Kevin Bacon in six steps or fewer through shared films or roles.

This version does the same thing—but the goal is to connect someone famous to Bob Cratchit.

Example: Jack Nicholson

1. Jack Nicholson starred with Diane Keaton in *Something's Gotta Give*
2. Diane Keaton starred with Steve Martin in *Father of the Bride*
3. Steve Martin starred with Michael Caine in *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*
4. Michael Caine starred with Kermit the Frog in *The Muppet Christmas Carol*
5. Kermit the Frog played Bob Cratchit

Now let your group try their own!

Invitation Templates

Choose from 3 free templates to invite your guests to your Cratchit get-together. Simply download your favorite design and include your event details in your message. (The templates themselves can't be edited).

[Click here](#)

Host Tips & Final Thoughts



A successful gathering doesn't need to be elaborate. Good company, a few refreshments, and honest conversation are more than enough.

Feel free to keep things simple—or add a few Victorian touches such as candles, tea, biscuits, or seasonal music in the background.

Most of all, enjoy the evening. Some of the best moments come not from the planned questions, but from the unexpected conversations they begin.

Thank you for choosing “Cratchit: A Christmas Carol Continues” for your book club.

We hope you find this kit helpful in guiding your group to a memorable meeting filled with great conversation and fellowship!



If you have any questions or comments about this Book Club Kit, please contact us at info@CratchitBook.com.