A CHRISTMAS CAROL
A GHOST STORY OF CHRISTMAS

PERFORMANCE GUIDE
Scrooge works at a place called an Accounting House, where he collects money from people. He is not a very kind man, and he is very greedy with his money. A very nice man named Bob Cratchit works with Scrooge.

As it is Christmas Eve, Bob asks if he could take Christmas Day off of work to spend with his wife and children. Scrooge doesn’t like Christmas very much, because it is not a day where he can make more money. When people mention Christmas, Scrooge says “Bah Humbug!” A bell rings at the end of the work day, and it is time for Scrooge to go home.
On his way home, Scrooge meets three people:

- A toy seller...
- A man who sells hot apple cider...
- And an inventor.

All three of these people owe Scrooge money, but they are not ready to pay him back. Instead, Scrooge takes a doll from the Toy Seller, a cup of cider from the Cider Vendor, and a steam clock from the Inventor.

At home, Scrooge feels a bit nervous. He is thinking of his old business partner, Jacob Marley, who died. He is getting ready for bed when something very strange happens: the ghost of Jacob Marley appears! It even looks like the ghost is flying, but that is a magic trick. The ghost, along with the other ghosts that I have already seen, is just pretend—they will not touch me, and I am safe. If I am nervous, I can squeeze my fidget or hold on to a grown-up’s hand.

Jacob Marley was a very greedy man when he was alive, just as Scrooge is now. Like Scrooge, he did not treat people very kindly. He has come back to warn Scrooge that three spirits will visit him tonight: The Spirits of Christmas Past, Present, and Future. These spirits are meant to show Scrooge that he must change his life and be kind to others. Scrooge is frightened, but he doesn’t think that Marley is telling the truth.
But Marley was right! Almost as soon as he leaves, the first spirit arrives. She is the Spirit of Christmas Past, and she is very nice.

She takes Scrooge back into his own past, to when he was a little boy.

Then we see Scrooge as a young man, when he worked for a nice family called the Fezziwigs. The Fezziwigs are having a Christmas party!

It was at this Christmas party that Scrooge met a girl named Belle. She and Scrooge fell in love.
First, the Spirit of Christmas Present takes Scrooge to visit the home of Bob Cratchit. Bob’s home is a warm, happy place, and Scrooge enjoys watching Mrs. Cratchit and the children prepare Christmas dinner.

Bob and his family do not have much money, and Tiny Tim, his son, is very sick. Even still, Scrooge can see that the family loves each other very much, and they celebrate a happy Christmas together. Scrooge is surprised by this. He always thought that money was more important than love, but now he wonders if maybe he was wrong.

However, Scrooge loved his money more than he loved Belle, and she eventually left him. Scrooge is very sad when he watches this scene from his past, and he asks the Spirit of Christmas Past to take him home.

But when he gets home, Scrooge is visited by another spirit—the Spirit of Christmas Present! This spirit is going to show Scrooge what is happening this Christmas day throughout the rest of the city.
But before Scrooge can truly think about his life, the Spirit of Christmas Future appears! There is some thunder and lightning, and the sound of clocks ticking. If it is too loud, I can use my earplugs or cover my ears. If I am frightened, I can squeeze my fidget or hold my grown-up’s hand. I am safe, though. It is all still pretend, and the ghost will not touch me.

The Spirit of Christmas Future shows Scrooge scenes from the future, where people are happy about the death of a mean old man. Scrooge asks the Spirit who the man was, but the Spirit does not answer.
Scrooge is afraid, but he feels better when the Spirit takes him to Bob Cratchit’s house again. Scrooge remembers it as a happy place that was full of love. However, things are very different at the Cratchit house in the future. Tiny Tim has died, and the family is terribly sad. Scrooge is also very sad. He wonders if it might have made a difference if he paid Bob more, so that they could buy medicine for Tiny Tim that might save his life.

Scrooge is afraid of the last place the Spirit takes him: the cemetery. Here, he sees the grave of the mean old man whose death made others so happy.

Scrooge is frightened to see that it is his own name on the grave. He realizes that the Spirit of Christmas Future has shown him what will happen if he does not change his life and become a better man. Scrooge cries and promises the Spirit that he will change. He will be a better man, if only he is given one more chance.

And suddenly...it is morning! Scrooge is alone in his bedroom. There are no ghosts, and the sun is shining. It’s Christmas Day! Scrooge is very happy to have a second chance to live his life as a good and honest man.
The Spirits taught Scrooge that he needed to change his life, and he does! He gets help from the people in the town and brings joy and Christmas cheer to those people whom he has treated badly in the past.

Ebenezer Scrooge has learned to treat others with kindness and respect. In turn, he lives a very happy life, surrounded by his new friends.

THE END!