BELLE

Key features · development · paired evidence

THE BIG IDEA

Belle makes the cost of Scrooge's priorities personal. She recognises that his growing devotion to money has altered the relationship she agreed to.

FOLLOW THE CHARACTER

1 Loves young Scrooge › **2** Names his changed values › **3** Ends the engagement › **4** Appears in an alternative family life

A COMPETING ALLEGIANCE

"Another idol has displaced me"

Belle, Stave 2

PAIRED WITH

"A golden one"

Belle, Stave 2

METHOD → MEANING

The religious metaphor presents wealth as a rival object of devotion. Gold explains the idol: the relationship fails because money has become an organising value.

A CHOSEN LOSS

"I release you"

Belle, Stave 2

PAIRED WITH

"such another creature, quite as graceful and as full of promise"

Narrator about Belle's daughter, Stave 2

METHOD → MEANING

The direct release recognises that their agreement no longer reflects his wishes. The later family scene makes lost possibilities visible without proving exactly what their marriage would have been.

PUSH THE ARGUMENT

Belle acts with judgement and agency. Her later happiness is not a punishment engineered for Scrooge; he is forced to witness a life that continued beyond him.

COVER THE SHEET. CAN YOU EXPLAIN…?

How does Belle reveal a change in values rather than simply a change in income?