MRS CRATCHIT

Key features · development · paired evidence

THE BIG IDEA

Mrs Cratchit combines practical affection with anger at unfair treatment. Her voice keeps the family's warmth from excusing Scrooge's behaviour.

FOLLOW THE CHARACTER

1 Organises the meal › **2** Shares in family pride › **3** Challenges Scrooge › **4** Protects her household

SCARCITY AND INGENUITY

"brave in ribbons"

Narrator, Stave 3

PAIRED WITH

"like a speckled cannon-ball"

Narrator about the pudding, Stave 3

METHOD → MEANING

The costume detail gives inexpensive decoration dignity. The comic simile makes the pudding a dramatic achievement; presentation and shared effort create celebration despite limited resources.

A TOAST CONTESTED

"an odious, stingy, hard, unfeeling man"

Mrs Cratchit about Scrooge, Stave 3

PAIRED WITH

"for your sake and the Day's"

Mrs Cratchit to Bob, Stave 3

METHOD → MEANING

The accumulating adjectives refuse to sentimentalise exploitation. Her eventual participation in the toast honours family and Christmas without becoming approval of Scrooge.

PUSH THE ARGUMENT

She is not simply the angry opposite of a kind husband. Her criticism protects the same family whose happiness Bob celebrates.

COVER THE SHEET. CAN YOU EXPLAIN…?

How does Mrs Cratchit make the reader reconsider Bob's gratitude?