

First Ghost of Christmas Past: Yoo Hoo! Mr. Scrooge. Time for you to wake up.

Scrooge grumbles a few times and resettles himself in sleep.

Second Ghost: Come on now! Wakey, wakey, eggs and bakey!

Scrooge rolls over to face stage left, and stays asleep. One ghost pokes him harder as they speak. The other sits on the bed and bounces up and down.

Both Ghosts: Mr. Scrooge! Wake up, wake up, wake up!

Scrooge rolls back toward stage right, opens his eyes, sees them and sits up shocked.

Scrooge: Who are you? And how did you get in here... Wait, are you the spirits Marley told me about?

First Ghost: Yup! That's us! We are the Ghosts of Christmas Past.

Scrooge: What business do you have with me?

Second Ghost: Very important business--your personal welfare in this life and in the next!

Scrooge: That's nice. But I really think a good night's sleep could help me more.

First Ghost: Hey, grouch! This is your one chance to repent!

Second Ghost: Now get up and come with us!

Scrooge: Feisty little things, aren't you.

Scrooge gets out of bed and the First Ghost takes Scrooge's hand and starts pulling him, while the Second Ghost gets behind him and starts pushing him to stage right. Spotlight on the 3 of them while the stage goes dark. While they are speaking and moving, the stage crew changes the set, which is a cozy living room with a roaring fireplace, comfortable furniture, and Christmas decorations. Two children are sitting on a rug, playing checkers.

First Ghost: Hurry! Hurry!

Scrooge: What are you doing? Where are we going?

Second Ghost: You'll see. Now move!

First Ghost: He's difficult. Now I can see why they sent two of us.

Second Ghost: We deserve a bonus for this one!

Scrooge: Stop talking about me as if I am not here! I am not a child.

First Ghost: Well, you are about to be!

Second Ghost: Voila! We are here!

Scrooge and the ghosts turn around as the stage lights go on full and spotlight goes off.

Scrooge: Why, it is my childhood home. I had some wonderful times there.

First Ghost: Childhood was a happy time for you? Do you remember this scene.

Scrooge: Of course, it's my family's living room.

Second Ghost: Notice the warm fire and comfortable setting. Do you recognize those two children?

Scrooge: Why, yes. But it can't be...that's me and my little sister, Fan. Darling Fan. I gave her that checkers game for Christmas one year.

Fan: I won! I won **again!** Dear Ebenezer, you let me win, didn't you? You are so kind, but how will I learn to play well if you always let me win!

Child Scrooge: Of course I am not letting you win, Fan. You are just a better player than me!

Fan: Nonsense, Ebenezer, but you are the best big brother a girl could have.
Fan leans over and hugs her big brother.

Scrooge: She was always the sweetest child.

First Ghost: What happened to her?

Scrooge: She died in childbirth...I miss her so.

Second Ghost: And the child?

Scrooge: He survived. His name is Fred.

First Ghost: Did you care for him, while he was growing up, after losing his mother...**your sister** and all?