Task 1

Read Dickens’ description of Scrooge below and underline each word or phrase associated with cold weather.

The cold within him froze his old features, nipped his pointed nose, shrivelled his cheek, stiffened his gait; made his eyes red, his thin lips blue; and spoke out shrewdly in his grating voice. A frosty rime was on his head, and on his eyebrows, and his wiry chin. He carried his own low temperature always about with him; he iced his office in the dog-days; and didn’t thaw it one degree at Christmas.

External heat and cold had little influence on Scrooge. No warmth could warm, no wintry weather chill him. No wind that blew was bitterer than he, no falling snow was more intent upon its purpose, no pelting rain less open to entreaty. Foul weather didn’t know where to have him. The heaviest rain, and snow, and hail, and sleet, could boast of the advantage over him in only one respect. They often came down handsomely, and Scrooge never did.

Task 2

Fill in the following grid with evidence from the text

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Point</th>
<th>Evidence</th>
<th>What effect does this have?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dickens uses metaphors to show Scrooge has a cold heart</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dickens uses verbs associated with cold weather to show how Scrooge’s cold heartedness affects his appearance</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dickens uses metaphors to show Scrooge is not affected by anything</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Task 3

Semantic field is when a writer uses a group of words which relate to one another. Dickens uses a semantic field of winter weather to describe Scrooge. Write your own list of words associated with summer weather.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dickens’ semantic field of winter weather</th>
<th>Your semantic field of summer weather</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>‘cold’</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘froze’</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘nipped’</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘shrivelled’</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘lips blue’</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘frosty rime’</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘low temperature’</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>‘chill’</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>‘bitterer’</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>‘falling snow’</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘pelting rain’</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘foul weather’</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘rain’ ‘hail’ ‘sleet’ ‘snow’</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Task 4

Describe a fictional character using a semantic field of summer weather.

E.g. He had a warm heart...
Task 5

Gothic fiction was popular in Victorian England. A typically gothic atmosphere is a 'spooky' atmosphere. Write a list of ways writers can create a gothic setting in their stories.

Task 6

Read the description of Scrooge’s house. Underline anything that links to a gothic atmosphere or setting.

Task 7

Explain how Dickens builds up a gothic setting in this part of the novel.

Task 8

Write a description of a building and try to create a gothic atmosphere.
Reading and writing tasks
A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens

Task 9
Read the description of Marley’s ghost in the extract below and label the picture with quotes from the text.

The same face: the very same. Marley in his pigtail, usual waistcoat, tights, and boots; the tassels on the latter bristling, like his pigtail, and his coat-skirts, and the hair upon his head. The chain he drew was clasped about his middle. It was long, and wound about him like a tail; and it was made (for Scrooge observed it closely) of cash-boxes, keys, padlocks, ledgers, deeds, and heavy purses wrought in steel. His body was transparent; so that Scrooge, observing him, and looking through his waistcoat, could see the two buttons on his coat behind.

Scrooge had often heard it said that Marley had no bowels, but he had never believed it until now.

No, nor did he believe it even now. Though he looked the phantom through and through, and saw it standing before him; though he felt the chilling influence of its death-cold eyes; and marked the very texture of the folded kerchief bound about its head and chin, which wrapper he had not observed before; he was still incredulous, and fought against his senses.
Task 10
Evaluate this description - do you think this ghost sounds scary? Use a quote to support your answer.

Task 11
Imagine you are going to write a ghost story. Plan what your ghost will look like. Make it as scary and spooky as you can. Write in bullet points or draw a sketch with labels.

Task 12
Write a description of meeting this ghost for the first time. Include a description of what the ghost looks like, what the ghost does and how you felt.