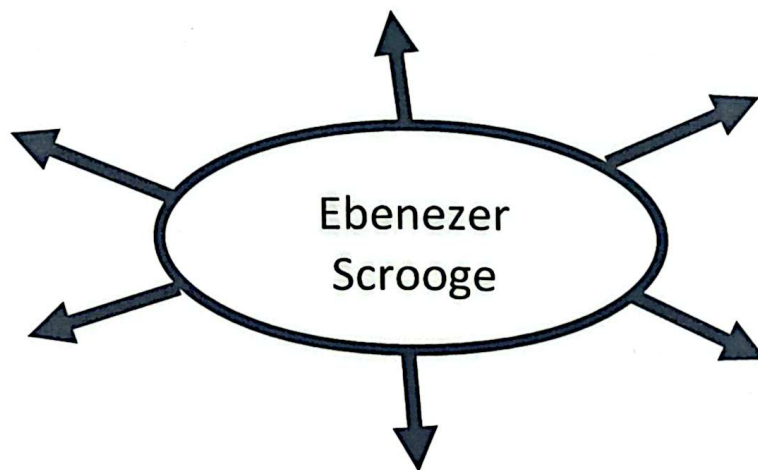


7: Extracting Details from a Fiction Text

Read this extract taken from Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, written in 1843:

Oh! But he was a tight-fisted hand at the grind- stone, Scrooge! a squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous, old sinner! Hard and sharp as flint, from which no steel had ever struck out generous fire; secret, and self-contained, and solitary as an oyster. The cold within him froze his old features, nipped his pointed nose, shriveled 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 dogdays; 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. Nobody ever stopped him in the street to say, with gladsome looks, "My dear Scrooge, how are you? When will you come to see me?" No beggars implored him to bestow a trifle, no children asked him what it was o'clock, no man or woman ever once in all his life inquired the way to such and such a place, of Scrooge. Even the blind men's dogs appeared to know him; and when they saw him coming on, would tug their owners into doorways and up courts; and then would wag their tails as though they said, "No eye at all is better than an evil eye, dark master!" But what did Scrooge care? It was the very thing he liked. To edge his way along the crowded paths of life, warning all human sympathy to keep its distance, was what the knowing ones call "nuts" to Scrooge.

a) Complete the mind map below by adding six things you learn about Scrooge's character in this extract:



b) Write one thing you can **infer** about Scrooge's character below:

8: Extracting Details from a Nonfiction Text

Read the following extract taken from the 19th century text *The Ladies Book of Etiquette* by Florence Hartley, advising young ladies on how to behave when travelling and staying in hotels.:

The hours for meals at a hotel are numerous, so it is best to mention the time when you wish to eat. I know from experience how unpleasant it is to go hungry. It is essential to be ladylike when dining. For instance, a lady shouldn't drink wine at dinner, even if her head is strong enough to bear it. After eating, wait in the parlour whilst the chambermaid tidies your room. Before leaving the room, be careful not to leave any money or trinkets lying about. I have lost several valuables that way. When out walking, don't drag your dress through that mud-puddle! You mustn't raise your dress too high. It is said that only a raw country girl will show her ankles!

Circle the letters of the four statements below that are **true** according to this text:

- a) Meals are available at all times in hotels.
- b) Drinking wine at dinner is ungracious.
- c) You should wait in the dining room until your room has been tidied.
- d) It is ladylike to show off your ankles.
- e) You should only drink wine with dinner if you can handle it.
- f) It is unwise to leave expensive possessions on show in your room.
- g) Country girls are unladylike.
- h) You should raise your dress to avoid soiling it when out walking.

How relevant is the advice in this extract to the women of today?
Justify your opinion with a clear explanation.
