

# Stave 1 - Worksheet 1: *Marley was Dead* ([Audio](#))

## 1.1 Marley was Dead

*December 24, 1843 - London*

Marley was dead. There was no doubt about that. Old Marley was as dead as a door-nail.

Did Scrooge know he was dead? Of course he did. Scrooge and he were partners for many years. Scrooge was his only friend and only mourner. And even Scrooge did not mourn much when he died.

Scrooge never painted out Old Marley's name. There it stood, years afterwards, above the door: Scrooge and Marley.

Sometimes people new to the business called him Scrooge, and sometimes Marley. He answered to both names: it was all the same to him.

Oh! But he was tight-fisted!

The cold within him froze his old features. He carried his own low temperature always about with him; and didn't thaw it one degree at Christmas.

Nobody ever stopped him in the street to say, 'My dear Scrooge, how are you? When will you come to see me?'

But what did Scrooge care?

### Glossary

**dead as doornail** - (idiom) obviously dead

**mourner** - friend or family of dead person

**thaw** - when ice melts

**tight-fisted** - hates spending money

### Quick Check

1. Who was Marley's 'only mourner'?
2. Whose name(s) are on the sign?
3. When did Marley die?
4. What does Scrooge not care about?

### Vocabulary: (intermediate)

Write a sentence using these words a) doubt b) mourner c) tight-fisted

### Writing: (intermediate)

What do we learn about Marley and Scrooge? Write a paragraph