

The background features a dark silhouette of a man wearing a top hat, with a lit candle integrated into the letter 'I' of the word 'CHRISTMAS'. The scene is set against a dark blue, starry night sky.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Education Pack

**TAUNTON
BREWHOUSE**



Introduction

Hello! We hope you are looking forward to visiting our production of *A Christmas Carol* at Taunton Brewhouse. To help you prepare and get excited about the show, here's an education pack with some information about what it is you will be seeing, plus a handful of activities for you to try out in the classroom or at home.

In this education pack you will find:

- A list of the professional cast and youth ensemble
- An interview with the writer
- Rehearsal photographs
- A synopsis about the play
- Six fun-filled activities for the classroom or at home
- A list of other activities coming up in 2024



THE CAST



DAVID AHMAD
BOB CRATCHIT



LYDIA BARTON LOVETT
MRS FEZZIWIG



IAN HARRIS
SCROOGE / UNCLE



ZALIKA HENRY
MOTHER



GINA JAMIESON
BELLE



MORGAN VAL BAKER
MARLEY



SASHA WILSON
GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST



JOE WILTSHIRE SMITH
FRED

YOUTH ENSEMBLE

Cratchit's CREW

Ben Dryden (Tiny Tim), Amelia Calderwood (Belinda)
Zach Bale (Young Scrooge) Pearl Phillips (Young Fan)
Masie Henderson (Adolescent Fan) Kimberley Davis
(Martha) Evie Titley (Daughter) Alfie Inskip (Peter)
Maddie Bale (Understudy Tiny Tim & Young Fan) Sophie
Martin-Thomas (Understudy Martha & Belinda) Maia
Wedderkopp (Understudy Adolescent Fan & Daughter)
Dylan Merrell (Understudy Young Scrooge & Peter)

Fezziwig's FRIENDS

Barnaby Roberts (Tiny Tim), Chiara Wuyts (Belinda)
Sol Leslie (Young Scrooge) Bella Whitelaw (Young Fan) Amy
Colman (Adolescent Fan) Lily-Diana Cascuncad (Martha)
Pip Saunders (Daughter) Arthur Wilkinson (Peter) Niamh
Linthorne (Understudy Tiny Tim & Young Fan) Evie Tudor
(Understudy Martha & Belinda) Gracie Yarde (Understudy
Adolescent Fan & Daughter) Zachary Roberts (Understudy
Young Scrooge & Peter)

Interview with Helena Payne

- Can you tell us more about A Christmas Carol and what audiences can expect?

Our audiences can expect a fresh take on a familiar tale, bold storytelling, phenomenal music and extraordinary puppetry. You will also get to witness some incredible performances from world-class artists that will leave you breathless.

- Could you describe the creative process behind developing this version, and what aspects of the original story did you find most compelling?

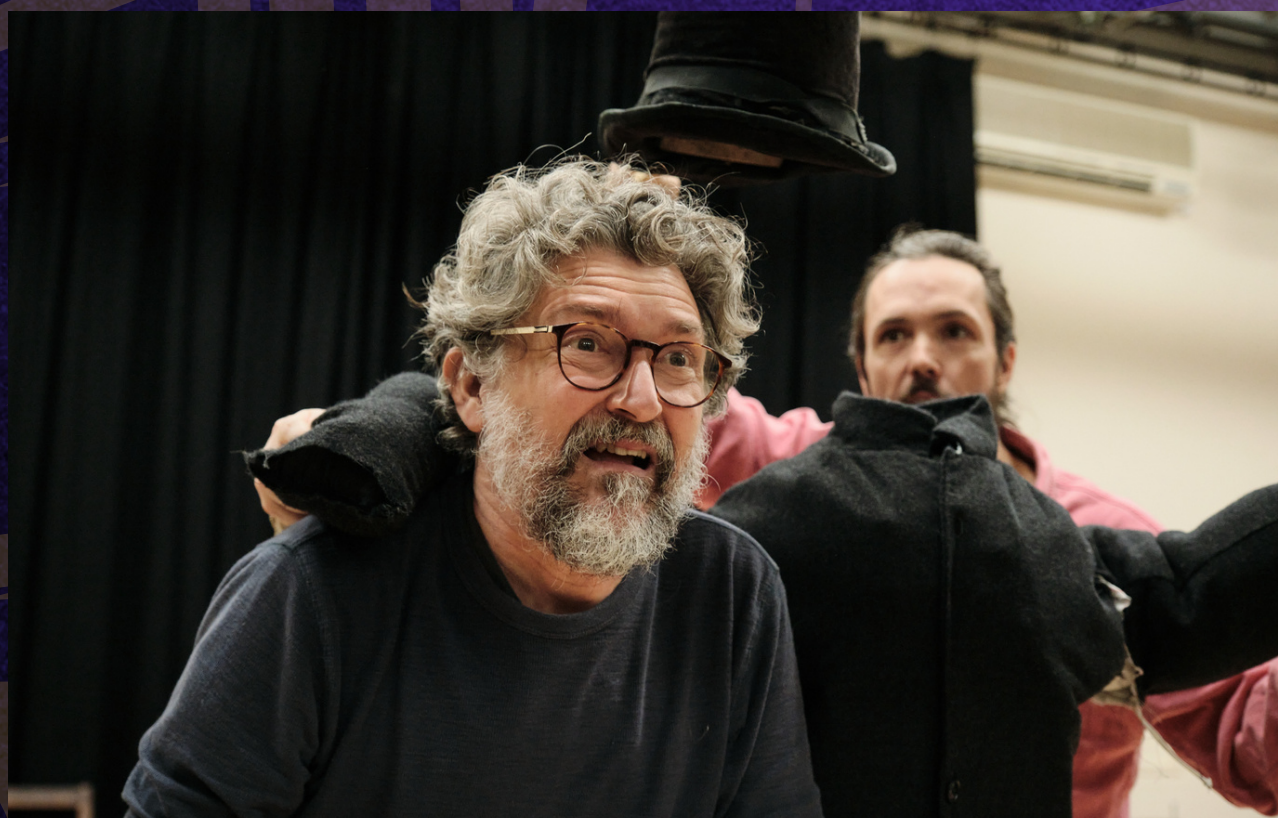
It always starts with re-reading the source text several times, and then a conversation about the themes of the story that we are most drawn to. This production focuses on the relationship between Scrooge and his little sister Fan, we explore whether this loss is the catalyst for his descent into misanthropy and bitterness, his pursuit of money a way of dealing with unresolved grief.

- Can you tell us about the musical elements in the show and how they enhance the storytelling experience?

Music has the power to move us all and take us to a deeper emotional level. All our music is original and has been composed specifically for this production to amplify each moment, and to give every member of the audience something to hum on the way home!



Rehearsal Photographs





Synopsis

The story begins with a MOTHER and a DAUGHTER waiting for a train to London to visit their UNCLE. While they wait, the Daughter reads 'A CHRISTMAS CAROL'.

We are then introduced to SCROOGE, a cold, uncharitable man who hates Christmas; Bob CRATCHIT, who works for Scrooge; FRED, Scrooge's nephew, and TINY TIM, Bob Cratchit's poorly child.

One evening, Scrooge is visited by the ghost of his deceased business partner Jacob MARLEY, who was just as uncharitable as Scrooge when he was alive. As a consequence, Marley is stuck in heavy chains, and tells Scrooge that he will be visited by three ghosts who will offer him a chance at redemption.

Firstly, Scrooge is visited by the sentimental GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST. They visit his old school in Taunton, where his sister FAN begs him to come home for Christmas. Then, they visit a Christmas party hosted by his generous boss's wife, MRS FEZZIWIG. Scrooge meets BELLE and they fall in love. Unfortunately, as time goes on, Scrooge becomes overly focused on money and Belle decides to end the relationship. The Ghost of Christmas Past disappears.

Back on the train, which is not moving, the Daughter tries to calm her Mother's frustration by continuing the story.

Next, Scrooge is visited by the jolly GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT, who shows Scrooge the Cratchit family eating Christmas dinner at home. Despite the low wage paid to Bob Cratchit by Scrooge, they are happy. Scrooge then visits Fred's house, and while Fred's guests compare Scrooge to an unpleasant creature, they still wish that Scrooge had attended the party. The Ghost of Christmas Present disappears.

Back on the train, the Daughter begins to fear that Scrooge won't learn his lesson, but her Mother tells her to continue reading.

Lastly, Scrooge is visited by the mysterious GHOST OF CHRISTMAS YET TO COME. Scrooge is shown his own sparsely-attended funeral, and his belongings being distributed among strangers. In contrast, Scrooge witnesses the Cratchit family grieving the death of Tiny Tim. Seeing this fills Scrooge with sadness, and he vows to change Tiny Tim's fate and honour the joyful spirit of Christmas in his heart. The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come disappears and Scrooge wakes up having never left his own bed. Determined to be more charitable, Scrooge visits the Cratchit family, invites them to a Christmas feast, and increases Bob Cratchit's wages.

The story ends as Mother and Daughter finally arrive at their Uncle's house, who is just as miserable as Scrooge was at the beginning of the story. The Daughter reads 'A CHRISTMAS CAROL' to her Uncle and he begins to smile, just like Scrooge



ACTIVITY 1

Retelling the story in your own words!

Using the synopsis on the previous page, try retelling the story of A Christmas Carol in your own words. Feel free to use extra paper if you need to!

For an extra challenge, try and include as many of the words listed below as you can.

*Humbug Ghost Party Train
Love Regret Story Riches*

Blank writing area with horizontal blue lines.

ACTIVITY 2

Create a new character!

The Ghosts in A Christmas Carol show the people in Scrooge's life, past, present and future. Using your creativity and imagination, create a new character one of the ghosts might tell Scrooge about in an unseen scene of the play!

Draw a picture!

What is their name?

Where do they come from?

What is their favourite joke?

What do they do to celebrate their birthday?

What is their favourite adventure they've been on?

The background is a dark blue gradient. In the center, there is a large, semi-transparent silhouette of a ghost wearing a sheet and a hood. Six lit candles are hanging from gold chains, three on the left and three on the right, casting a warm glow. The title 'ACTIVITY 3' is written in a large, bold, yellow font, and 'Design a Ghost' is written below it in a slightly smaller, bold, yellow font.

ACTIVITY 3

Design a Ghost

Thinking about all of the ghosts Scrooge might have been visited by, try to come up with your own ghost! Thinking about personality and features, use the box below to design your own.

A large, white, rounded rectangle occupies the lower half of the page, intended for the student to draw or write their ghost design.

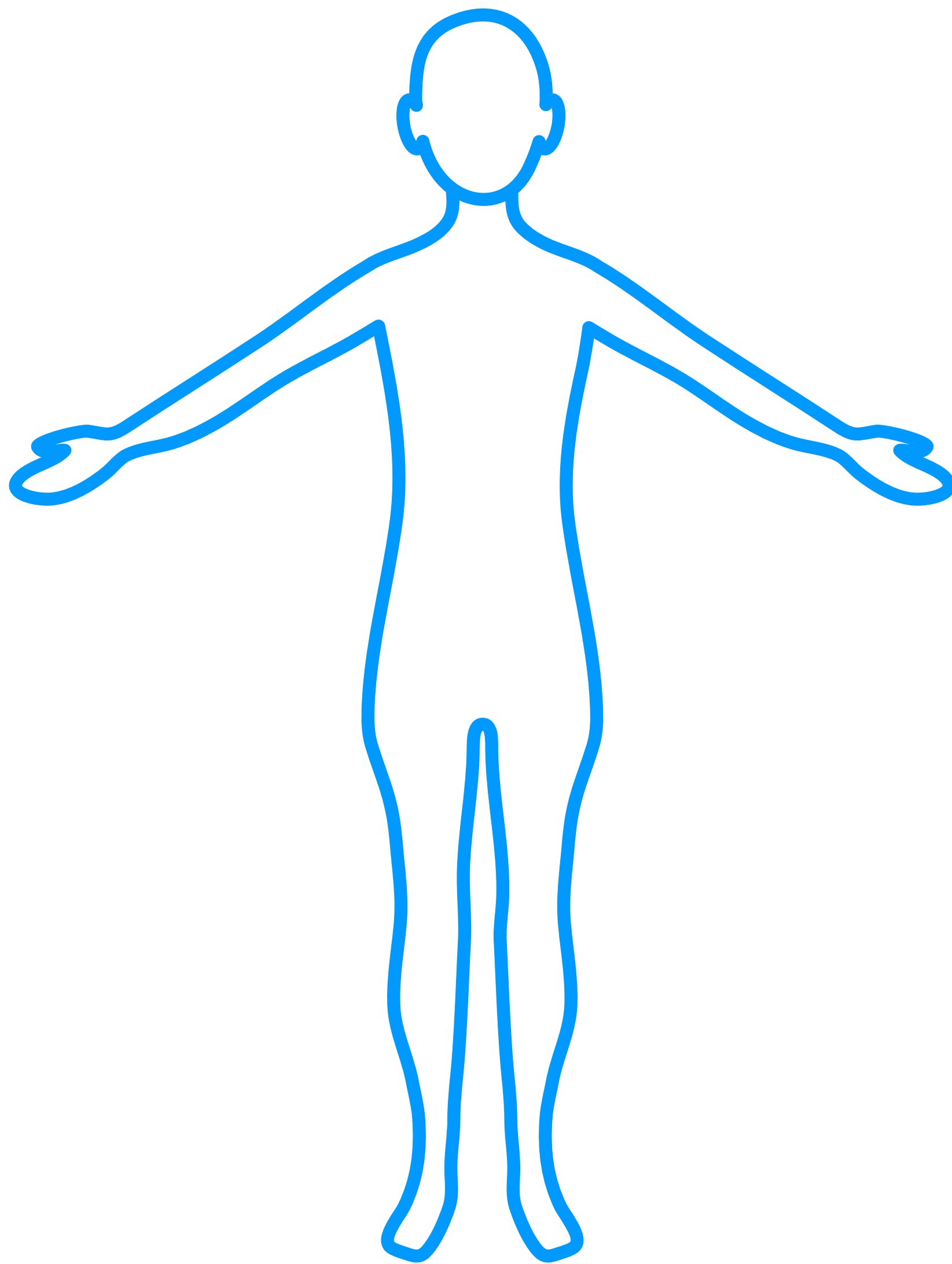


ACTIVITY 5

Designing a new costume!



Now that you have created your new ghost and character it is time to design one of them a costume. You can use whatever materials you would like from colouring pencils to collage!

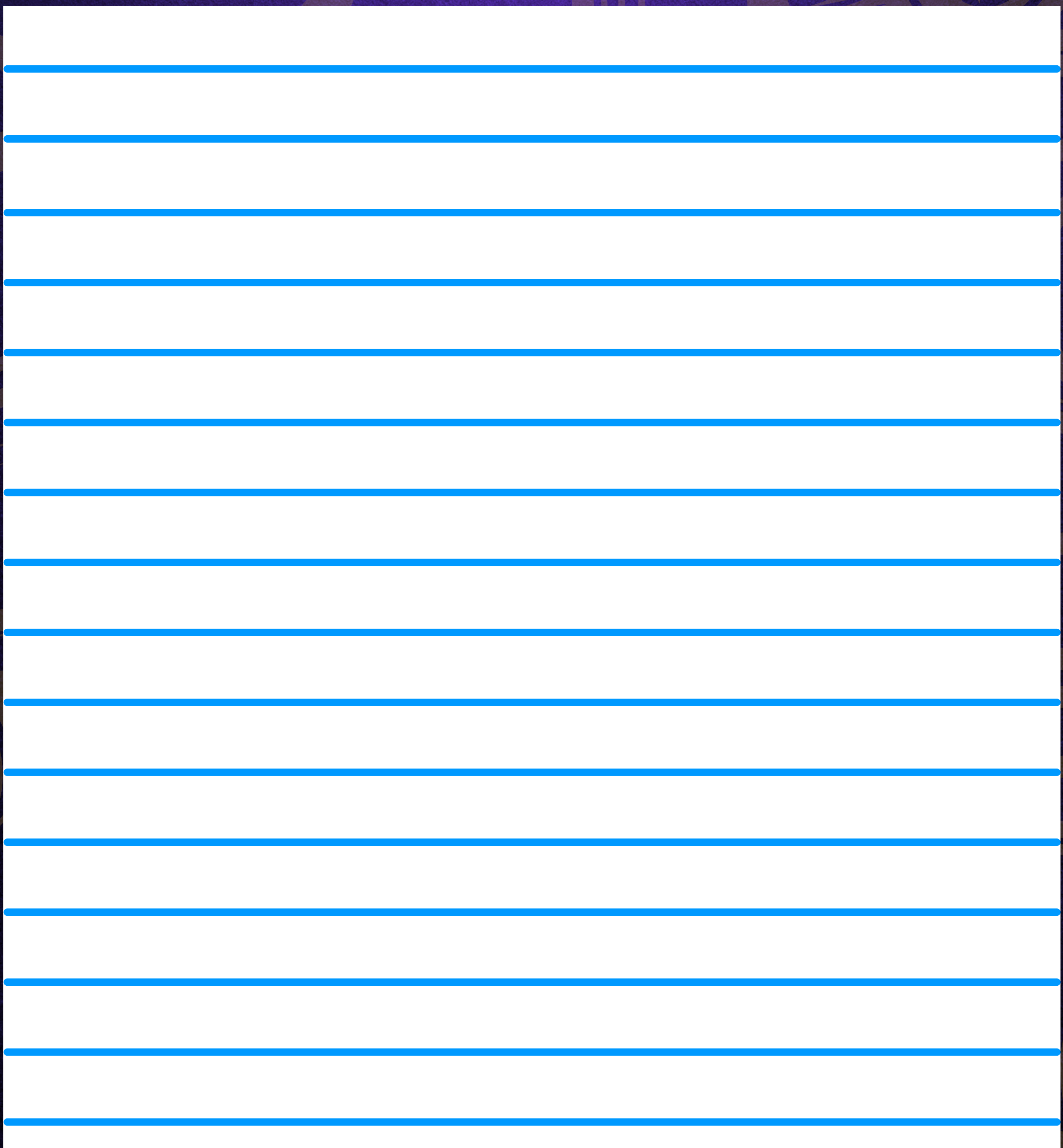




ACTIVITY 6

Writing and performing a new scene!

Try writing a new scene featuring Scrooge and your new character or ghost. Once you've finished writing your scene, work in pairs to rehearse a short performance and share your work with your classmates.



A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Enjoyed

?

Join us for more fun in the future!



Youth Theatre (Spring 2024) Ages 5-19

Youth theatre is a weekly class split into four groups, with each group targeting a different age range (a total range of 5-17) to build and develop their performing and theatre making skills. Group 1 and 2 lead by Dean Brammall, Group 3 and 4 lead by David Duthie

Youth Street Dance - Ages 6-16

Join us for an hour of hip-hop, house, breaking, popping, locking, waacking, waving and tutting in this exciting street dance class for kids.. Each term you will uncover the tools and techniques that are at the forefront of the commercial industry, combining these into fun-filled routines. All abilities welcome.



Junior Detectives Writing Workshop - 16 Feb - Ages 8-11

Do you love mysteries? Always fancied yourself as a bit of a detective? In this interactive workshop, we'll be gathering clues and lining up our suspects, ready to create the beginnings of our very own mystery story. You don't need to be an amazing writer, just come along with a sense of adventure and the nose for solving crime.

Pinocchio - 4th - 29th December 2024 - All Ages

How do I know if I am real? When the puppet Pinocchio magically springs to life, woodcarver Geppetto is astounded. How could this be? But just as the pair starts to figure out a life together, Pinocchio's mischievous ways lead him nose-first into an adventure of carnivals, crooks and crickets, where he must learn what it really means to be real.



Dick Whittington - 7th-13th Jan - Ages 3+

Dick Whittington arrives in London with dreams of wealth but finds hardship instead. Taken in by Alderman Fitzwarren, he falls for Fitzwarren's daughter, Alice, and befriends a talented rat-catching cat. A classic tale featuring a scheming villain, overseas voyages, a good fairy, an exotic ruler, and a traditional pantomime dame with a happily ever after ending.

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