

A Christmas Carol Essay

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The story A Christmas Carol is a wonderful story; it uses ethos, pathos, and logos effectively throughout all the stages of the story. Charles Dickens does a wonderful job using the three spirits to persuade Scrooge into being merrier for the holidays. I believe the ghost of Christmas future had the biggest effect on Scrooge due to the pathos he uses.

The three spirits in A Christmas Carol all used ethos, pathos, and logos. The ghost of Christmas past and present were both very persuasive and effective they brought out a lot of emotion in Scrooge. The ghost of things to come was very credible because ^{Scrooge} he had already witnessed 3 ghosts and knew they weren't fake, he also brought out the most emotion. Pathos was the most effective on Scrooge. The ghosts were credible because they are spirits and they were put out in logical order to best persuade Scrooge to change his ways. Pathos was most effective and the last spirit brought the most emotion so he is the most effective. Marley brought forth the credibility for the ghosts. First Scrooge didn't believe in Marley so he wouldn't have believed in the other ghost but Marley had Scrooge admit that he was real. Having Scrooge admit this made it so he couldn't easily deny the other ghost existence. All three of the ghost or four including Marley were highly credible, used good emotion, and had logic behind what they did.

I believe pathos to be the most effective on humans because all humans respond strongly to emotion. The third ghost brought forth the most emotion in Scrooge which is why I think it was the most effective one. The other spirits had Pathos but theirs wasn't as effective as the final ghost. The final ghost brought forth the most Pathos because he had Scrooge fearing for his life and grieving over the things he had done. The ghost showed Scrooge that he would die soon and no one would miss him if he didn't change his ways. The fear of death and the burden of guilt brought forth so much emotion in

scrooge. The first spirits were necessary in order to build scrooge up for the third one. If the spirit of things to come had been first scrooge might have still been in denial and he wouldn't of been frightened. The second spirit started to kick in a lot of emotion and started to break Scrooge down so that he had no defense against the third most effective spirit. The third ghost is most effective because scrooge couldn't handle him.

The Ghost of things to come was the most important. If you hadn't had the third ghost scrooge may have changed slightly or for a short period of time. You needed the third ghost to drive things home in Scrooges brain. The third ghost had been talked about by the prior ones and his credibility had been created before Scrooge even met him. His Pathos had begun to work before he met scrooge too because scrooge was frightened and that is the key factor the third ghost uses. As stated earlier the logic was also already there. I think all three of the ghosts were effective in changing Scrooge. You couldn't of taken any of them out otherwise Scrooge may not have changed. The order couldn't of been changed either.

In conclusion all of the ghosts were effective in changing Scrooge. They all used: Ethos, Pathos, and Logos. The most effective spirit however was the final ghost. Everyone fears death and not being remembered. Fearing for your life and feeling pain from realizing you have negatively effective so many peoples lives is enough to change anyone. Even a Scrooge.