Non-Fiction Reading Activity:

Have we REALLY learned anything from Scrooge?

C:\Users\Sara\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\IE\GS1UV2MB\MC900230741[2].wmfWhether you’ve read the novella, seen a picture book, watched the movie versions, or seen Scrooge in a play, the message of the story is clear: be generous to those around you, or there will be consequences.

But despite the fact that this story has stayed popular for more than 150 years, we must ask ourselves if society has REALLY learned this lesson. Do we act any better than people did in 1843? Do we really take care of the poor? Are we kind to others? And when we do follow the Golden Rule, are we doing so for the right (selfless) reasons?

In this activity, we will read about modern day charity to decide whether or not Charles Dickens succeeded in making people change their behavior.

Step 1: Read

Read ALL THREE of the articles (hyperlinked below), answering the questions on the back of this page.

#1: [Giving Tuesday Smashes Records, Spurs 20% Donation Spike](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/12/05/giving-tuesday_n_4391367.html)

#2: [The Selfish Reasons Behind Why We Give](http://healthland.time.com/2013/10/23/the-selfish-reasons-behind-why-we-give/)

#3: [Charitable Giving Grew 4.9% in 2013 as Online Donations Picked Up](http://www.forbes.com/sites/samanthasharf/2014/02/05/charitable-giving-grew-in-2013-as-online-giving-picked-up/)

Step 2: React

Choose ONE of the following prompts below and write a FULL paragraph (at least 6 sentences) responding to the question. Make sure you have a clear thesis and/or topic sentence and support it using text evidence.

1. According to the evidence, is there any hope that giving to charity will get better over time?
2. Is charitable giving less meaningful if we do it for selfish reasons, such as “feeling good”, or is the motive irrelevant as long as the donation happens at all?
3. Are millennials giving to charity for selfish or selfless reasons? Based on the evidence, are they donating to truly help others, or just because it’s trendy?

Step 3: Draw a Conclusion

In the space at the bottom of the following page, answer this question: **Has society really learned anything from Scrooge, or not?**

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Article Response Questions

Step 1

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| Article #1 | 1. What exactly is “Giving Tuesday”? 2. What is interesting about the timing of this date? 3. List at least 3 ways that people encourage donors to give money on Giving Tuesday. 4. What does Joshua Lamont mean when he says it is “more than as a ‘movement’, but a ‘moment’”? |
| Article #2 | 1. As it is used in the 2nd paragraph, what does “altruistic” mean?      1. According to the article, what drives people to give money? 2. According to research, what does the human brain have to do with giving to charity? 3. How can charities use this information to their advantage to increase donations? |
| Article #3 | 1. According to the article, what kinds of events cause Americans to give more money? 2. As it is used in paragraph 8, what is a “millennial”? 3. Why are millennials “leading the way” in charitable giving? List at least 2 reasons. 4. According to Ford Bell, what do charitable donations need to do in order to appeal to millennials? |

Reaction Paragraph

**Step 2**

**Choose a prompt from page 1 and write your response paragraph below. Continue on back if needed.**

**Step 3**

**Has society really learned anything from Scrooge, or not?**