



Using Figurative Language to Express Character

Charles Dickens was a master of figurative language, and his novels are full of brilliant metaphors and similes. The passage below is from the novel *A Christmas Carol*, and it describes the central character, Ebenezer Scrooge. Read the passage. Then answer the questions. Use a dictionary to help you with any words you do not understand.

Oh! But he was a tight-fisted hand at the grindstone, 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 dog-days; and didn't thaw it one degree at Christmas.

1. In this passage there are two metaphors used to convey two qualities of Scrooge. Locate the metaphors and fill out the chart below.

	What is Scrooge being compared to?	What quality is this comparison intended to describe in Scrooge?
Metaphor #1:		
Metaphor #2:		

2. In this passage there are two similes used to convey two qualities of Scrooge. Locate the similes and fill out the chart below.

	What is Scrooge being compared to?	What quality is this comparison intended to describe in Scrooge?
Simile #1:		
Simile #2:		