

What do you think?

1. Read the piece below which comes from the opening of a famous novel:

Marley was dead, to begin with. There is no doubt whatever, about that. *The register of his burial was signed by the clergyman, the clerk, the undertaker and the chief mourner.* Scrooge signed it. And Scrooge's name was good upon '**change** for anything he chose to put his hand to.

Old Marley was as dead as a doornail.

Mind! I don't mean to say that I know, of my own knowledge, what there is particularly dead about a doornail. I might have been inclined, myself, to regard a coffin-nail as the deadest piece of ironmongery in the trade. But the wisdom of our ancestors is in the **simile**; and my **unhallowed** hands shall not disturb it, **or the Country's done for**. You will therefore permit me to repeat, emphatically, that Marley was as dead as a doornail.

2. What period do you think this piece was written in?
3. How did you come to your decision?
4. What genre of story do you think it will be?
5. How did you come to your decision?
6. Using a dictionary, make a glossary of words to help a younger student understand the piece.
7. What kind of narrator is it?
8. What are the advantages of having this kind of narrator?
9. Why do you think the narrator includes his personal thoughts about the simile 'dead as a doornail'?
10. What is unusual about the sentence that is in italics?