

## **SCENE 5: Scrooge's Old School**

**SCROOGE:** Good Heaven! I was young in this place. I was a boy here! Lead me where you will.

**PAST:** Don't you remember the way?

**SCROOGE:** Remember it!! I could walk it blindfolded.

**PAST:** Strange to have forgotten it for so many years.

**SCROOGE:** I recognize every gate, and post and tree; market-town, with its bridge, its church and winding river.

**PAST:** Your lip is trembling. And what is that upon your cheek?

**SCROOGE:** My lip trembles at the cold. There is nothing on my cheek. Spirit, let us move on. *(the sounds of boys and baggage)* Tom. . . .Ned. . . .Bob. . . .Mr. Smithson.

**PAST:** These are but shadows of the things that have been. They have no consciousness of us.

**SCROOGE:** Why am I rejoiced to see them? Why am I filled with gladness to hear them give each other Merry Christmas? What was Merry Christmas to me? Out upon Merry Christmas! What good has it ever done me?

All gone. . . . All gone home for Christmas. . . .the school is deserted.

**PAST:** Not quite. A solitary child, neglected by his friends, is left there still.

**SCROOGE:** I know . . . .(*sadly*) myself. . . .I know it . . . . poor boy! I wish . . . . (putting his hand in his pocket, and looking about him, drying his eyes with his cuff) . . . .But it's too late now.

**PAST:** What is the matter?

**SCROOGE:** Nothing, nothing. There was a boy singing a carol at my door last night. I should like to have given him something, that's all.

**PAST:** Let's see another Christmas.