



Bah Humbug – the Problem of the Poor

Guidelines for Supervising Teachers

Preparing for Your Visit: It is strongly recommended that supervising staff should arrange a pre-visit to familiarise themselves with facilities at the Museum. Free tickets are available on request in order to assist with planning and risk assessments. A Hazard Identification Sheet will also be provided in order to help you with your risk assessment.

Practicalities:

- **Where to Go and How to Get There:** The Bah Humbug activity begins in the Masonic Hall. To get there take the tram for the entrance in the direction of the Town. You will be met outside the Masonic Hall.
- **Arriving on Time:** Please ensure you arrive at the Masonic Hall on time. In the event of a late arrival every effort will be made to accommodate the full time of the activity, however due to other bookings this may not be possible.
- **What to Bring/Wear:** Children will need appropriate clothing. Beamish is an open air museum and the weather may be inclement. Please ensure all members of your group wear sturdy shoes and come prepared for the weather e.g. warm coats, hats, gloves in the winter, sun hats in the summer.
- **Storage:** Bags and coats can be stored in the Masonic Hall whilst groups are investigating in the Town.
- **Toilets:** The nearest toilets are in the Town, beside the Bank.
- **Health and Safety Information:** Once in the Masonic Hall a member of staff will explain about the Health and Safety aspects of the activity. Please be aware that trams and buses will be travelling around the Town.

- **Access:** The activity is completely accessible to all students but if there is anyone in your group with access needs it is advisable to contact the bookings officer on bookings@beamish.org.uk or telephone on 0191 370 4026 to let them know. This will make for a smoother delivery on the day.

Outline of Activity: On being met at the Masonic Hall the group will be given the outline scenario of a death that has occurred overnight in the Town Street, (the body has already been cleared away by the constabulary).

The purpose of this activity is to visit six characters; Shopkeeper in the Co-op, Employee in the Chemists, Bank Manager's Son in the Bank, Solicitor, Maid in the Music Teachers and Mason in the Masonic Hall and persuade them to give money to the poor.

It will be up to the teacher to put the students into groups, a maximum of six groups. Each group will then be given a starting point and a 19th century text which they will need to read on their way to meet the character. They will have approximately five minutes with each character to get them to give some money. The better they argue and the more arguments they have will lead to them getting more money. When this has finished and the money given then the character will tell the group where to go next and give them an additional text. This will continue until all six characters have been visited.

The groups will then come back to the Masonic Hall to share how much they received from each character and to go through the arguments they could have given.

Objectives of Activity:

- To encourage students to gain immediate meaning from 19th Century texts
- To develop the skills of persuasion using the information they have received
- To understand the argument and attitudes of the period when the book was written
- To gain a better understanding of a Christmas Carol especially the early chapters (ideal for year 10s and late year 9s).

Ideas for Pre and Post Visit:

- **Pre:** Prior to the visit students should be told a little about what they will be doing.
- **Post:** Possible follow-on activities could be:
 - Read through the initial chapters of A Christmas Carol and identify the quotes offered during the activity
 - Discuss the attitudes of the period especially that of the Malthus
 - Use the 19th century texts as comprehensions

Contact Us: If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us at the Museum.

Telephone **Simon Woolley** on 0191 370 4011

OR Email at education@beamish.org.uk