



2017

Young Scrooge

Emily McCarty

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McCarty, Emily (2017) "Young Scrooge," *Children's Book and Media Review*: Vol. 38 : Iss. 12 , Article 1.
Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol38/iss12/1>

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Book Review

Title: Young Scrooge
Author: R. L. Stine
Reviewer: Emily McCarty
Publisher: Feiwel and Friends
Year: 2016
ISBN: 9781250070159
Pages: 185
Interest Level: Intermediate
Rating: Dependable



Review

The holidays were anything but happy for Rick Scroogeman; he would argue that he hates Christmas more than Scrooge himself. Notorious bully at Oliver Twist Middle School, Rick would do anything for a laugh even ruining the school Christmas play. When all hope seemed lost for Rick changing his bullying ways, he finds himself visited by the very same ghosts in the Christmas Carol story he hates. Rick is tested by the Ghosts to learn compassion and empathy but has little success. Not until he is able reach inside himself to find the power to change his ways and apologize to his friends does he find the true meaning of Christmas.

In *Young Scrooge*, R. L. Stine uses humor, suspense, and a classic Christmas story to portray the true meaning of Christmas as serving and thinking of others before ourselves. Rick Scroogeman's adventure allows him and readers to realize that although seeing our own faults are difficult, the best transformation comes when we put our own needs aside. This is a perfect book for children to gain a deepering understand of forgiveness, empathy, and giving. Because Rick does not identify himself as a bully at first, R. L. Stine gives readers the opportunity to also reflect on their own behavior.