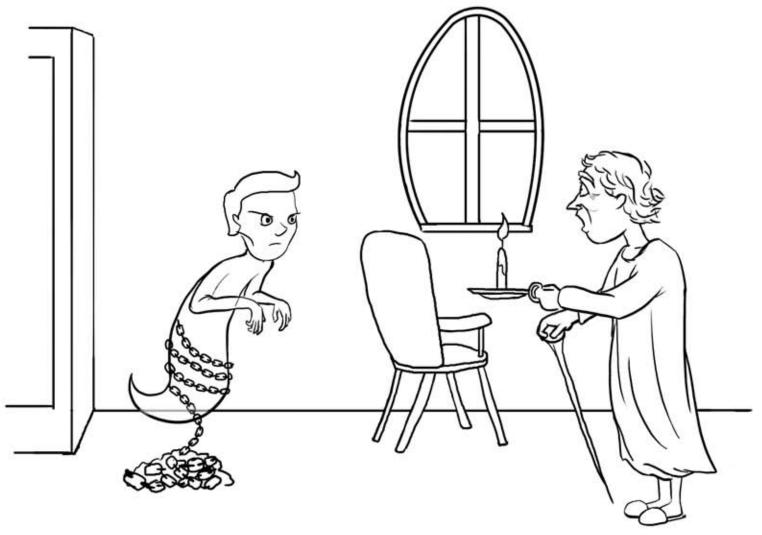
One chilly night, Scrooge was about to tuck himself into bed, when suddenly he heard bells begin to ring in his bedroom. "Humbug!" Scrooge grumbled as he shuffled out of bed. Then, his face turned white with fear. There in front of him stood a ghost!



"Humbug," said Scrooge, "I don't believe it..." This wasn't just any old ghost. It was the ghost of Jacob Marley, Scrooge's old business partner.

"Hello Scrooge," said Jacob.

"What is it you want?" asked Scrooge, trembling.

"Do you see this chain I'm wearing?" said Jacob. Scrooge noticed he was wearing a long heavy chain of iron that seemed to go on forever. "I made this chain during my life, with every bad thing I did. And now in death I must wear it forever. All men must carry their sins with them. I came to warn you Scrooge, your chain has grown even longer than mine!"