

## C-D-UI for Thesis Statements

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Claim, Direction(s), and the Universal Idea

1. **Begin with a broad subject:** *A Christmas Carol*
2. **Narrow to a specific topic:** The character, Bob Cratchit
3. **Ask a question about the topic:** Why is Bob Cratchit important to the story?
4. **Apply C-D-UI to get your thesis statement.**

**THESIS:** "Bob Cratchit symbolically represents the ideal father."

D                      C                      UI

So, this thesis implies that through symbolic interpretations Bob Cratchit will be proven to represent an ideal father. The **Direction** will be the symbols, the **Claim** is that Bob Cratchit represents something (note—the claim is tied to the verb), and the **Universal Idea** is about an "ideal father."

**YOUR ASSIGNMENT:** The following are some examples of thesis statements. Please mark the Claim (C), Direction (D) and Universal Idea (UI) of each thesis. If you cannot find all three, the thesis is BAD. If you can find all three, it is GOOD.

1. Scrooge's encounters with ghosts illustrate the transformative power of memory.
2. Scrooge is forced to remember events of the past.
3. The archetype of clothing reflects Huck's desire for individuality.
4. In *Huckleberry Finn*, Huck and Jim experience several conflicts during their travel down the river.
5. In *Great Expectations* the hands motif indicates Pip's location in the journey toward maturity.
6. The sea metaphor allows Matthew Arnold to develop a political commentary on the Victorian Age, a time in which man is isolated and void of religious conviction, a situation that can only be rectified by human love.
7. There are many symbols in the book *Huckleberry Finn*.
8. The diction and imagery Mark Twain uses in relaying Huck's story reveals his personal struggle with freedom and civilization.
9. Dickens repeats the images of "hands" throughout the novel.
10. Matthew Arnold's sea metaphor plays a significant role in the poem.