A Plot Diagram is an organizational tool focusing on a triangular shape, which is used to map the events in a story. This mapping of plot structure allows readers to visualize the key features of stories. For students, it is a means for understanding plot structure, as well as key literary elements. Plot diagrams provide a lens from which to analyze literature.

Instructions: As you read *A Christmas Carol*, think about the literary elements and devices that you’ve learned about, and take notes on each. You should also annotate your copy of the book. In the margins, use *P* (personification), *M* (metaphor), *S* (simile), *H* (hyperbole), ! (important text), ? (unclear text), and ❤️ (text you love). You can also underline keywords and circle unfamiliar word. Margin doodles are strongly encouraged! You are striving for mastery, not just understanding.
1. **Exposition**
What’s up with Jacob Marley? Include details about the protagonist, Ebenezer Scrooge.

2. **SETTING**
Include when and where. Use your context knowledge.

3. **NARRATION TYPE**
First, second or third person POV? Is the narrator “omniscient” (all-knowing)?

4. **CONFLICT**
Include the internal **AND** external conflicts.
5. RISING ACTION
Event #1 — The Counting House. Explain the scene, including visitors. Any powerful quotes?

6. RISING ACTION
Event #2 — Jacob Marley’s Ghost (in Joseph Campbell’s theory of The Hero’s Journey, this scene is called “Meeting the Mentor”)

7. RISING ACTION
Event #3 — The Ghost of Christmas Past (include EACH flash back scene) (in Joseph Campbell’s theory of The Hero’s Journey, this opening scene is called “Crossing the Threshold” ordinary world → special world)

1. 

2. 

3. 

4. 
8. RISING ACTION
Event #4 — The Ghost of Christmas Present (include Cratchits, Fred, and Want and Ignorance)

9. RISING ACTION
Event #5 — The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come (in Joseph Campbell’s theory of The Hero’s Journey, this entire scene is called “Approaching the Inmost Cave”)

10. THE CLIMAX
What is the final straw? The final moment that changes Scrooge? (in Joseph Campbell’s theory of The Hero’s Journey, this scene is called “The Ordeal”)
11. FALLING ACTION
Explain each of the events in the falling action (Cratchit turkey, the gentleman, Fred).

12. DENOUEMENT [French word, pronounced day-new-mon]
This is the final narration. How is the story wrapped up? What is the final point? (in Joseph Campbell’s theory of The Hero’s Journey, this scene is called “Returning with the Elixir”)

14. RESOLUTION
How is the internal conflict resolved? Thinking outside the story, what effect did the book have on the external conflict in the Victorian Era? Resolution is directly related to conflict(s).
15. THEME/CENTRAL MESSAGE
What is the message in *A Christmas Carol*? What did Charles Dickens want YOU to learn?

16. SYMBOLISM
Below, sketch out some important symbols in the story: The door-knocker, crutch, turkey, etc.

17. MOOD
Find two examples of contrasting mood; quote and explain them. Illustrations encouraged!