Charles Dickens has grown weary of the way wealthy people in Britain are ignoring poor people. He sees a side of England - a darker, harsher side - which he wants to expose.

It is October of 1843, and widespread slum areas are now part of London, the city which Dickens loves. Places of refuge, for the destitute, provide straw beds for individuals who are able to gain entrance. For poor people, the average age of death is appalling. How can it be that 22 years is all such a person can expect to live?

Dickens decides to argue on behalf of the underprivileged by writing "An appeal to the People of England, on behalf of the Poor Man's Child." But ... what kind of impact would that have?

Instead of writing "an appeal," why not create a story?

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/A-Christmas-Carol

See Learning Tasks for this story online at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/A-Christmas-Carol
A Christmas Carol - Original Manuscript
Image, described above, online courtesy Morgan Library.
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Refuge for the Destitute - London in 1843
Image scanned from the Illustrated London News, described above, by Philip V. Allingham from a copy in the Robarts Library, University of Toronto. Formatting and image correction by George P. Landow. Online, courtesy Victorian Web. PD
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A Christmas Carol
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