

Character Relationship Chart

A free printable template for novelists and screenwriters · 3 pages

1 Put the lead in the middle.

Start with the character whose choices drive the plot. Everyone else is placed by how close they are to that person.

2 Add only people who change something.

If removing a character changes no decision in the story, leave them off. Six to ten names is plenty for one chart.

3 Write each relationship in both directions.

A line has two ends. Fill in how A sees B and how B sees A. Betrayal, one-sided love and secrets live in the gap between the two words.

4 Add the conflict, not just the label.

'Brothers' tells a reader nothing. 'Brothers — owes him a debt he can't repay' gives you scenes.

5 Mark the chapter where it changes.

Relationships move. Note the chapter where a line turns (ally → rival), or make one chart per act.

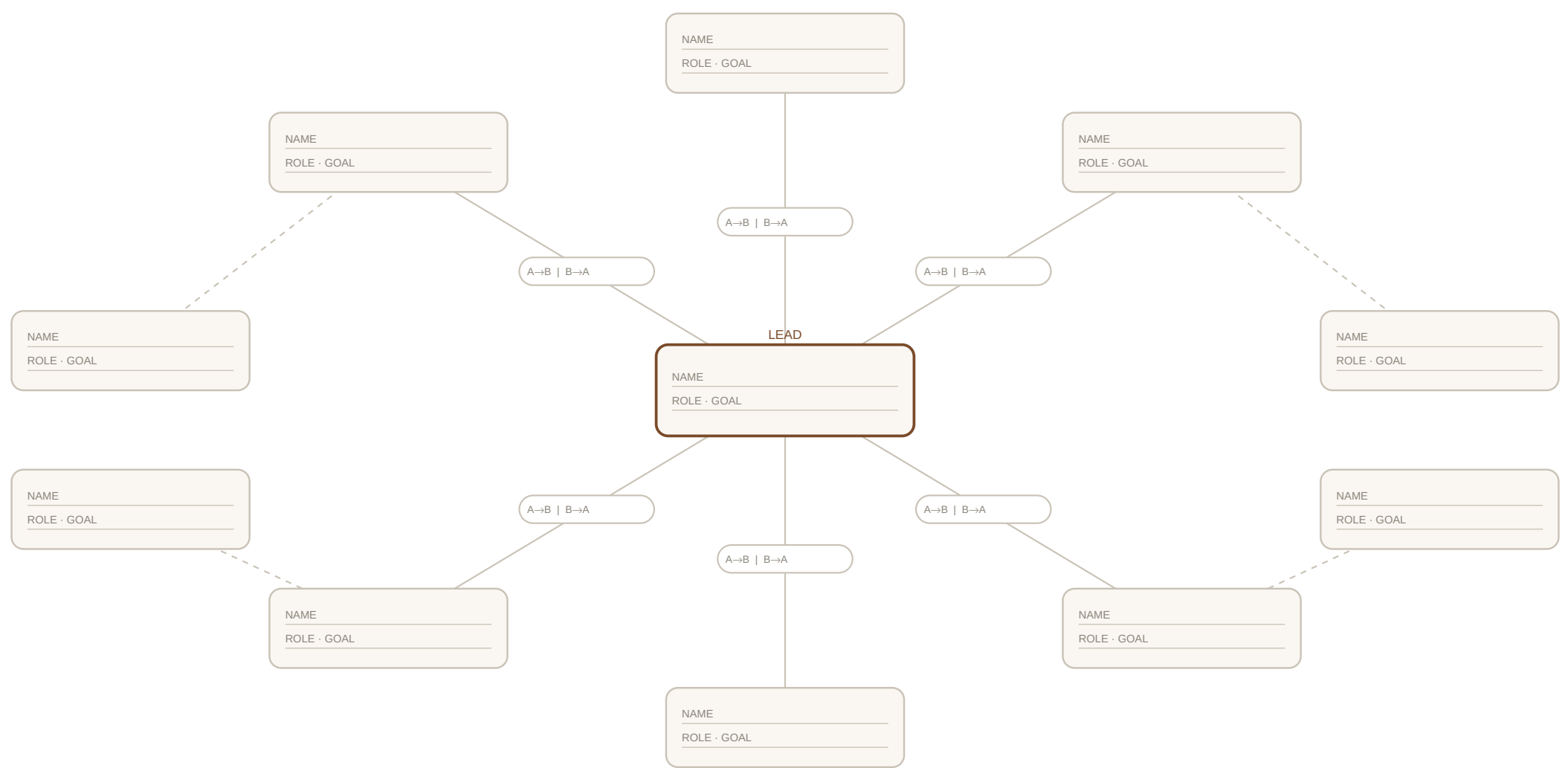
6 Use dashed lines for 'shares scenes, no bond yet'.

Two people who keep meeting but have no defined relationship are often a subplot waiting to happen.

Page 2: blank chart (11 cards). Page 3: worked example — A Christmas Carol (Dickens, 1843, public domain).

Prefer a chart that stays linked to your manuscript? Loomworld's character canvas does this for free: loomworld.ai

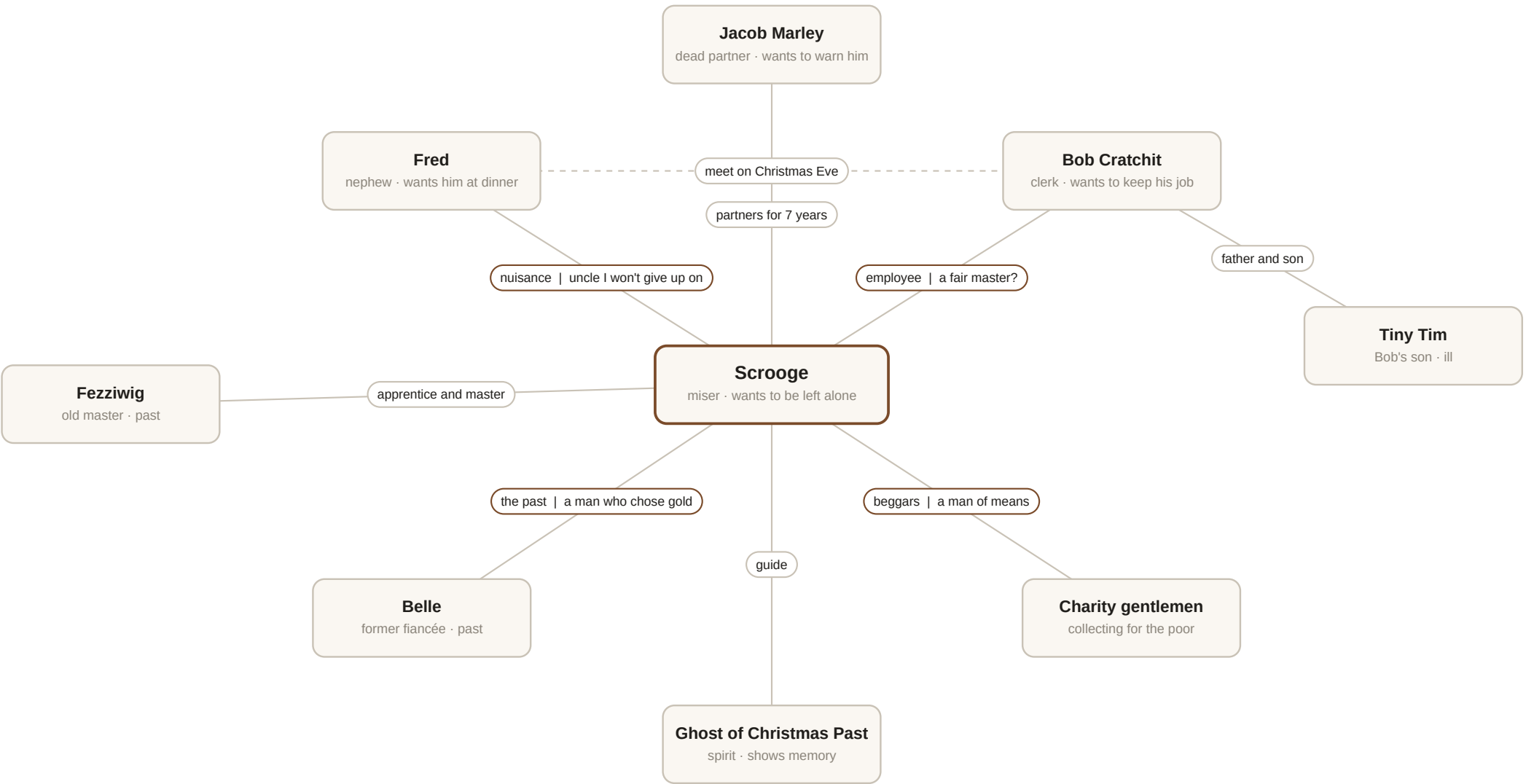
Story: _____ Act / chapters: _____



Solid line = a defined relationship. Dashed line = shares scenes, no defined relationship. Capsule: how A sees B | how B sees A (one word if both agree).

Example — A Christmas Carol (Stave One)

Public-domain text by Charles Dickens. The two-direction capsules show where the drama is.



Read the split capsules: Scrooge sees Fred as a 'nuisance', Fred sees 'an uncle I won't give up on'. That gap is the story's last scene.