

'Twas the Night Before Christmas

1. **Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house**
2. **Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;**
3. **The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,**
4. **In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there;**

5. **The children were nestled all snug in their beds,**
6. **While visions of sugar-plums danced in their heads;**
7. **And Mama in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap,**
8. **Had just settled our brains for a long winter's nap;**

9. **When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,**
10. **I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter.**
11. **Away to the window I flew like a flash,**
12. **Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.**

13. **The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow,**
14. **Gave the lustre of mid-day to objects below,**
15. **When, what to my wondering sight should appear,**
16. **But a miniature sleigh, and eight tiny rein-deer,**

17. **With a little old driver, so lively and quick,**
18. **I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick.**
19. **More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,**
20. **And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name;**

21. **"Now, Dasher! now, Dancer! now, Prancer and Vixen!**
22. **On, Comet! on, Cupid! on, Donner and Blitzen!**
23. **To the top of the porch! to the top of the wall!**
24. **Now dash away! dash away! dash away all!"**

25. **As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,**
26. **When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky;**
27. **So up to the house-top the coursers they flew,**
28. **With the sleigh full of Toys, and St. Nicholas too.**

29. And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof,
30. The prancing and pawing of each little hoof—
31. As I drew in my head, and was turning around,
32. Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound.

33. He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot,
34. And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot;
35. A bundle of Toys he had flung on his back,
36. And he look'd like a pedlar just opening his pack.

37. His eyes—how they twinkled! his dimples how merry!
38. His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry!
39. His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,
40. And the beard of his chin was as white as the snow;

41. The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,
42. And the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath;
43. He had a broad face and a little round belly,
44. That shook when he laughed, like a bowlfull of jelly.

45. He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf,
46. And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself;
47. A wink of his eye and a twist of his head,
48. Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread;

49. He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,
50. And fill'd all the stockings; then turned with a jerk,
51. And laying his finger aside of his nose,
52. And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose;

53. He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle,
54. And away they all flew like the down of a thistle.
55. But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight,
56. "Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good night."