

**Global View - The Night Before Christmas** (C0337)

Twas the night before Christmas, when all through  
the house

Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;

The stockings were hung by the chimney with  
care,

In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there;

The children were nestled all snug in their beds,

And mama in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap,

Had just settled down for a long winter's nap,

When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,

I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter.

Away to the window I flew like a flash,

Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.

The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow  
Gave the lustre of mid-day to objects below,  
When, what to my wondering eyes should appear,  
But a miniature sleigh, and eight tiny reindeer,  
With a little old driver, so lively and quick,  
I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick.  
More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,  
And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by  
name;  
" Now, Dasher! now, Dancer! now, Prancer and  
Vixen!  
On, Comet! on Cupid! on, Donner and Blitzen!  
To the top of the porch! to the top of the wall!  
Now dash away! dash away! dash away all!

As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,

When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky,

So up to the house-top the coursers they flew,

With the sleigh full of toys, and St. Nicholas too.

And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof

The prancing and pawing of each little hoof.

As I drew in my head, and was turning around,

Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound.

He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot,

And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot;

A bundle of toys he had flung on his back,

And he looked like a peddler just opening his pack.

His eyes – how they twinkled! his dimples how merry!

His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry!

His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,

And the beard of his chin was as white as the snow;

The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,

And the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath;

He had a broad face and a little round belly,

That shook, when he laughed like a bowlful of jelly.

He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf,

And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself;

A wink of his eye and a twist of his head,  
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread;  
He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,  
And filled all the stockings; then turned with a jerk,  
And laying his finger aside of his nose,  
And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose;  
He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle,  
And away they all flew like the down of a thistle.  
But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight,  
"Christmas to all, and to all a good-night."

### Key Vocabulary

stir	<i>V</i>	to move, movement
hung	<i>V</i>	to fasten or attach (a thing) so that it is supported only from above or at a point near its own top
chimney	<i>N</i>	a vertical structure that allows the passage of smoke
nestle	<i>V</i>	to lie close and snug
snug	<i>A</i>	warmly comfortable or cozy
nap	<i>V</i>	to sleep for a short time
clatter	<i>N</i>	noise
tore	<i>V</i>	rip
lustre	<i>N</i>	radiance of beauty, excellence
sleigh	<i>N</i>	large
reindeer	<i>N</i>	large deer

rapid	<i>A</i>	with high speed
dash	<i>V</i>	to move with violence; rush
hurricane	<i>N</i>	very big rain and wind storm
obstacle	<i>N</i>	something that ob- structs or hinders progress.
courser	<i>N</i>	a thing suitable for run- ning or chasing
prance	<i>V</i>	to dance or move in a lively or spirited man- ner
paw	<i>V</i>	to strike or scrape with the paws or feet
hoof	<i>N</i>	an encasing protecting the foot of an animal such as horse
St Nicholas	<i>N</i>	another name for Santa clause

tarnish	<i>V</i>	to ruin, make dirty or destroy
soot	<i>N</i>	a black dirty substance
bundle	<i>N</i>	several objects or a quantity of material gathered or bound together
dimple	<i>N</i>	a small, natural hollow area or crease seen when smiling
stump	<i>N</i>	the lower end of a tree or plant left after the main part falls or is cut off
pipe	<i>N</i>	smoking utensil
wreath	<i>N</i>	a circular band of flowers, foliage, or any ornamental work, for adorning the head or for any decorative purpose
plump	<i>A</i>	well filled out or rounded in form



elf	<i>N</i>	a magical being
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thistle	<i>N</i>	a prickly plant
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### Supplementary Vocabulary

eggnog	<i>N</i>	a drink made of eggs, milk or cream, sugar, and, usually, rum or wine.
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white christ- mas	<i>P</i>	having Christmas with snow
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snowman	<i>N</i>	a figure of a person made of packed snow.
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carol	<i>N</i>	a Christmas song or hymn.
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