



'Twas the Night Before Christmas

'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,
While visions of sugar-plums danced in their heads.
And mamma in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap,
Had just settled our brains 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!



Questions

1. When is the poem set? Tick one.
 - ☐ the night before Christmas
 - ☐ Christmas Day
 - ☐ Boxing Day
2. Where were the stockings hung? Tick one.
 - ☐ by the kitchen
 - ☐ by the window
 - ☐ by the chimney
3. Where were the children nestled? Tick one.
 - ☐ in their beds
 - ☐ in a tent
 - ☐ by a fire
4. How many reindeer were there? Tick one.
 - ☐ six
 - ☐ seven
 - ☐ eight
5. Who was the driver of the sleigh? Tick one.
 - ☐ St. Nick
 - ☐ Rudolph
 - ☐ a robin

Answers

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“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 on 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 bowl full of jelly!



Questions

1. Where was there **a clatter**? Tick one.

- ☐ in the kitchen
- ☐ on the lawn
- ☐ in the bathroom
- ☐ by the fire

2. Draw **three** lines and match each question to its answer.

What was the sleigh
full of?

eight

How many reindeers
were there?

the stump of a pipe

What did St. Nicholas hold
in his teeth?

toys

3. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order in which they happen in the poem. The first one has been done for you.

- ☐ St. Nicholas came down the chimney.
- ☒ **1** The stockings were hung by the chimney.
- ☐ St. Nicholas's belly shook like a bowl full of jelly.
- ☐ St. Nick whistled and shouted.

4. Fill in the missing word.

And then in a _____, I heard on the roof...

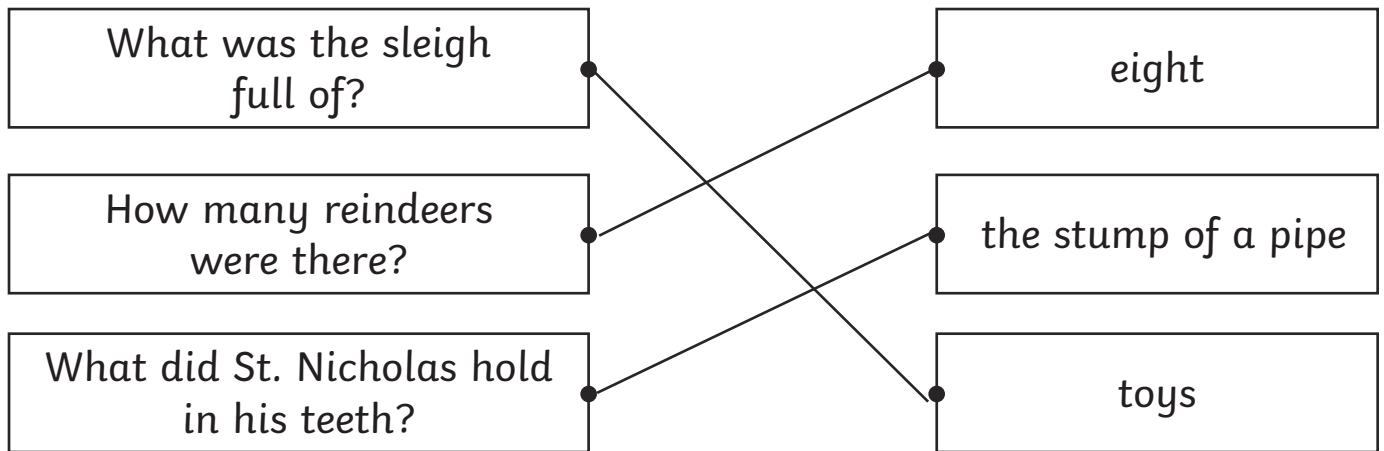
5. Look at the second verse. Find and copy one word which means the same as 'sleep'.

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- ☒ **on the lawn**
- ☐ in the bathroom
- ☐ by the fire

2. Draw **three** lines and match each question to its answer.



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- 3** St. Nicholas came down the chimney.
- 1** The stockings were hung by the chimney.
- 4** St. Nicholas's belly shook like a bowl full of jelly.
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And then in a **twinkling**, I heard on the roof...

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nap



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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 bowl full 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.

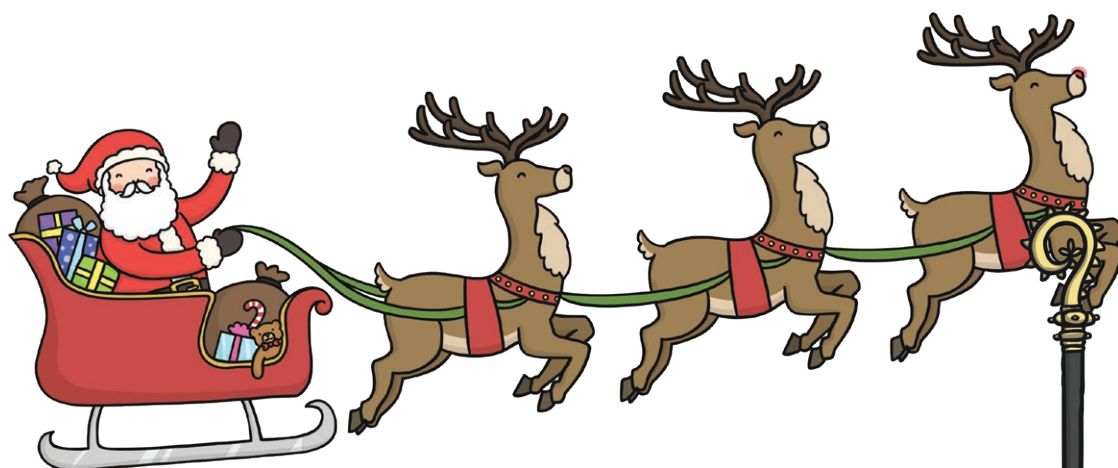


He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,
And filled all the stockings, then turned with a jerk.

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,
“Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good night!”



Questions

1. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order in which they happen in the poem. The first one has been done for you.

- ☐ St. Nicholas exclaimed, "Happy Christmas to all!"
- ☐ A sleigh appeared.
- ☒ 1 The children were nestled in their beds.
- ☐ There was a clatter on the lawn.

2. Draw **three** lines and match each phrase to the part of St. Nicholas it is describing.

like roses

beard

like a cherry

cheeks

as white as the snow

nose

3. Fill in the missing word.

And I _____ when I saw him, in spite of myself.

4. Look at the fourth verse. Find and copy one word which means the same as 'small'.

5. What was St. Nicholas dressed in?

6. **'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house,
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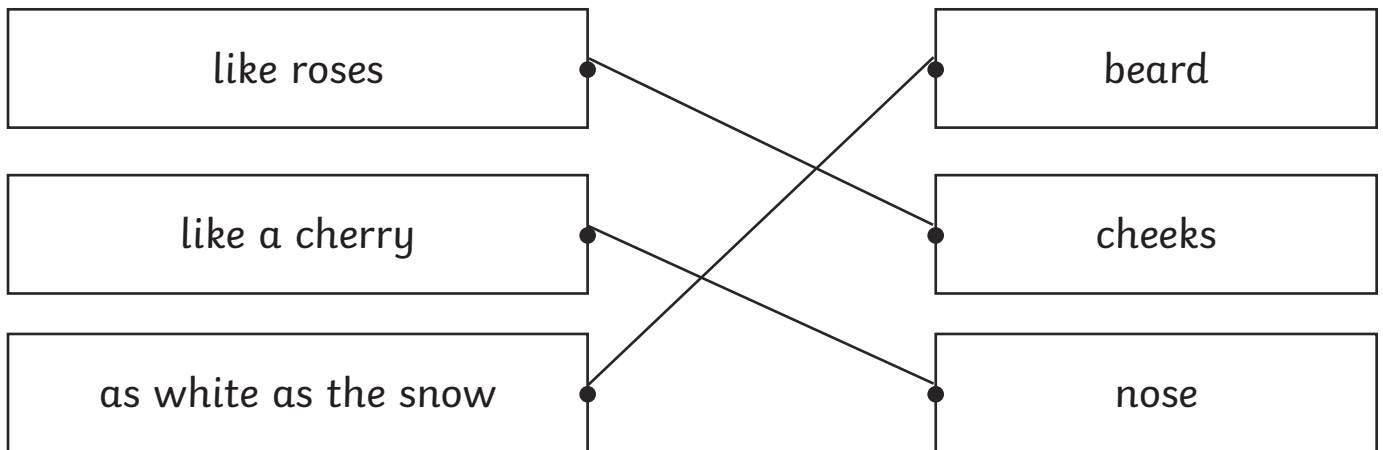
What do you think these lines tell us about what the house was like?

Answers

1. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order in which they happen in the poem. The first one has been done for you.

- 4** St. Nicholas exclaimed, "Happy Christmas to all!"
- 3** A sleigh appeared.
- 1** The children were nestled in their beds.
- 2** There was a clatter on the lawn.

2. Draw **three** lines and match each phrase to the part of St. Nicholas it is describing.



3. Fill in the missing word.
And I **laughed** when I saw him, in spite of myself.
4. Look at the fourth verse. Find and copy one word which means the same as 'small'.

Accept either of the following: miniature; tiny.

5. What was St. Nicholas dressed in?

St. Nicholas was dressed in fur.

6. **'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house,
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse.**

What do you think these lines tell us about what the house was like?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think these lines tell us that the house was very quiet and that everyone was very still or probably asleep.