

A Visit from St. Nicholas (Twas the night before Christmas) by Clement Clarke Moore, 1822

Lesson by Adam R. Mathews, 2017

Teachers' notes and Solutions:

Note for teachers: This is a perfect lesson for working on the rhythm of English. Sstudents should be encouraged to take their time when reading it, but focus on the stresses in each line as such:

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Twas	the	night	before	Christmas	when	all	through	the	house

		•		•		•		•
Not	a	creature	was	stirring	not	even	a	mouse

Solutions:

1	Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house ... In hopes that St Nicholas soon would be there.	13	And filled all the stockings, then turned with a jerk. And laying his finger aside of his nose,
2	The children were nestled all snug in their beds, ... Had just settled our brains for a long winter's nap.	3	I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter. Away to the window I flew like a flash,
3	When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter, ... Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.	6	On, Comet! On, Cupid! on, on Donner and Blitzen! To the top of the porch! to the top of the wall!
4	The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow ... But a miniature sleigh, and eight tiny reindeer.	8	The prancing and pawing of each little hoof. As I drew in my head, and was turning around,
5	With a little old driver, so lively and quick, ... And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name!	1	Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse. The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,
6	"Now Dasher! now, Dancer! now, Prancer and Vixen! ... Now dash away! Dash away! Dash away all!"	4	Gave the lustre of mid-day to objects below. When, what to my wondering eyes should appear,
7	As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly, ... With the sleigh full of Toys, and St Nicholas too.	9	And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot. A bundle of Toys he had flung on his back,
8	And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof ... Down the chimney St Nicholas came with a bound.	14	And away they all flew like the down of a thistle. But I heard him exclaim, 'ere he drove out of sight,
9	He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot, ... And he looked like a peddler, just opening his pack.	7	When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky. So up to the house-top the coursers they flew,
10	His eyes-how they twinkled! his dimples how merry! ... And the beard of his chin was as white as the snow.	5	I knew in a moment it must be St Nick. More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,
11	The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth, ... That shook when he laughed, like a bowlful of jelly!	10	His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry! His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,
12	He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf, ... Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread.	11	And the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath. He had a broad face and a little round belly,
13	He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work, ... And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose!	2	While visions of sugar-plums danced in their heads. And mamma in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap,
14	He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle, ... "Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good-night!"	12	And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself! A wink of his eye and a twist of his head,