



Christmas Corner

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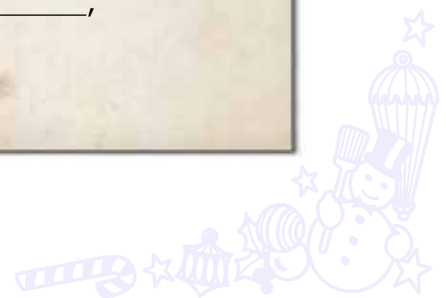
Reading

The poem *A Visit from St Nicholas* was published anonymously in 1823. These days most people believe it was written by Clement Clarke Moore, but nobody knows for sure. The poem is responsible for the modern image of Santa Claus, creating his physical appearance, the way he travels, the number and names of his reindeer and the tradition of bringing toys to children while they sleep on Christmas Eve.

- 1. Read the beginning of the poem. Try to guess the missing words. Then listen to the first part of the poem to check your answers.**

A Visit from St Nicholas

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the (a) _____
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;
The (b) _____ were hung by the chimney with care,
In hopes that St. (c) _____ soon would be there;
The children were nestled all snug in their (d) _____;
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 my bed to see what was the (e) _____.
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 (f) _____,
Gave a lustre of midday to objects below,





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When what to my wondering eyes did appear,
But a miniature sleigh and eight tiny (g) _____,
With a little old driver so lively and quick,
I knew in a moment he must be St. (h) _____.

<http://www.learnoutloud.com/Free-Audio-Video/Literature/American-Classics/Twas-the-Night-Before-Christmas-A-Visit-From-St-Nicholas/23653#plink>

or

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pLhnh1VOAoM>

