



'Twas the night before Christmas, when all  
through the house, Not a creature was stir-  
ring, 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 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, DONDER 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 hand, 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, **HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL, AND TO ALL A GOOD-NIGHT!**

