

Twas the Night before Christmas

by Clement Clarke Moore

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.

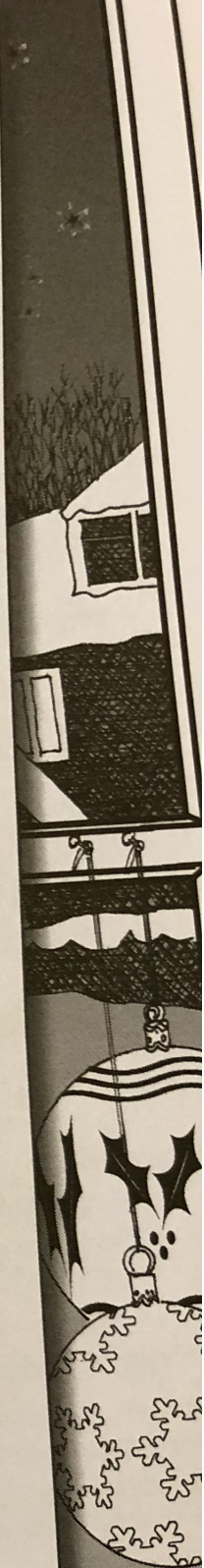
When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter.
Away to the window I flew like a flash,
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.

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!

"Now Dasher! Now, Dancer! Now, Prancer and Vixen!
On, Comet! On, Cupid! On, 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.



Friends cast still earn a staggering amount from show 16 years after it ended

Back in 2004, when Friends was still airing its final season, the six main cast members were believed to be earning around \$1million per episode.

Despite ending 16 years ago, the beloved sitcom seems to still be providing Jennifer Aniston, Courteney Cox, Lisa Kudrow, Matthew Perry, Matt LeBlanc and David Schwimmer with an unbelievable income each year

A guide at the **Warner Bros.** Studio tour previously revealed that Friends brings in a whopping \$1billion each year for the network, meaning each cast member is given a paycheck of around \$20million (£15,641,300) annually.

R – Write down the name of 3 of the cast members.

I – How do you think the cast feel about the show Friends that they starred in?

C – Why did the author choose to use the word ‘whopping’ to describe how much the show brings in each year?

Vocabulary – look up the definition of these words - nestled, clatter, lustre

Main

1. On what day is the poem set?
2. What name does the poet give to Father Christmas?
3. Name the eight reindeer
4. Do you think this poem is set during the day or night? Make a list of all the evidence you can find to support your answer.
5. Look at verse 4. Read it carefully. Was it a cloudy or clear night? (There is a clue!!!)
6. Look at verse 4. How do you know Santa and his reindeer are far away? (Read it carefully there is a clue!)
7. How many exclamation marks are used in verse 6?
8. What effect does this have?
9. Read line 5. What do the words ‘nestled’ and ‘snug’ suggest the bed is like?
10. There are 3 words in verse 5 that tell us that Santa and his reindeer are moving fast. What are they?
11. Do you like this poem? Give reasons for your choice.
12. In verse 3, write down the 1 word that tells us something made a loud noise.

Challenge / Extension

Can you write a Christmas poem?