

Twas The Night Before Christmas



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Free Kids Books



**When you need a rainbow,
a moonrise, or a dragon**

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Learn Sight Words

Twas the Night Before Christmas

Published by Free Kids Books
Created by Free Kids Books © Dec 2024

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'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 pa in his '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 matter.

Away to the window I flew
like a flash,
Tore open the shutters
and threw up the sash.



The moon on the eve of
the new-fallen snow,
Gave a lustre of midday to
objects below.

When what to my
wondering eyes did
appear,
But a miniature sleigh and
eight tiny rein-deer.



With a little old driver so
lively and quick,
I knew in a moment he
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 leaves that before the
wild hurricane fly,
When they meet with an
obstacle, mount to the
sky;



So up to the housetop the
merry group 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.

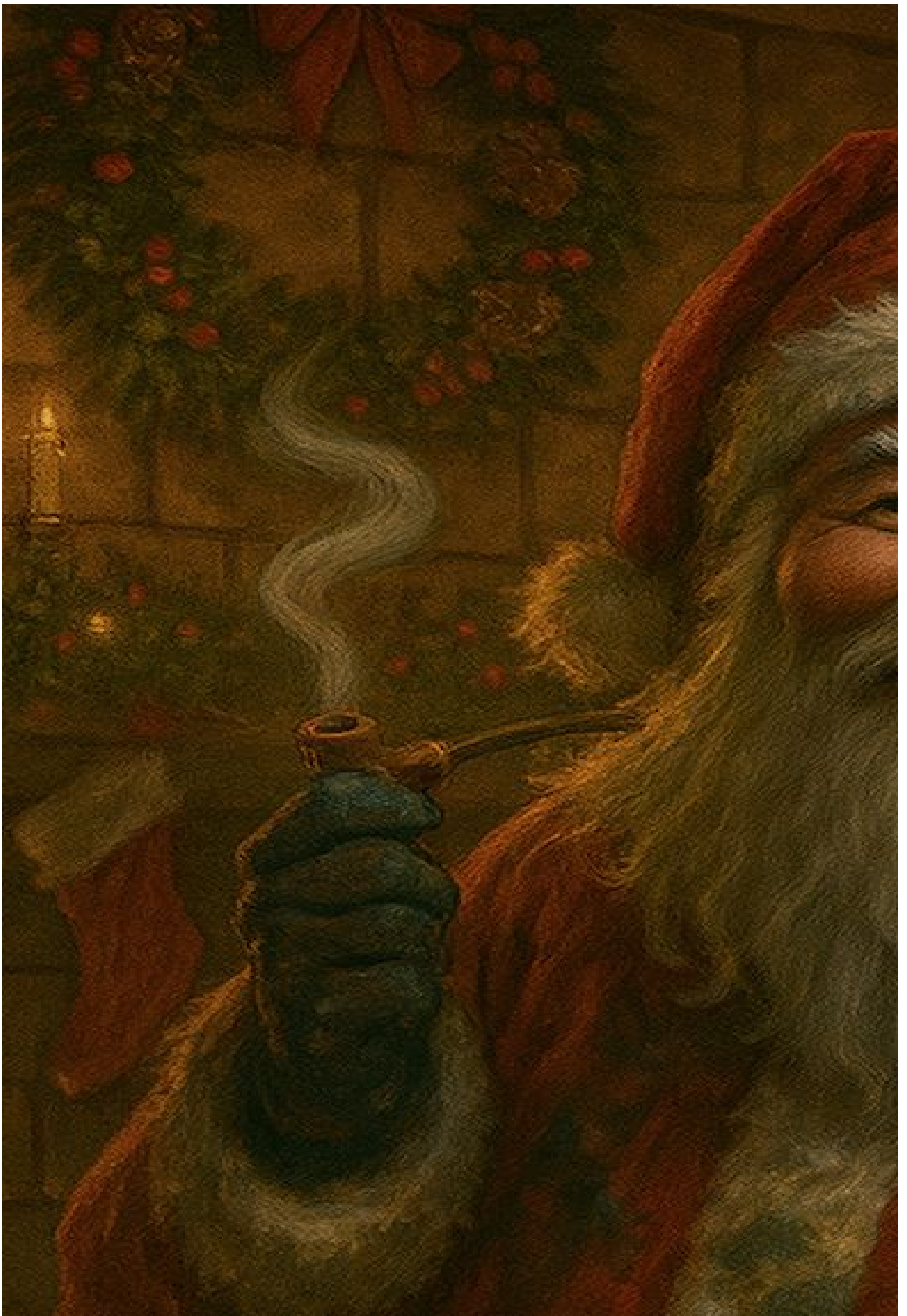
As I drew in my head, and
was turning around,
Down the chimney St.
Nicholas came with a
bound.



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.

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, as
he drove out of sight—
“Happy Christmas to all,
and to all a good night!”



Merry
Christmas!

— THE END —

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