

Winter. Day 6.

Saint Nicholas Day with a Royal Family

'Twas the night before Christmas,
when all through the _____
Not a creature was stirring, not even a _____;
The stockings were hung by the chimney with _____,
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be _____;

The children were nestled all snug in their _____;
While visions of sugar-plums danced in their _____;
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 _____,
I sprang from my bed to see what was the _____.

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 _____,
Gave a lustre of midday to objects _____,
When what to my wondering eyes did _____,
But a miniature sleigh and eight tiny _____,
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 _____,
And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by _____:
"Now, Dasher! now, Dancer! now Prancer and _____!
On, Comet! on, Cupid! on, Donner and _____!
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 _____,
When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the _____;
So up to the housetop the coursers they flew
With the sleigh full of toys, and St. Nicholas too!
And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the _____
The prancing and pawing of each little _____
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 _____
And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and _____
A bundle of toys he had flung on his _____,
And he looked like a pedler just opening his _____
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 _____
And the beard on his chin was as white as the _____
The stump of a pipe he held tight in his _____
And the smoke, it encircled his head like a _____
He had a broad face and a little round _____
That shook when he laughed, like a bowl full of _____
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 _____
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to _____
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 _____
And giving a nod, up the chimney he _____
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 _____
"Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good _____!"