'Twas the Night before Christmas

'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, Donner and Blitzen!
To the top of the porch! To the top of the wall!
Now dash away! Dash away! Dash away all!"

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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 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.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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!"

1. Why did the narrator jump out of bed?

a. His alarm went off.
b. He heard a noise outside.
c. He saw a bright light.
d. He felt a cold breeze.

2. What are St. Nick's courses?

a. the children
b. his reindeer
c. his sleigh
d. eagles

3. Find and copy a synonym for "**dirty**" -> _____

4. Find and copy a simile used to describe St. Nick's appearance.

_____

_____

5. Fill in the missing words.

As dry leaves that before the wild _____ fly,
When they meet with an _____, mount to the sky.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

1. Number the events from 1-5 to show the order in which they occur in the text. The first one has been done for you.

_____ The narrator looks out of the window.

_____ The narrator hears sounds on the lawn.

__1__ The people in the house are in bed.

_____ St. Nicholas fills the stockings.

_____ St. Nicholas comes down the chimney.

2. Look at the fourth verse of the poem. Which word best describes the moon as it appears in this part of the poem?

a. dull b. bright c. invisible d. large

3. And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself.

What does the phrase "in spite of myself" suggest about the narrator's laughing?

_____

_____

_____

4. How do we know that everything in the house was still and quiet?

_____

_____

_____

_____

5. Were the reindeer and sleigh close by when the narrator first sees them? Explain your answer.

_____

_____

_____

LIVEWORKSHEETS