

# 'Twas the Night Before Christmas Sensory Poem

Resources required for this story: 'Twas the Night Before Christmas Sensory Poem PowerPoint, sparkly stars or stars on diffractive card, torches, toy mouse, Christmas sticking, Switch/Big Mack or tablet device, CD player, pillow, duvet, handkerchief, flat cap, essential oils, musical instruments- claves, maracas, bells, symbols, coconut shells, artificial/real grass, tracking light balls, scrunched up paper, soft toy reindeers, dry, crunchy large tray of leaves, Santa outfit or piece of fur, burnt paper, sand (coloured black with a few drops of food colouring) ,sack of toys or presents wrapped up (different textures, bows, ribbon, things inside to shake).

Play Christmas music before beginning the poem and to signify the end of the poem. This activity could be delivered in the classroom or in a sensory room using appropriate sensory resources (mirror ball, tracking lights, bubble tube etc.) and appropriate interactions for your children. Use relevant signs and symbols throughout to support your pupils.

Story	Suggested sensory resources	Activities
'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.	Sparkly stars/stars on shiny card  Torches  Soft toy mouse  Christmas stocking  Switch/Big Mack/tablet or similar recording of 'Ho, Ho, Ho!'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Shine sparkly stars, or stars on shiny card (turn lights off to indicate night time, where appropriate).</li><li>• Shine torches to indicate night time.</li><li>• Pass round a furry toy mouse and Christmas stockings to feel and touch.</li><li>• Press switch/Big Mack/tablet or similar- with recording of Santa's voice: Ho, Ho, Ho'.</li></ul>

<p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pillow and Duvet, or fabric blankets 'Twinkling' music on tablet or CD</li> <li>• Handkerchief (possibly with essential oils dropped on such as cedar, fir, rosemary) and flat cap.</li> <li>• Switch/Big Mack/tablet with 'yawning' sound.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pass round pillow to squeeze pillow /lay head on pillow and pull duvet around children, closing their eyes or use fabric blankets. Stroke down legs and arms, where appropriate and use deep pressure for feedback.</li> <li>• Play Twinkling music on tablet /CD</li> <li>• Pass round handkerchief to smell and flat cap to feel.</li> <li>• Encourage children to yawn- count children in or switch/Big Mack/tablet with 'yawning' noise / sign and say 'yawn'.</li> </ul>
<p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Musical instruments to make a 'clatter'- symbols, claves, maracas, shakers.</li> <li>• Artificial grass or real grass.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children take turn to use instruments to make a 'clatter'.</li> <li>• Pass round artificial grass (or real grass) where appropriate to feel and weave through fingers.</li> </ul>
<p>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 the miniature sleigh, and eight tiny reindeer.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tracking light balls</li> <li>• Scrunched up paper for snowballs</li> <li>• Soft toy reindeers</li> <li>• Christmas bells / musical instrument</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dim lights and use tracking light balls for children to follow.</li> <li>• Feel scrunched up paper snowballs and throw saying 'ready, steady, go!'</li> <li>• Pass round and feel toy reindeers.</li> <li>• Children shake bells to signify reindeer arriving.</li> </ul>

<p>With a little old driver, so lively and quick, I knew in a moment it must be St.Nick. More rapid than eagles his courses they came, and he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name!</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Switch /Big Mac /Ipad or similar with recording of 'Ho, Ho, Ho!'</li> <li>• Children to whistle or switch/Big Mac/tablet with 'whistling' sound.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage children to press switch/Big Mac/tablet with 'Ho,Ho,Ho,' sound.</li> <li>• Encourage children to whistle counting them in 1-2-3 whistle or children to press switch, Big Mac or tablet with whistling sound recorded.</li> </ul>
<p>'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!'</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soft toy reindeers.</li> <li>• Christmas bells / musical instrument.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children to listen and repeat (verbally, sign or switch) reindeer names: Dasher, Dancer, Prancer Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner, Blitzen.</li> <li>• Pass round and feel toy reindeers.</li> <li>• Children shake bells to signify reindeer arriving.</li> </ul>
<p>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 the miniature sleigh, and eight tiny reindeer.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tracking light balls</li> <li>• Scrunched up paper for snowballs</li> <li>• Soft toy reindeers</li> <li>• Christmas bells / musical instrument</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dim lights and use tracking light balls for children to follow.</li> <li>• Feel scrunched up paper snowballs and throw saying 'ready, steady, go!'</li> <li>• Pass round and feel toy reindeers.</li> <li>• Children shake bells to signify reindeer arriving.</li> </ul>

<p>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 corners they flew, with the sleigh full of toys, and St.Nicholas too.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dry, crunchy large tray of leaves or tuff spot.</li> <li>• Sack of toys or presents wrapped up (different textures, bows, ribbon, things inside to shake).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children put bare feet into tray or tuff spot, they can walk over the leaves where appropriate or touch/feel the leaves.</li> <li>• Pass round the sack of toys/wrapped up presents with paper of different textures/bows/ribbon-children to feel, shake presents.</li> </ul>
<p>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 bounce.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coconut shells or wooden claves</li> <li>• Switch/Big Mack/tablet or similar with recording of 'Ho, Ho, Ho!'</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coconut shells or wooden claves for children to tap together to make 'clip-clop', noises, pass round the instruments.</li> <li>• Encourage children to press switch/Big Mack/tablet with 'Ho, Ho, Ho' sound.</li> <li>• Children to tap feet on floor or jump to make 'bounding' sound.</li> </ul>
<p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Santa outfit or piece of fur</li> <li>• Burnt paper</li> <li>• Sand- coloured black with food colouring</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Touch and feel the soft Santa outfit or piece of fur.</li> <li>• Smell burnt piece of paper for the 'ashes' and/or feel sand dyed with food colouring for the 'soot'.</li> </ul>



<p>The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth, and the smoke it encircled his head held like a wreath. He had a broad face and a little round belly, that shook when he laughed, like a bowl full of jelly!</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Switch /Big Mack /tablet or similar with recording of 'Ho, Ho, Ho!'</li> <li>• Jelly cubes in tray.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage children to press switch /Big Mack / tablet with 'Ho, Ho, Ho' sound.</li> <li>• Pass round tray of jelly cubes to smell and feel.</li> </ul>
<p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Switch /Big Mack / tablet or similar with recording of Santa laughing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage children to press switch /Big Mack / tablet with Santa laughing.</li> <li>• Encourage children to pat their tummies.</li> <li>• Children to make laughing sounds, where appropriate.</li> </ul>
<p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Switch /Big Mack /tablet or similar with recording of 'shhhhhh' sound.</li> <li>• Christmas stockings.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Press switch /Big Mack /tablet or similar with recording of 'shhhhh' sound or encourage children to repeat 'shhhhh' sound and put fingers to lips.</li> <li>• Pass round Christmas stockings to feel and touch.</li> <li>• Encourage children to place finger at side of nose.</li> </ul>

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!'

- Switch /Big Mack /tablet with 'whistling' noise.
- Soft toy reindeers.
- Children to repeat 'Happy Christmas' or on switch.  
Say or sign 'Good night!'

- Encourage children to whistle, count children in 1,2,3...whistle! Or use Switch /Big Mack.
- Touch and feel reindeers- role play making reindeers fly through the sky.
- Children say /sign 'Happy Christmas' as a group and say /sign 'Good night!'
- Play Christmas music to finish and to indicate end of the poem.

