## Family Force 5 "T'was The Night Before Christmas"

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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 Nick would soon be there.

The children all nestled, all snug in their beds, While visions of the sugar-plums danced in their heads.

Mamma in her Â'kerchief, I in my cap, Had just settled down for a long winterÂ's nap.

When out on the lawn there was such a clatter, I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter. Away to the window, flying like a flash, Open up the shutters, throw up the sash.

The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow Gave the lustre to everything below. When, what to my wondering eyes should appear, But a miniature sleigh, and eight tiny reindeer.

With a little old driver, 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! top of the wall!
Dash away! Dash away all!"
Dash on! ('Twas the night before Christmas)
Dash on! ('Twas the night before Christmas)

Dry leaves sweep by when the hurricanes fly, They meet right up and mount to the sky. Up to the house-top reindeer flew, With the sleigh full of toys, St. Nicholas, too.

And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof The prancing and pawing of each little hoof. I drew in my head, and was turning around, Down the chimney St. Nick with a bound.

Dressed in all fur, from his head to his foot, Clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot. A bundle of toys he had flung on his back, Looked like a peddler opening a pack.

Eyes they twinkled! Dimples merry!
Cheeks like roses, nose like a cherry!
His droll little mouth drawn up like a bow,
The beard of his chin was as snow.

The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth, 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 bowlful of jelly!

"Now Dasher! now, Dancer! now, Prancer and Vixen!
On, Comet! On, Cupid! on, Donner and Blitzen!
To the top of the porch! top of the wall!
Dash away! Dash away all!"
Dash on! ('Twas the night before Christmas)
Dash on! ('Twas the night before Christmas)

He was chubby and plump, 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, Lead me to know I had nothing to dread.

He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work, Filled all the stockings, then turned with a jerk. Laying his finger aside of his nose, Giving a nod, up the chimney he rose!

He sprang to his sleigh, to give his team gave a whistle,

Away they flew like the down of a thistle. I heard him exclaim, Â'ere he drove out of sight, "Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good-night!"

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