

# THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

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Book by Clement Clark Moore, © 1997

Theme: Christmas

Grade Level: Pre-K - 2

Running Time: 7:00

## SUMMARY

THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS is Clement Clark Moore's well known story in verse of the magic of seeing Santa at work on Christmas Eve.

## OBJECTIVES

- Children will learn about Christmas traditions.
- Children will enjoy a story written in verse.

## BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Talk with children about the Christmas holiday. Encourage those who celebrate the holiday to describe some of their holiday traditions. Then ask:

- What is your favorite part of the Christmas holiday? Why?
- When you think of Santa Clause, how do you imagine him?

Share the book *The Night Before Christmas* with children. Then ask:

- What magical things did Santa do that real people could never do?

## AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Have children talk about the feelings of the different characters in the story.

Ask:

- How do you think the children felt just before they went to sleep?
- How do you think Santa felt about delivering presents on Christmas Eve?
- How do you think the reindeer felt when they finally finished delivering presents?
- Play a game of "What's In The Stocking?" Cut out a Christmas stocking shape from red construction paper for each child in the group. Tell children to think about things they might want to put in the stocking to help make the world a better place. You might suggest a soft teddy, so that everyone would have something to hug; a tree, so that the world would be filled with beauty; food, so that no one would ever go hungry. When children have finished filling their stockings, arrange them on a classroom wall under the title "Peace On Earth."
- Talk about the rhythm and rhyme in the story. Then give children an opportunity to create their own story in rhyme. Offer a beginning sentence, such as: "The winter morning was chilly and cold....." Have a child in the class offer the next rhyming line. Print the story on

the board as it unfolds. Continue until each child in the class has had an opportunity to contribute to the story. Later, print the story and display it on a classroom wall. Have children draw illustrations to accompany the story and display them along with the story.

. Encourage children to share some of their Christmas traditions with everyone in the group. They might bring in a Christmas stocking that is hung on their mantle each year, show photos of Christmas celebrations held in their homes, have a parent come in to mix up a simple holiday treat. Also, encourage children who do not celebrate Christmas to tell about a holiday that is special to them.

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