

'Twas The Night Before Christmas

10 And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof,
18 The prancing and pawing of each little hoof.
28 As I drew in my head, and was turning around,
37 Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound.
49 He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot,
59 And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot.
69 A bundle of toys he had flung on his back,
79 And he looked like a peddler, just opening his pack.
86 His eyes – how they twinkled! His dimples,
88 how merry!
95 His cheeks were like roses, his nose
98 like a cherry!
105 His droll little mouth was drawn up
108 like a bow,
115 And the beard of his chin was
120 as white as the snow.



Questions



1. How did St. Nicholas enter the house?



2. **And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes...**
In this sentence, what does 'tarnished' mean?



3. Why do you think the author described his nose as **like a cherry**?



4. What do you think is going to happen in the next few verses of the poem?

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Answers



1. How did St. Nicholas enter the house?
St. Nicholas entered the house by coming down the chimney.



2. **And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes...**
In this sentence, what does 'tarnished' mean?
Pupils' own responses, such as: Tarnished means his clothes were ruined by the ash in this sentence.



3. Why do you think the author described his nose as like a cherry?
Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the author described the nose as like a cherry because of the bright-red colour.



4. What do you think is going to happen in the next few verses of the poem?
Pupils own responses, such as: I think St Nicholas will leave presents beneath the tree in the next verse of the poem.