



THEATRE IV Classroom Connections

Teacher Resources



In the Classroom For Teachers & Students Grades K - 5

'Twas the Night Before Christmas and the Classroom Connections Study Guide are produced in support of the teaching of: Family Ties, Folk Tales, Language Arts, Literary Classic, Biography, Music, Reading, Writing, History, and Character Development and these Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL): English: K.1, K.2, K.3, K.4, K.6, K.8, 1.1, 1.2 1.3, 1.4, 1.7, 1.9, 2.1,2.2, 2.3, 2.8, 3.1, 3.2, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 4.1, 4.2, 4.4, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.5, 5.6 History: K.1-4, K.6 - 8, 1.1, 1.4, 1.7, 1.8, 1.10, 2.3, 2.5, 2.7 - 2.9, 3.5, 3.7- 3.9



At the Library

*The Night Before Christmas:
A Classic Illustrated Edition*
by Clement C. Moore and

Cooper Edens

'Twas the Night Before Christmas: An African-American Version by Melodye Benson Rosales and Clement Clarke Moore

The Story of "'Twas the Night Before Christmas," by Gerard and Patricia del Re



On the Web

[www.christmas-tree.com/
stories/nightbeforechristmas.html](http://www.christmas-tree.com/stories/nightbeforechristmas.html)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A_Visit_from_St._Nicholas

[www.americaslibrary.gov/jb/nation/
jb_nation_moore_1.html](http://www.americaslibrary.gov/jb/nation/jb_nation_moore_1.html)

www.theatreiv.org

'Twas the Night Before Christmas

Book, Music and Lyrics by Bruce Craig Miller



Harper's Weekly, December 30, 1876

Synopsis:

At turns heart warming and hilarious, this charming Christmas musical is complete with a jolly Santa, reindeer on the roof, moonlight on the snow, Ma and Pa in their caps, and sugarplums dancing in the dreams of hopeful children. Our careworn poet, Clement Moore is struggling to write a Christmas poem. Clement, uninspired until his eyes and heart are opened by the loving, joyous images all about him in his own home and family, begins writing his immortal poem with these words, *"'Twas the night before Christmas."* His poem is a delight to his family and to many generations of families who can't imagine Christmas without *"A Visit from St. Nicholas."*

Rhyme and Vocabulary in *A Visit from St. Nicholas*

Definition:

rhyme (noun): a repetition of similar sounds in two or more different words; most often used in poetry.

Many poems contain words that rhyme. Read *A Visit from St. Nicholas* on the opposite page. Use different colored pencils to circle the pairs of words that rhyme.

What do the following words mean in the poem, *A Visit from St. Nicholas*, on the opposite page? Work with a partner, the poem, and a dictionary to find out.

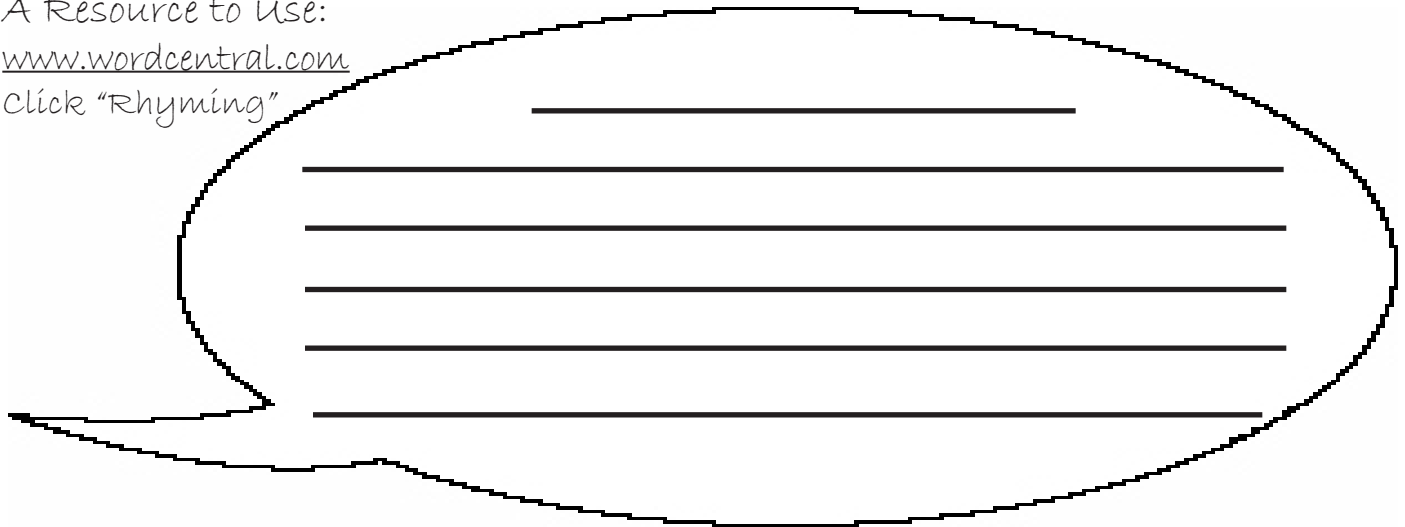
1. sash _____
2. lustre _____
3. coursers _____
4. peddler _____

Use the speech bubble below to write a poem about your favorite holiday. Include information about your family traditions as well as the sights, sounds, smells and feelings that make that holiday special. Be sure to use rhyming words!

A Resource to Use:

www.wordcentral.com

Click "Rhyming"





A Visit from St. Nicholas, by Clement Clark Moore

***'Twas the night before Christmas,
when all thro' 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 danc'd in their heads,
And Mama 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 minature sleigh, and eight tiny rein-deer,
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 call'd them by name:
"Now! Dasher, now! Dancer, now! Prancer and Vixen,
"On! Comet, on! Cupid, on! Donder and Blitzen;
"To the top of the porch! To the top of the wall!
"Now dash away! Dash away! Dash away all!"

As dry leaves 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:

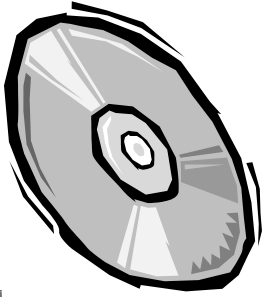



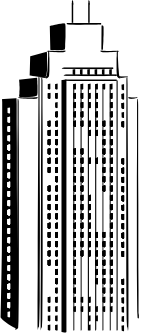
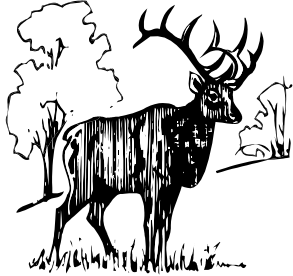


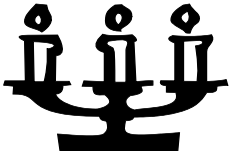

He was dress'd all in fur, from his head to his foot,
And his clothes were all tarnish'd with ashes and soot;
A bundle of toys was flung on his back,
And he look'd like a peddler just opening his pack:
His eyes — how they twinkled! His dimples: how merry,
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry;
His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,
And the beard of 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 laugh'd, like a bowl full of jelly:
He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf,
And I laugh'd 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.
He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,
And fill'd all the stockings; then turn'd with a jerk,
And laying his finger aside of his nose
And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose.
He sprung 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.



Now and Then

This play was set in 1822. Everyday life has changed in many ways since then. Classify the objects below in the “T” chart according to whether they’d be found at the time the play was set, or in today’s world.

Now	Then
	
	
	
	
	

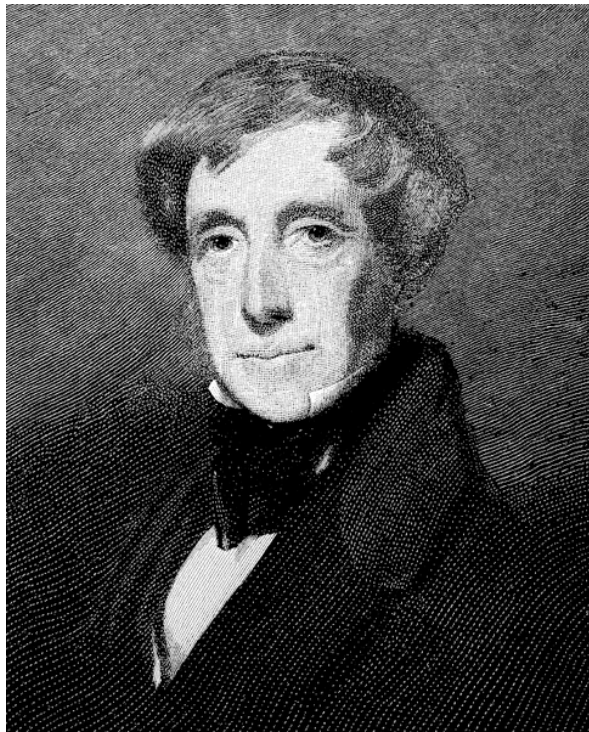
Challenge

Read about life during the 1800's. In what ways was it different than today's world? Write a paragraph describing all the ways your life would be different if you had lived back then.

Extend It!

If you could travel back to Clement Moore's time, what one item from today's world would you take to give to the author? Justify your choice.

Using “America’s Library” Online to Discover Clement Clark Moore



The Author of “A Visit from St. Nicholas,” December 1897(1897-12). Engraved by J. W. Evans.

Explore Clement Clark Moore on the Library of Congress website at:

www.americaslibrary.gov/jb/nation/jb_nation_moore_1.html

Use the information you find on the Library of Congress site to answer the following questions:

1. Why was Mr. Moore visiting Greenwich Village on Christmas Eve?
2. How many children did Mr. Moore have?
3. How did Mr. Moore travel through New York City the evening he wrote the poem?
4. Who inspired his poem?

Vocabulary to Know

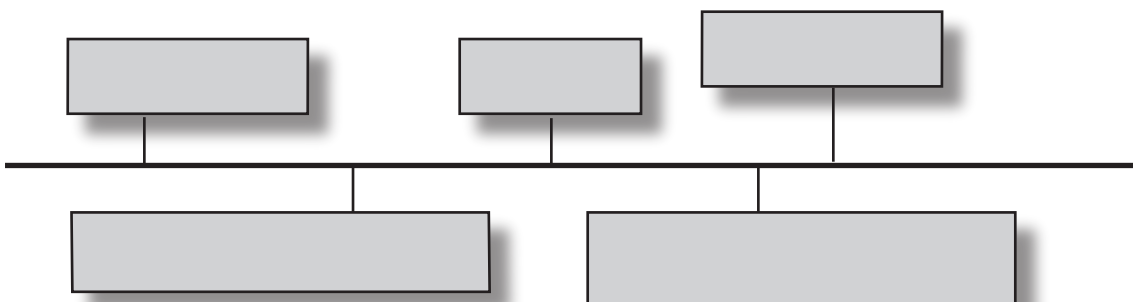
- penned
- folklore
- inauguration
- scholar
- editions
- phonograph

5. Who was Clement’s father? What can you infer about his family?

6. In 1822, Clement Moore’s children listened as their father read his poem. In 1922, children in the US listened to the poem on a phonograph. What are some ways that we can listen to or experience the poem today? What technological advances allow us to experience it differently?

Challenge:

Research the advances in how we communicate and experience stories between 1822 and the present day. Create a timeline of important inventions or advances in communication technology. Add boxes if you need to.



Think About It:

Mr. Moore may have been embarrassed by the light-hearted holiday poem, which somehow made its way into the public without his knowledge in December 1823.

Why do you think he may have felt this way?



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www.TheatreIV.org

Theatre IV Presents...
*'Twas the Night
Before Christmas*

Book, Music and
Lyrics by
Bruce Craig Miller

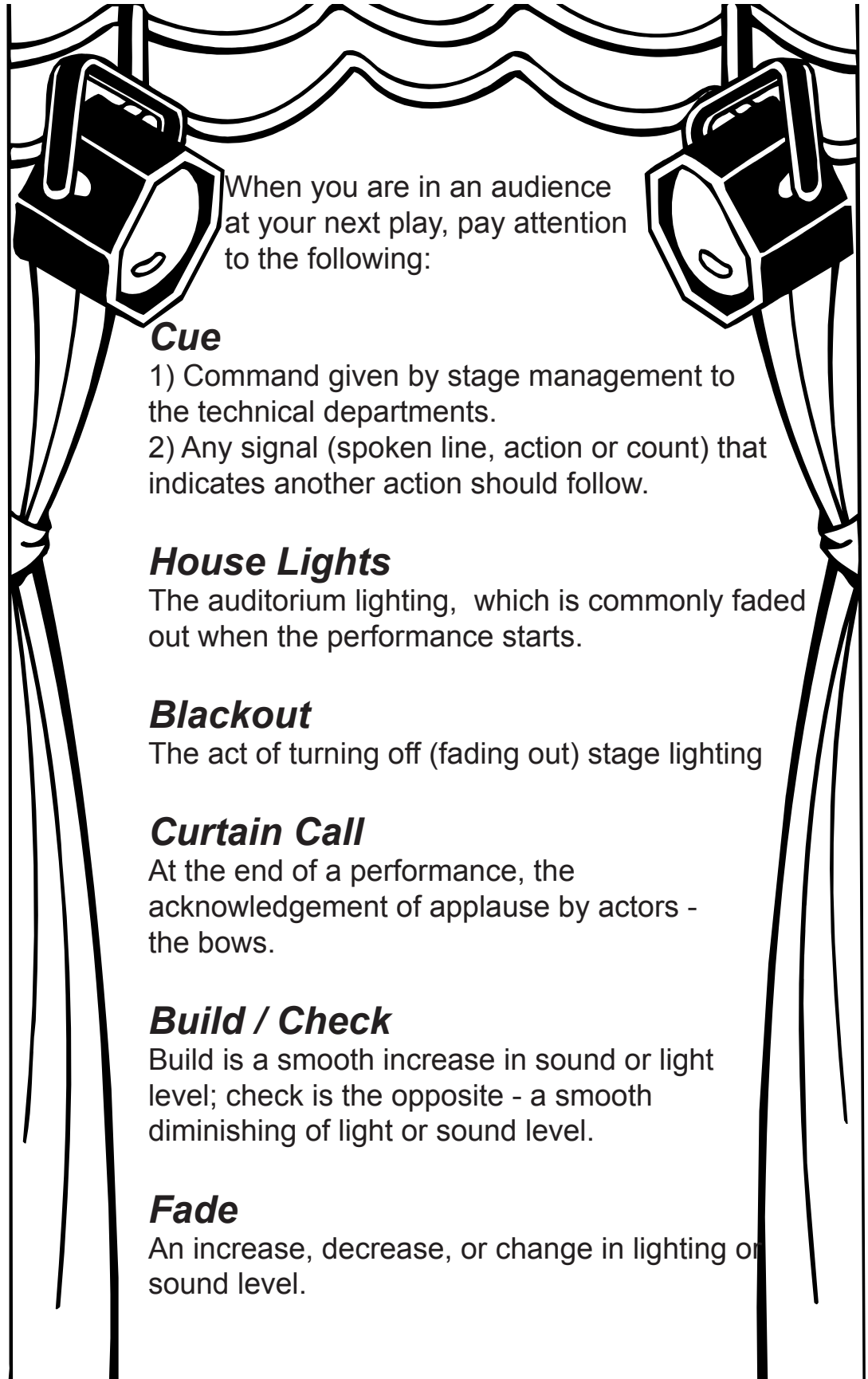
Theatre IV...
Bruce C. Miller,
Artistic Director

Phil Whiteway,
Managing Director

Classroom Connections
Study Guide written by
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Widener Consulting LLC

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Cues at the Theatre



When you are in an audience at your next play, pay attention to the following:

Cue

- 1) Command given by stage management to the technical departments.
- 2) Any signal (spoken line, action or count) that indicates another action should follow.

House Lights

The auditorium lighting, which is commonly faded out when the performance starts.

Blackout

The act of turning off (fading out) stage lighting

Curtain Call

At the end of a performance, the acknowledgement of applause by actors - the bows.

Build / Check

Build is a smooth increase in sound or light level; check is the opposite - a smooth diminishing of light or sound level.

Fade

An increase, decrease, or change in lighting or sound level.

