

Poem a visit from st nicholas

A Visit From St. Nicholas: A Comprehensive Guide for Readers and Performers

**** Clement Clarke Moore's "A Visit from St. Nicholas" is a beloved Christmas poem, instantly recognizable for its vivid imagery and catchy rhythm. Whether you're a student analyzing the poem, a teacher preparing a classroom activity, or an aspiring performer looking to bring it to life, this guide will equip you with the knowledge and tools to fully appreciate and engage with this classic.**

I. Understanding the Poem's Structure and Literary Devices:

1.1 A Look at the Rhyme Scheme and Meter: *The poem employs an AABB rhyme scheme in most stanzas, creating a memorable and easily recited structure. The rhythm, a common iambic tetrameter (an unstressed syllable followed by a stressed syllable, repeated four times per line), gives it a musical quality that perfectly captures the festive spirit.* Example: • **"He sprang to his sleigh, and to his team gave a whistle, / And away they all flew like the down of a thistle."** (A rhythmic pattern is established, easily scannable)

1.2 Exploring Imagery and Figurative Language: **Moore masterfully uses descriptive imagery to paint a picture of the Christmas Eve scene. Figurative language, including personification (e.g., "the moon, a frosty fire," "the stockings hung by the chimney with care") adds depth and vibrancy to the**

narrative. II. Analyzing the Poem's Themes and Significance: 2.1 The Festive Spirit of Christmas: **The poem embodies the joy and wonder of Christmas Eve. The central theme revolves around the anticipation and excitement surrounding the arrival of Santa Claus.** 2.2 The Essence of Childhood Wonder: **Moore captures the childlike perspective, emphasizing the magical and unexpected nature of the experience. The focus on the gifts and the nocturnal visit connects with the child's imaginative understanding of the holiday.** 2.3 Cultural and Historical Context: Consider the historical setting. How might the poem reflect the social and cultural norms of the 19th century? Example: *The poem's emphasis on the gift-giving aspect aligns with Victorian-era holiday customs, highlighting a connection to the past.*

III. Preparing a Performance or Presentation: 3.1 Deconstructing the Story for Storytelling: **Dividing the poem into manageable sections will make it easier for performers to portray the narrative effectively. This allows for character development and emotional depth.** 3.2 Finding Your Voice: **Before presenting the poem, consider the intended audience. A child's rendition might focus on a joyful tone, whereas a theatrical interpretation might require a more dramatic flair. Experiment with different vocal inflections, pacing, and emphasis to achieve the desired effect.** 3.3 Preparing Props and Costumes (if applicable): **Consider incorporating props to enhance visual engagement, like a miniature sleigh or a collection of toys.**

Example: **A children's theatre production might use soft, child-like voices and a focus on the visual appeal of the scene.** IV. Best Practices and Common Pitfalls: 4.1 Best Practices:

- Proper Pronunciation: *Ensure accurate pronunciation of challenging words to maintain clarity.*
- Appropriate Pace: *Vary the pace to convey different emotions and highlight important elements.*
- Engaging Delivery: *Practice a lively delivery that suits the nature of the performance.*
- Thorough Research: *Understand the context of the poem.*

 4.2 Common Pitfalls:

- Monotone Delivery: Avoid a flat or monotonous presentation.
- Over-emphasizing Minor Details: **Don't let minor details overshadow the overall message.**
- Neglecting the Rhythm: *Maintaining the rhythmic pattern is crucial to the poem's*

enjoyment. • Incorrect Interpretation: **Misinterpretations of the poem's meaning can detract from its appeal.**

V. Classroom Activities and Student Engagement: 5.1 Creative Writing Prompts: **Engage students by asking them to write their own versions of the poem, focusing on different perspectives.**

5.2 Dramatic Interpretations: *Encourage role-playing and characterization exercises, allowing students to portray Santa Claus or other characters from the poem.*

5.3 Art Projects: **Encourage students to create visual representations of the poem's imagery, like illustrations or dioramas.**

5.4 Comparing and Contrasting: **Encourage comparisons of Moore's poem with other Christmas carols or poems.**

VI. Critical Analysis of "A Visit from St. Nicholas": 6.1 Literary Devices Analysis: Examine the imagery, similes, metaphors, and other literary devices that add depth and beauty to the poem.

6.2 Themes and Motifs: **Evaluate the underlying themes of Christmas cheer, childhood wonder, and the festive spirit of the season.**

6.3 Cultural Influence: **Discuss how the poem reflects the cultural context of its time and continues to resonate with readers today.**

VII. Conclusion:

"A Visit from St. Nicholas" remains a timeless classic that continues to inspire and delight readers and performers alike. This guide offers a comprehensive overview of the poem, encompassing its structural elements, themes, and performative applications.

Understanding the poem's intricate layers enables deeper engagement with its cultural significance and enduring appeal.

VIII. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs):

1. What is the historical significance of "A Visit from St. Nicholas"?

The poem's enduring popularity reflects its connection to the cultural and historical context of the 19th century. It's a product of its time, mirroring the social, cultural, and religious fabric of the era.

2. How can I make the poem more accessible to younger children? Use simple language, emphasize the vivid imagery, and encourage interactive elements like acting out scenes or creating drawings.

3. What are some common errors in reciting the poem? Avoid monotone delivery, inaccurate pronunciation, and neglecting the rhythm. Emphasize a clear and engaging pace.

4. How can I adapt "A Visit from St. Nicholas" for a performance?

Adapt it for different audiences by emphasizing the elements that resonate most strongly with the intended group. 5. Beyond reciting the poem, what

other creative ways are there to engage with it? Consider writing your own version, analyzing its themes, or creating visual representations. Explore various artistic interpretations, including musical adaptations or theatrical productions. This guide provides a multifaceted approach to understanding and appreciating "A Visit from St. Nicholas," facilitating a deeper engagement with this iconic Christmas poem.

A Visit from St. Nicholas: Unwrapping the Magic of a Timeless Christmas Poem

Ah, the crackling fire, the scent of gingerbread, and the hush of anticipation on Christmas Eve. What's a Christmas without the iconic imagery and comforting rhythm of 'A Visit from St. Nicholas'? This poem, often known by its first line, "Twas the night before Christmas," is more than just a story; it's a cornerstone of modern Christmas tradition, a vivid tapestry woven with wonder and excitement that has captivated generations. Whether you're a seasoned holiday enthusiast or introducing this beloved classic to a new generation, let's dive deep into the enduring charm and fascinating history of 'A Visit from St. Nicholas'.

The Poem That Defined Santa Claus

It's hard to imagine Christmas without Santa Claus as we know him: the jolly, portly man with a twinkle in his eye, a sack full of toys, and a team of reindeer led by a red-nosed wonder. But before 'A Visit from St. Nicholas,' the image of Santa was far less defined. This poem, first published anonymously in 1823, is widely credited with shaping the image of Santa

Claus that has become globally recognized. From his "little round belly" and "broad face" to his "jolly laugh," Clement Clarke Moore's (or sometimes attributed to Henry Livingston Jr.) poem painted a picture so compelling that it became the blueprint for countless illustrations and imaginations.

Unpacking the Enchantment: A Line-by-Line Journey

Let's take a stroll through the poem's magical narrative, savoring each detail that makes it so special. The opening lines immediately set a scene of quiet serenity:

*'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house,
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse.*

This sets a perfect stage for the extraordinary event about to unfold. The children are tucked soundly in their beds, dreaming sweet dreams. The anticipation builds as the poet shifts from the quiet slumber of the household to the unexpected sound from the outside:

*When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from my bed to see what was the matter.*

And then, the breathtaking reveal. Peeking through the window, the narrator witnesses a sight that defies ordinary understanding:

*Away to the window I flew like a flash,
To see what was then of this wonderful dash.
The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow,
Gave the luster of midday to objects below.*

This picturesque description of the snowy landscape illuminated by the moon adds to the ethereal quality of the scene. And then, the sleigh!

*When, what to my wondering eyes should appear,
But a miniature sleigh, and eight tiny reindeer.*

The introduction of the reindeer is a pivotal moment. We meet each one by name, a roll call of festive spirits:

*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 called them by name!
"Now Dasher! now Dancer! now Prancer! now Vixen!
"On Comet! on Cupid! on Donner and Blitzen!"*

The names themselves, though some variations exist in later interpretations, are now indelibly linked to the Christmas myth. The descriptions of Santa's arrival are particularly memorable:

*To the top of the porch! To the top of the wall!
Now dash away! Dash away! Dash away all!*

And then, with a surprising stealth for a man of his stature, he makes his way down the chimney:

*As I drew in my head, and was turning around,
Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound.*

His entrance is a blend of the fantastical and the almost comical. He's not just an observer; he's an active participant in the joy of giving:

*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.*

The imagery of Santa as a "peddler" with a pack emphasizes his role as a bringer of goods and joy. The poem continues to detail his methodical work, filling stockings and leaving gifts with a surprising grace:

*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.

The description of Santa's face and beard is iconic, reinforcing his benevolent and wise appearance. His eyes, too, hold a special magic:

*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 poem climaxes with Santa's departure, as swift and mysterious as his arrival. He climbs back into his sleigh, whistles to his reindeer, and disappears into the night, leaving behind a sense of wonder and the tangible proof of his visit:

*And laying his finger aside of his nose,
And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose.
He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle,
And away they all flew like the down of a thistle.*

The final lines bring us back to the waking children, their excitement palpable:

*But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight—
"Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good-night!"*

The Enduring Legacy of 'A Visit from St. Nicholas'

Why has this poem remained so relevant for nearly two centuries? Several factors contribute to its lasting appeal. Firstly, the rhyme and rhythm are incredibly catchy and easy to remember, making it a favorite for oral recitation. The vivid imagery, from the "miniature sleigh" to Santa's "cherrylicious nose," paints a picture that sticks in our minds. Furthermore, the poem taps into universal themes of childhood wonder, generosity, and

the magic of the holiday season. It offers a comforting narrative of a benevolent figure who brings joy and gifts, a powerful symbol for children and adults alike.

Authorship Debate: A Christmas Whodunit

Interestingly, the authorship of 'A Visit from St. Nicholas' has been a subject of debate for many years. For a long time, the poem was attributed to Clement Clarke Moore, a professor of Oriental and Greek Literature at the General Theological Seminary in New York. Moore claimed to have written it for his children on Christmas Eve in 1823. However, in the late 19th century, descendants of Henry Livingston Jr., a New York landowner and poet, also claimed authorship, presenting evidence suggesting he wrote it much earlier. While Moore's claim is widely accepted today, the historical debate adds another layer of intrigue to this classic Christmas poem.

Beyond the Poem: Cultural Impact and Modern Adaptations

The influence of 'A Visit from St. Nicholas' extends far beyond the literary world. It has inspired countless Christmas carols, illustrations, animated specials, and even movies. The character of Santa Claus, as depicted in the poem, has become an international icon. Think of the classic Thomas Nast illustrations for *Harper's Weekly* in the late 19th century; these were heavily influenced by Moore's poem, further solidifying the visual representation of Santa. Even today, when we see a jolly man in a red suit, we're seeing the legacy of this remarkable poem.

Modern adaptations continue to reinterpret and celebrate the poem. From picture books for toddlers to stage productions, the story of St. Nicholas's magical visit continues to be retold, ensuring its place in contemporary holiday traditions. It's a testament to the poem's timeless themes that it resonates with new audiences year after year, proving that the magic of

Christmas, as described in 'A Visit from St. Nicholas,' is truly eternal.

Key Takeaways and Why We Love It

So, what makes 'A Visit from St. Nicholas' such a treasured piece of Christmas lore?

1. **The Archetypal Santa:** It solidified the image of Santa Claus as we know him today.
2. **Vivid Imagery:** The poem's descriptive language paints unforgettable pictures.
3. **Magical Atmosphere:** It captures the wonder and excitement of Christmas Eve.
4. **Memorable Characters:** From Santa to the reindeer, each element is iconic.
5. **Enduring Themes:** Generosity, joy, and the spirit of giving.

As we gather with loved ones this holiday season, let's take a moment to appreciate this enduring poem. Whether you read it aloud by the fireplace, sing its verses in your heart, or simply recall its magical lines, 'A Visit from St. Nicholas' remains a beautiful reminder of the joy and wonder that Christmas brings. It's a poem that truly embodies the spirit of the season, a gift that keeps on giving, year after year.

Poem A Visit From St Nicholas: A Timeless Holiday Classic

In the quiet hush of winter's embrace, where frost-kissed windows glow and snow-laden branches sway, there comes a poem that stirs both heart and memory: "A Visit from St. Nicholas." More than just a seasonal rhyme, this beloved narrative poem has woven itself into the cultural fabric of holiday

traditions, offering warmth, wonder, and a touch of magical realism during the festive season.

A Journey Through Time and Tradition

Originally penned by Clement Clarke Moore in 1823, the poem—often simply known as “A Visit from St. Nicholas”—has evolved from a private family recitation into a cherished public treasure. Moore’s vivid portrayal of Santa Claus, with his jolly stature, sleigh driven by eight reindeer, and a heart brimming with generosity, laid the foundation for the modern image of Santa we celebrate today. The poem captures not just the magic of Christmas but also the enduring spirit of giving, wonder at the unknown, and the joy of childhood imagination. Its rhythmic cadence and rich imagery invite readers into a world where fantasy and holiday cheer unite seamlessly.

Through its playful narration—beginning

with a scoffing father dismissing Santa's existence, only to be gently corrected—the poem blends skepticism with awe, creating a relatable and timeless narrative arc.

Each stanza unfolds with a sense of anticipation, as the steaming sleigh appears on rooftops, gifts scatter beneath the tree, and a child's heart fills with delight. This delicate balance of doubt and wonder makes the poem accessible to all ages, especially young readers discovering the magic of Christmas for the first time.

Applications Beyond the Page

Beyond its literary charm, “A Visit from St. Nicholas” finds meaningful application in modern holiday culture. It inspires seasonal decorations, animated adaptations, and educational storytelling, bridging generations with shared cultural

heritage. Schools often incorporate the poem into lessons on language, history, and tradition, fostering appreciation for how stories shape collective memory. Families continue the ritual of reading it aloud each December, transforming the reading experience into a sacred moment of connection and continuity.

The poem's enduring appeal lies in its universal themes—generosity, hope, and the power of belief—that resonate deeply during the holiday season and beyond. It reminds us that Christmas is not only about gifts but also about kindness, generosity, and the simple joy of wonder.

Future Outlook: A Legacy Reimagined

As society evolves, so too does the interpretation of this classic poem.

Contemporary adaptations reimagine St. Nicholas with diverse characters, inclusive values, and modern sensibilities, ensuring the story remains relevant and reflective of today's world. Digital storytelling, animated films, and interactive media are breathing new life into the poem, making it accessible to global audiences across platforms. This adaptability ensures that "A Visit from St. Nicholas" will continue to inspire generations, preserving its role as a cornerstone of holiday literature.

Ultimately, the poem endures not merely as a relic of the past but as a living tradition—one that invites each reader to believe in magic, celebrate generosity, and carry forward the warmth of Christmas long after the season ends.

'Twas the Night Before Christmas: A Deep Dive into the Enduring Magic of 'A Visit from St. Nicholas'

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house, Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse.' These iconic opening lines, instantly recognizable to generations, usher in a beloved literary tradition that has shaped our modern perception of Santa Claus. **'A Visit from St. Nicholas,'** more commonly known by its first line, is a poem that has transcended its origins to become an integral part of Christmas celebrations worldwide. But beyond the whimsical imagery and festive cheer, lies a poem rich in cultural significance, poetic artistry, and a surprising history that continues to fascinate scholars and enthusiasts alike.

Authored by Clement Clarke Moore (though

this attribution has been a subject of debate), this Christmas poem, first published anonymously in 1823, offers a vivid, detailed, and remarkably consistent portrayal of Santa Claus. It is the blueprint for the jolly, portly, bearded figure with a twinkle in his eye, sliding down chimneys, filling stockings, and traveling in a sleigh pulled by eight reindeer. This article will delve into the poem's captivating narrative, its literary merit, the historical context of its creation, and the profound impact it has had on shaping the Christmas spirit.

The Poem's Enchanting Narrative: A Bedtime Story Unveiled

The poem's narrative unfolds as a parent's account of a wondrous nocturnal event. The speaker, awakened by an unusual commotion, witnesses St. Nicholas's

arrival. The initial lines establish a sense of quiet anticipation, setting the stage for the magical spectacle to come. The descent of Santa Claus is described with remarkable detail: his "prance" and "gallop," the jingle of the sleigh bells, and the swift landing on the rooftop. The poem's strength lies in its sensory richness, drawing the reader into the scene through sound ('tinkling,' 'jingle,' 'ringing') and sight ('red,' 'white,' 'soot').

The description of Santa himself is particularly groundbreaking. Prior to 'Twas the Night Before Christmas,' popular depictions of St. Nicholas were often more austere, perhaps a stern bishop-like figure. Moore's poem transforms him into a benevolent, jovial character. His physical attributes - "chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf," his "broad face and a little round belly," and his "dashing through the snow in a one-horse open sleigh" - have

become indelible images. The poem's focus on his rosy cheeks, twinkling eyes, and merry laugh creates an image of warmth and kindness that perfectly encapsulates the spirit of giving associated with Christmas.

The journey down the chimney, the meticulous filling of stockings, and the silent, swift departure all contribute to the poem's spellbinding quality. The imagery of Santa placing "a little toy, and a string of good cheer" in each stocking, while the children remain "nestled all snug in their beds," adds a layer of parental tenderness and the secret joy of childhood belief. The poem ends with Santa's departure, leaving behind a sense of wonder and the promise of Christmas morning, reinforced by the final line, "Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good night!"

Literary Merit and Enduring Appeal

Beyond its festive content, 'A Visit from St. Nicholas' possesses considerable literary merit. Written in an anapestic tetrameter, the poem flows with a rhythmic, sing-song quality that makes it perfect for recitation and memorization, contributing to its widespread popularity. The anapestic meter, with its two unstressed syllables followed by a stressed one (da-da-DUM), creates a bouncy, energetic feel, mirroring the excitement of Christmas Eve.

Moore's use of vivid imagery and descriptive language is central to the poem's success. Words like "nimble," "wonted," "spectacles," "whiskers," and "flurry" paint a clear and engaging picture. The similes and metaphors, though simple, are effective: Santa is described as "a dwarf," and his reindeer's hooves are like

"the tapping of each little nail." The poem's rhyming scheme (AABB) is straightforward and accessible, further enhancing its memorability.

The poem's enduring appeal can also be attributed to its universality. It taps into fundamental human desires for wonder, magic, and generosity. The idea of a benevolent, magical being bringing gifts and joy is a powerful archetype that resonates across cultures and age groups. The poem's ability to evoke nostalgia for childhood Christmases also plays a significant role in its continued relevance. It's a touchstone for many, a reminder of simpler times and the pure excitement of the holiday season. The detailed portrayal of the night's events offers a tangible experience for children, solidifying their belief in the magic of Santa Claus.

The Mystery of Authorship: A Scholarly Debate

While 'A Visit from St. Nicholas' is widely attributed to Clement Clarke Moore, a New York poet and professor of Oriental and Greek Literature, this attribution has been a subject of considerable scholarly debate. The poem first appeared anonymously in the Troy Sentinel on December 23, 1823. Moore later claimed authorship in 1837, and it was included in his 1844 collection of poems.

However, the family of Henry Livingston Jr., an Albany Dutch landowner and poet, has long asserted that Livingston was the true author. Proponents of Livingston's claim point to his Dutch heritage, which could explain certain details in the poem, and suggest that Moore, a prominent literary figure, may have appropriated the

work. The debate centers on stylistic analysis, historical records, and the potential motivations of each individual.

Regardless of the ultimate authorship, the poem's impact remains undiminished. The detailed description of Santa Claus, his reindeer, and his Christmas Eve journey has become so ingrained in popular culture that it is difficult to imagine the holiday without it. The imagery of eight reindeer (later expanded to nine with the addition of Rudolph), named Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner (or Dunder), and Blitzen (or Vixen), is directly from this poem, forming a core part of the Santa lore.

'Twas the Night Before Christmas: Shaping the Modern Santa Claus

'A Visit from St. Nicholas' is arguably the most influential piece of literature in

shaping the modern image of Santa Claus. Before its publication, depictions of St. Nicholas were varied and often less festive. The poem provided a standardized, universally appealing visual and narrative. The jolly, rotund figure, the fur-trimmed suit, the sleigh and reindeer - all these elements were popularized and solidified by Moore's vivid descriptions.

The poem's influence extends beyond mere imagery. It established the narrative of Santa's secret, silent delivery of gifts, fostering a sense of mystery and magic for children. The act of filling stockings, a tradition that predates the poem, was given a definitive and memorable context. The poem's success also contributed to the commercialization of Christmas, as the image of Santa Claus became a powerful marketing tool in the decades that followed.

Furthermore, the poem cemented the role of reindeer in the Santa mythology. While tales of supernatural steeds existed, the specific naming and personality given to Santa's team in 'Twas the Night Before Christmas' created a lasting cast of characters that have captured imaginations for generations. The inclusion of specific names like Donner and Blitzen, likely derived from Dutch traditions, adds a rich layer to the poem's enduring charm.

Beyond the Poem: A Lasting Legacy

The legacy of 'A Visit from St. Nicholas' is undeniable. It is a cornerstone of Christmas literature, recited in homes, schools, and public gatherings every year. Its influence can be seen in countless adaptations, illustrations, and interpretations of Santa Claus. The poem has been translated into numerous

languages, spreading its festive magic across the globe.

The poem's simple yet profound message of joy, generosity, and the enchantment of childhood belief continues to resonate. In a world that can often feel complex and challenging, 'Twas the Night Before Christmas' offers a comforting and magical escape, a reminder of the simple pleasures and enduring wonder of the holiday season. It is a testament to the power of a well-crafted story to shape culture, ignite imaginations, and create traditions that stand the test of time. The poem's vivid descriptions, its rhythmic flow, and its deeply embedded cultural references ensure that it will continue to be a beloved part of Christmas for many Christmases to come, solidifying its place as a literary masterpiece of festive storytelling.

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digital content, users can unlock the full potential of *Poem A Visit From St Nicholas* and continue their journey of personal and professional growth in the digital era.

Questions & Answers About poem a visit from st nicholas

No	Question	Answer
1	What's the real name of 'A Visit from St. Nicholas' and why is it so famous?	The poem 'A Visit from St. Nicholas' is also famously known as 'The Night Before Christmas.' Its enduring popularity stems from its vivid imagery, its role in shaping the modern image of Santa Claus, and its warm, festive spirit that has resonated with families for generations.
2	Who is the most famous character introduced in 'A Visit from St. Nicholas'?	The poem is credited with popularizing and giving many of the defining characteristics to Santa Claus himself, including his jolly demeanor, plump belly, and the image of him arriving in a sleigh pulled by eight reindeer.
3	What famous creatures are introduced in 'A Visit from St. Nicholas' and what are their names?	The poem introduces eight reindeer that pull Santa's sleigh. Their names are Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner, and Blitzen. Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer was added later in a separate story.

4	What is the primary theme or message of 'A Visit from St. Nicholas'?	The poem's central theme is the magic and wonder of Christmas Eve, focusing on the anticipation and joyful arrival of Santa Claus. It evokes a sense of peace, family, and the spirit of giving.
5	Did Clement Clarke Moore actually write 'A Visit from St. Nicholas'?	While Clement Clarke Moore is widely credited with writing 'A Visit from St. Nicholas' and it was published under his name, there's historical debate. Some scholars suggest the poem might have been written by Henry Livingston Jr., though Moore's authorship is the most commonly accepted.

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