

A-Book-A-Week: Classroom Instruction

The Night Before Christmas

<p>Activity Card #1</p>	<p>Literacy Development Category Acts of Writing - The Letter D</p>
<p>Suggested Activity Order</p> <p><i>While A-Book-A-Week does not teach the alphabet in a systematic fashion, we do work to increase children's awareness of the letters of the alphabet and the sounds they make. Today, we specifically highlight the letter D.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Begin by asking the children which animals guided Santa's sleigh. Then, re-read the page in the book where Santa calls the reindeer by name. 2. Distribute the reindeer name cards to 8 children, making sure that each child knows which is his or her "reindeer name". 3. Re-read the page, having each reindeer stand up next to a reindeer partner. Repeat this, encouraging the children to join in as you call out the reindeer names. 4. On the blackboard, write a large upper case and large lower case D. Then write, "Now dash away! Dash away! Dash away all!" Point to letter D each time it appears. 5. Call children holding name cards for Dasher, Dancer, and Donder to stand near blackboard, and ask children if they notice anything about the beginnings of those reindeer names. This may be difficult for the children, so be prepared to point to the letter D at the start of the three names. 6. Conclude the lesson by showing children the D card from the <i>Winter Holiday Alphabet</i>. 	<p>Materials Needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> <u>The Night Before Christmas</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Reindeer cards at the end of this file <input type="checkbox"/> D card from alphabet set

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Activity Card #2	Literacy Development Category Lots of Links: The Candy Cane Sleigh
Suggested Activity Order <i>This activity creates links between the "miniature sleigh" in the book and reading and following a recipe.</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Re-read the page in the book that begins, "When, what to my wondering eyes..."2. Ask children in what type of vehicle St. Nick or Santa carries his toys.3. Show children the <i>Candy Cane Sleigh</i> recipe, then read it aloud to them.4. Next, show children the ingredients you have brought for making your own "miniature sleighs".5. Demonstrate the construction of the candy cane sleigh, referring frequently to the directions on your recipe page.6. Post the directions at a <i>Candy Cane Sleigh</i> center that children can visit during the day to make their own sleighs.7. Create a display area in the classroom for the sleigh-makers to show off their work. Send these home at the end of the week.	Materials Needed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Candy Cane Sleigh</i> recipe at the end of this file<input type="checkbox"/> Graham crackers, icing, candy canes<input type="checkbox"/> Paper plates, one for each sleigh-maker (be sure to write children's names on these)<input type="checkbox"/> <u>The Night Before Christmas</u>

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Activity Card #3	Literacy Development Category: Artist's Craft: Imagery
Suggested Activity Order <i>Clement Clarke Moore's poem, composed for his daughter in 1822, has been a hit since its publication in 1823. Children may want to know that Moore based his description of Santa Claus on a handyman who wore a red parka and often gave sugarplums to children as he worked. It may surprise you to know that Santa's coming down the chimney originated in this poem, as did his use of reindeer to guide his sleigh!</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Tell children a bit about Clement Clarke Moore and this poem.2. Using the <i>Exploring Imagery</i> guide, lead your children to demonstrate, discuss, and change Moore's images in this poem.	Materials Needed: <ul style="list-style-type: none">□ <i>Exploring Imagery</i> guide at the end of this file

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Activity Card #4	Literacy Development Category: Language Development: Reciting a stanza
Suggested Activity Order <i>Without a doubt, <u>The Night Before Christmas</u> is one of America's best known poems. Create a surprise for families and pride for your students by helping them learn to recite the opening stanza of this poem. Those who celebrate Christmas can recite it on Christmas eve in their homes.</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Remind children that we have been learning many different rhymes this year. Explain that <u>The Night Before Christmas</u> is a poem that rhymes just like their nursery rhymes.2. Read the first stanza ("Twas the night..."). Help children to see that <i>house</i> and <i>mouse</i> are rhyming words.3. Chant this stanza several times. You can use the cloze procedure that you use during A-Rhyme-A-Week: Twas the night before Christmas When all through the ____, Not a creature was stirring, Not even a ____.4. Re-read the book, having your students supply the first stanza and encouraging them to join in on any other sections they may now know.	Materials Needed: <input type="checkbox"/> <u>The Night Before Christmas</u>

Dasher



Dancer

Prancer



Vixen

Comet



Cupid

Donder



Blixen





The Candy Cane Sleigh

Ingredients you will need:

Graham crackers

Icing

Candy canes

1. Take 1 graham cracker.
2. Put icing on the bottom edges (long sides only)
3. Place the graham cracker on 2 candy canes with their hooks curling up.



This recipe came from the website below.

<http://craftpals.org/kids/xmas/>

Exploring Imagery

Explain to children that poets work hard to use language that will let us "see" what they are describing. Use the following stanzas to start discussions.

Twas the night before Christmas/when all through the house/not a creature was stirring/not even a mouse.

Children can discuss, describe and demonstrate how little noise a mouse might make when it is stirring.

The children were nestled/all snug in their beds/While visions of sugarplums/danced in their heads.

Children can demonstrate what it would look like to be "nestled" and "snug".

His eyes - how they twinkled!/His dimples, how merry!/His cheeks were like roses,/his nose like a cherry!

Children can discuss why Santa's nose might look like a cherry. You might also ask them what else Mr. Moore could have written to get readers and listeners to think of something small and red.

He had a broad face/and a round little belly/That shook when he laughed/like a bowl full of jelly.

Children can demonstrate how wide they think "a round little belly" might be. Ask children to think of other things that would wobble in a bowl (jello) that Mr. Moore might have written instead.