

Narrative Analysis of 'Twas the Night Before Christmas

This is Narrative Developmental Stage 6 - A Complex Episode

From the Perspective of the Narrator (main character, "father")



'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through 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 danced in their heads;
And mamma 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,



(INFERRED FEELING: Startled)



(INFERRED MENTAL STATE: Thought something was "the matter")



(INFERRED PLAN: To find out what happened ("the matter"))



I sprang from my 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.



(SAW THAT) The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow,
Gave a lustre of midday to objects below,



When what to my wondering eyes did appear,
But a miniature sleigh and eight tiny reindeer,
With a little old driver so lively and quick,

I knew in a moment he 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 and Vixen!
On, Comet! on, Cupid! on, Donner and Blitzen!
To the top of the porch! to the top of the wall!
Now dash away! dash away! dash away all!"



As leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,
When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky;
So up to the housetop 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 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.
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 on 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 laughed, like a bowl full of jelly.
He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf,



And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself; (Surprised and Amused, but Cautious)



A wink of his eye and a twist of his head
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread; (realized...)



(Inferred PLAN: To observe Santa in action)



(He noticed that) He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,



(He watched) And filled all the stockings; then turned with a jerk,



(He saw) And laying his finger aside of his nose,



(He witnessed) 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.



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

Frayer Model Diagram

Definitions

Medieval horses known for their speed and endurance. Used in battle as messenger horses, or by kings to add speed to their travel, or to carry equipment or armed soldiers. Noblemen rode them while Hunting.

Characteristics

- light, fast and strong
- Valuable
- Tall, deep head, thick neck
- Excitable and enthusiastic
- Ran and jumped well

coursers



Examples

“More rapid than eagles his coursers they came”

Coursers were valuable horses in the middle ages because of their speed and endurance.

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SOURCE: <https://www.allhorsebreeds.info/50/courser/>.

Frayer Model Diagram

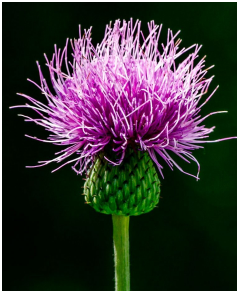
Definitions

A thistle is a flowering plant, sometimes considered a weed. There are about 200 species of thistle worldwide. When the thistle flower turns to seed, “thistledown” disperses the seeds through the air.

Characteristics

- Purple flower
- spiny, thorny leaves
- White, feathery down to carry seeds
- Thistledown is similar to seeds of a dandelion
- The Down of the Thistle spreads quickly far and wide
- Part of the Sunflower family and can grow upwards of 6 feet

Down of a thistle



“And away they all flew like the down of a thistle.”

“The reindeer would be able to cover vast distances, both quickly and silently. When the reindeer are aloft, they would be as difficult to spot as thistle seeds.”

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SGM CHARACTER MAP

STUDENT

Santa Claus in 'Twas the Night Before Christmas

Age / Gender	(who)	Physical Appearance
Grandfather age man		Dressed in fur tarnished with ashes
"beard was white as snow"		Looked like a peddler
		Rosy cheeks, red nose
		Broad face, round belly
		Chubby and plump
		Looked like an elf



Personality	(because)	Likes / Dislikes
Joyful (eyes twinkled)		Delivering
Happy ("merry" dimples)		toys in a pack
Jolly (jolly old elf, belly shook when he laughed)		[to children]
		Smoking a
		pipe
		Laughing

Compare and Contrast Map

Name _____

Date _____

YOUR
PLAN



Show how two or more components or ideas are the same or different.

Key Words:

Compare; same, alike, similar, both, all

Contrast; different, unlike, but, however, rather than

Topics: **DEER**

REINDEER

DIFFERENT



- Live on all continents except Australia and Antarctica
- Adapt to moderate climate in meadows, savannas and forests
- Long thin legs with pointed hooves
- Only male has antlers- which are long forked, pointed
- Less dense fur



- Live in circumpolar and polar parts of Europe, North America and Asia
- Adapt to cold climate (boreal forests and arctic tundra)
- Long, stumpy legs that make a clicking sound and wide, split hooves that are completely covered in hair
- Male and female have antlers that are large in comparison to body size
- Dense fur that even covers their nose!

SAME

Belong to the family "Cervidae"

Hoofed mammals with four legs

Have antlers

The velvet fur on antlers sheds once a year.

Herbivores

Hunted by humans and bears.

Social animals, live in herds

Can be domesticated

Topic Sentence: _____

Reference: _____