An Extract from Clement C. Moore's

Twas The Night Before Christmas

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 of his chin was as
white as the snow.



Quick Questions



1. How did St. Nicholas enter the house?



2. **'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?

   Accept answers which state that he came down the chimney.



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

   Accept answers which state that tarnished means dirtied, ruined, marked or damaged.



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

   Accept answers which state that this description tells the reader about the round shape of his nose or the bright red colour.



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

   Accept any reasonable prediction which could logically happen in the poem, such as St Nicholas introducing himself, St Nicholas leaving the presents beneath the tree or him brushing the dust off his suit.