

# 'Twas the Night Before Christmas, When All Through the Cell...



To complement your study of cells, you will be rewriting the famous Christmas poem, "'Twas the Night Before Christmas." In this poem, you are required to make the following changes:

1. The first line must read, "'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the cell..."
2. You must include AT LEAST 10 of the following words in your poem.

Nucleus	Nucleolus	Ribosome	Plasma Membrane
Smooth ER	Lysosome	Mitochondria	Chloroplast
Cell Wall	Golgi Apparatus	Rough ER	Centriole
Cytoplasm	Flagella	Cilia	Plastid
Vacuole	Cytoskeleton	Microtubules	Microfilaments

3. You must use your 10 words in a way that displays your knowledge of the word.
4. You must maintain the original meter and topic of the poem so that it is recognizable, but you do not need to include every verse of the poem.
5. Extra Credit available for the use of more than 10 words, and for poetry that is neatly written and decorated in a holiday theme!

SAMPLE POEM MIGHT BEGIN:

*'Twas the night before Christmas and all through the cell,  
A vacuole collected water like a bucket in a well.*

## DUE DECEMBER 22!!

**'Twas the Night Before Christmas  
or Account of a Visit from St. Nicholas**

by

**Major Henry Livingston Jr. (1748-1828)**

**(previously believed to be by Clement Clarke Moore)**

'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 down 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 miniature sleigh, and eight tiny reindeer,

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 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 that 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 hand, 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;

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 bowlful of jelly.

He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf,  
And I laughed 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 filled all the stockings; then turned with a jerk,  
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.  
But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight,  
"HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL, AND TO ALL A GOOD-NIGHT"