



2020

Twas the Night Before Christmas

Rachel Wadham

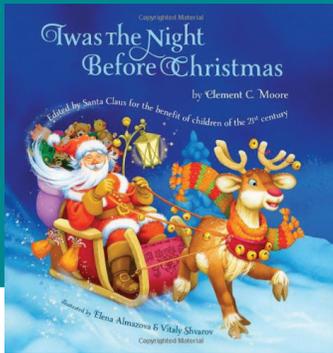
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Book Review

Twas the Night Before Christmas

Author

Clement C. Moore

Illustrator

P.J. Lynch

Reviewer

Rachel Wadham

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Rating

Outstanding

Level

Toddler, Preschool,
Primary, Intermediate

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Pages

32

Year

2021

ISBN

9781536222852

Publisher

Candlewick Press

The night before Christmas, everyone is asleep—that is, until the master of the house hears a clatter outside the window. Finding that St. Nick has made his yearly visit, the master watches as gifts are left. With his task complete, St. Nick goes up the chimney wishing the quiet world a very happy Christmas.

The classic Clement Moore poem has been rendered in a variety of styles over the years, and Lynch's offering adds another delightful addition to that canon. Because the text is so familiar, it is the illustrations that stand out, with style and details that set the poem rightly in a historical context and realism that makes them nearly timeless. Lynch uses a range of perspectives to great effect as he emphasizes each part of the story, from a pulled-back view with only parts of the sleigh visible in the opening pages, to an overhead view when the reindeer land on the roof, to an extreme closeup of St. Nick after he comes down the chimney. The color pallet is subdued yet rich, allowing the details of each image to shine through and asking readers to linger on each page. Making the familiar new again, Lynch's reimagining of this classic is certain to be a new Christmas favorite shared with many families.