

EXCERPT FROM CLEMENT MOORE’S “T’WAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS”

Student Name _____ Hour _____

Part I: *Underline phrases in Moore’s poem that use similes. Write these phrases in the box provided.*

...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;
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;...

Write all similes you find.

He looked like a peddler

His cheeks were like roses

His nose like a cherry

Mouth drawn up like a bow

Beard as white as the snow

Smoke encircle his head like a wreath

Belly shook like a bowl full of jelly

Source: Moore, C. (1822). *A visit from St. Nicholas* (excerpted). Poetry Foundation. Retrieved from:
<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/43171/a-visit-from-st-nicholas>

Part II: *What did Clement Moore leave out when describing Santa Claus? His boots? His hair? His red Santa suit? His reindeer? His sleigh? With your partner, write three separate sentences using metaphors to describe three of Santa’s features that Moore left out.*