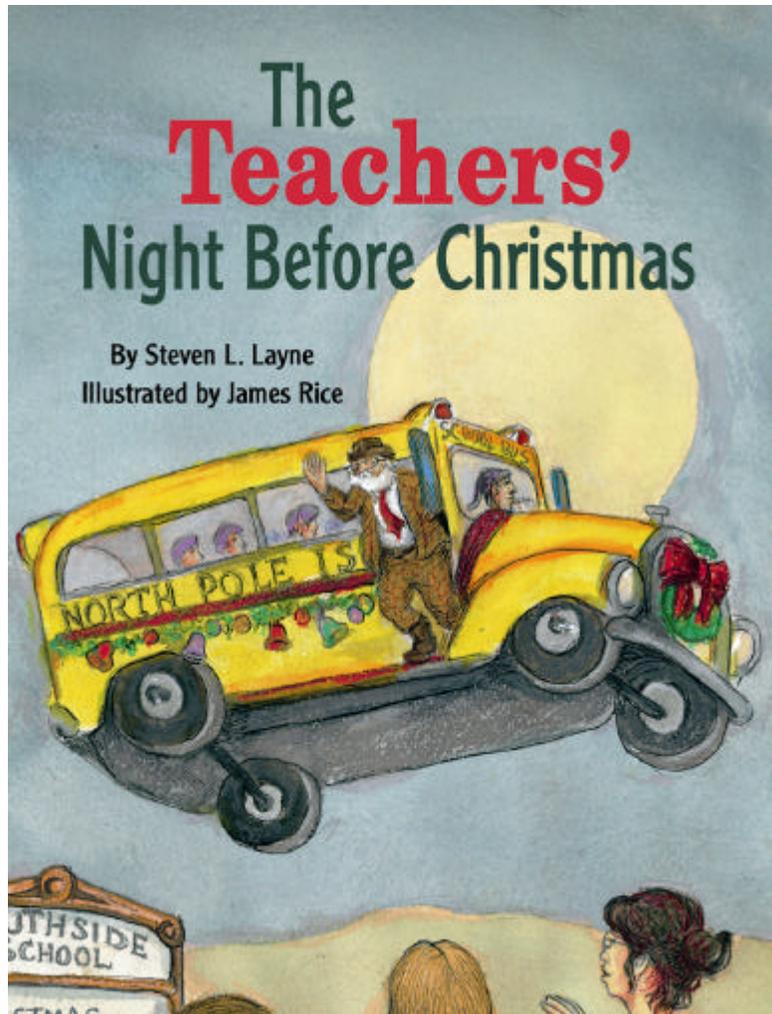


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Study Guide for  
*The Teachers' Night Before Christmas*  
By Dr. Steven Layne  
Illustrated by James Rice



**This study guide has activities featuring.....**

**Read and Respond**  
**Compare and Contrast**  
**Poetry Patterns**  
**Games**  
**Puzzles**  
**Art**

Study Guide created by  
Jill Cole Ed.D  
Henry-Senachwine Grade School

**Worksheets to  
Photocopy**



# READ & RESPOND

Opinions are important. What is your opinion of The Teachers' Night Before Christmas, which was written by Steven Layne and illustrated by James Rice? Use the following questions to help you think about your opinion of the book.

1. List all the things the class in the book does during the week before Christmas. Can you find 8 activities? What does your class do the week before Christmas?
2. Does your family have any Christmas traditions? List 3 things your family does *every* Christmas. These are your family's Christmas traditions!

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_

3. Notice the expressions on the faces of the characters in the book. Choose one that shows how you feel at Christmas. Tell why you chose that one.
4. Find the page where the children are having a scavenger hunt. Discuss the illustration with a friend, and then plan a scavenger hunt for your class. Divide your class into groups of 4 or 5 children. Give each group the following list and a paper bag. Whichever group finds all the items first and has them in their paper bag, wins!

- |                                  |                      |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| a pencil with red or green on it | a piece of tinsel    |
| a candy cane                     | a bell               |
| a Christmas card                 | a star               |
| a picture of an elf              | a Christmas ornament |
| a Christmas sticker              | a picture of Santa   |
| a piece of wrapping paper        | a picture of Rudolph |

5. What is your opinion of The Teachers' Night Before Christmas? Do you think it is a good Christmas book? Is there anything in the book you would change? Would you tell a friend to read it? Why or why not?
6. Christmas can be an exciting time for you and a time to be especially nice to others. Write down something nice you can do for your class this Christmas season. What can you do for your teacher to make his or her Christmas merrier?







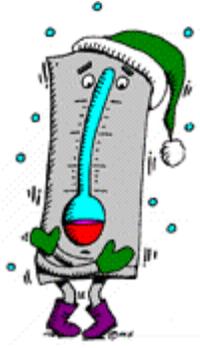
# COMPARE & CONTRAST

Have you ever read the original version of The Night Before Christmas by Clement Moore? Find a copy in your classroom or the library and read it with a friend. Use the diagram below to compare and contrast The Night Before Christmas with The Teachers' Night Before Christmas. In the top square, list things about The Teachers' Night Before Christmas that are unique and that only happen in *that* book. In the bottom square, list things about The Night Before Christmas that are unique and only happen in *that* book. In the middle, where the two squares overlap, list things about the two books that are the same. Now you have completed a comparison/contrast of two books. Good for you!

## The Teachers' Night Before Christmas

## The Night Before Christmas





# YULETIDE BINGO!

In the book The Teachers' Night Before Christmas, the students get to play Yuletide Bingo. Use the Bingo card on this page to play, too. Think of as many Christmas words as you can and write them on a list or on the blackboard. Also write them on small pieces of paper and put them in a box. Choose 24 of the words to write in the squares on your Bingo card. Have your classmates do the same. Ask someone to pull a word from the box and call it out. If the word is on your Bingo card, use a marker (these may be pennies, game pieces, tiny cut-up paper pieces, or math cubes, etc.) to cover it. Keep going, and the first person to have 5 words in a row covered (up and down, across, or diagonally) wins! The winner gets to pull the Christmas words from the box for the next game. Have fun and Merry Christmas!

		<b>FREE</b>		





# POETRY PATTERNS

One of the things that makes The Teachers' Night Before Christmas so much fun to read is that it is written in poem form. Poetry comes in many different patterns, but the pattern in this book is called ABCB. Look at the stanza below that begins the book and see how it is labeled.

"Twas the week before Christmas	A
And all through the town	B
Every schoolteacher scurried –	C
They could not slow down.	B

Do you see how the two lines that are labeled B are the ones that rhyme? The lines labeled A and C do not rhyme. Any lines that rhyme are labeled the same letter. Can you label the next stanza from the Teachers' Night Before Christmas?

Their brains were all frazzled	___
From school celebrations	___
And the seasonal rush	___
Of <i>pre-Christmas</i> vacation.	___

Now you're ready to write some ABCB poetry of your own! Read the following lines and see if you can fill in the blanks. Share your poetry with a friend.

Santa is coming  
He dresses in red.  
I leave him some cookies

Rudolph's a reindeer  
He leads Santa's sleigh.  
His nose is a red one,

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Can you write a poem with an AABB pattern? Read the sample poem and then try one of your own. Collect your poems and the ones written by your classmates and make a Christmas Poetry Book. Read them for your family on Christmas Eve!

Presents are so much fun to get,	A	_____
I like every one I've gotten yet.	A	_____

They come wrapped in colorful paper galore	B	_____
That ends up crumpled all over the floor.	B	_____





# PUZZLE TIME

There are many long words in the story The Teachers' Night Before Christmas. However, you can find lots of short words inside the long ones! How many small words can you find inside this word:

## CELEBRATIONS

Did you find brat, bran, ton, tin, tons, bat, bit, not, rat, and rot? You can even find words like snail, trail, crab, brain, and train. All you have to do is rearrange the letters! Can you find more?

Here are more long words from the book. See how many small words you can find inside. Ask your friends to help you make long, long lists!

DEMOLITION

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COMMANDOS

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FRUITCAKE

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Now it's your turn to pick some long words from The Teachers' Night Before Christmas. Trade words with a friend and see how many small words you can find.



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# SANTA ART

James Rice draws the perfect Santa for teachers in The Teachers' Night Before Christmas. His Santa wears glasses, appropriate clothes for teaching, and, as the book says, "He was quite the professor." Study the details of the "teacher" Santa below. Now you can create a Santa for another occupation. Choose from this list or come up with your own. Have fun sketching the details of your Santa like James Rice did!

Doctor

Nurse

Veterinarian

Author

Comedian

Police Officer

Fireman

Pilot

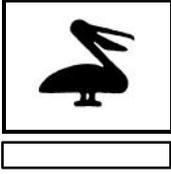
Ballerina

Banker

Basketball Player

Computer Programmer





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## ***THE TEACHERS' NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS***

**By Steven Layne**

**Illustrated by James Rice**

What do excited students, craft projects, room mothers, nursing home visits, harried shopping, and near-disastrous pageants have in common?

They are all a part of a teacher's pre-Christmas experience. In this energetic romp through a school's last days before the Christmas break, the students are full of energy and are up to all manner of mischief. But the teachers are pulling out their hair trying to keep the students busy, while they despair over their own Christmas preparations.

Who should come to the rescue? Santa himself, of course! And he arrives at the helm of a flying school bus, with presents for all the teachers and a promise to take care of their shopping for them. The fantastic illustrations work with the text to make this a fast-paced, high-energy comedic interpretation of Clement C. Moore's classic poem. The book is sure to be a read-aloud favorite at Christmas parties in schools everywhere.

Steven L. Layne is a junior-high language arts teacher in Oak Brook, Illinois, and an adjunct faculty member in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction at Northern Illinois University. He is a member of the International Reading Association, the College Reading Association, and the Northern Illinois Reading Council. He is a recipient the ICARE Reading Award, presented by the State of Illinois Council for Affective Reading Education in 2000, and in 1999 was named the Junior High Reading Educator of the Year by the Illinois Reading Council. He is also author of *Thomas's Sheep and the Great Geography Test*.

Widely acclaimed as the South's leading illustrator of juvenile books, James Rice is the illustrator and/or author of fifty-plus titles with over 1.5 million copies in print. Rice was born on a farm in Coleman County, Texas, and currently resides in Hico, Texas. He has taught art at the grammar school, high school, and university levels, and enjoys talking to schoolchildren across the country about writing and art.