

'Twas the Night Before Christmas
Maria Morales

'Twas the night before Christmas and all through the **casa**, house
Not a creature was stirring, **¡Caramba! ¿Qué pasa?** Wow, what's happening
Los niños were all tucked away in their **camas**, beds
Some in long underwear, some in **pijamas**.

While **Mamá** worked late in her little **cocina**, kitchen
El Viejo was down at the corner **cantina** the old one, bar
Living it up with **amigos. ¡Carracho!** friends

The stockings were hung with **mucho cuidado**, much care
In hopes that St. Nicholas would feel **obligado** obligated
To bring all the children, both **buenos y malos**, good and bad
A nice batch of **dulces** and other **regalos**, sweets, gifts
Outside in the yard there arose such a **grito** loud noise
That I jumped to my feet like a frightened **cabrito**. kid (cabra=goat)

I ran to the window and looked out **fuera**, outside
And who in the world do you think that it **era?** was
St. Nick in a sleigh and a big red **sombrero** hat
Came dashing along like a crazy **bombero!** fireman
And pulling his sleigh, instead of **venados**, (rein)deer
Were eight little **burros**, approaching **volados**. donkeys, flying

I watched as they came, and this quaint little **hombre** man
Was shouting and whistling and calling by **nombre:** name

**“Ay, Pancho! Ay Pepe! Ay, Cuca! Ay, Beto!
Ay, Chato! Ay, Chopo! Ay, Nacho! Ay Nieto!”**

Then standing erect with his hand on his **pecho** chest
He flew to the top of our very own **techo**. roof
With his round little belly like a bowl of **jalea**, jelly
He struggled to squeeze down our old **chimenea**. chimney
Then buffing and puffing, at last in our **sala**, living room
With soot smeared all over his red suit **de gala**, “party suit”
He filled all the stockings with lovely **regalos**, gifts
For none of the **niños** had been very **malos**. children, bad

Then, chuckling aloud, seeming very **contento**, happy/content
He turned like a flash and was gone like **el viento**. the wind
And I heard him exclaim – and this is **verdad:** true

“Merry Christmas to all! **¡Feliz Navidad!**”