"Twas the night before Christmas...

An' all t're de house
Dey don't a t'ing pass
Not even a mouse.

De chirren been needle
Good snug on de floor
An' Mama pass de pepper
T'ru de crack on de do.

Den Mama in de fireplace
Done ross' up de ham
Stir up de gumbo
An' make bake de yam.

Den out on de by-you
Dey got such a clatter
Make soum' like old Boudreaux
Done fall off his ladder.

I run like a rabbit
To get to do
Trip over de dorg
An' fall on de flo!

As I look out de do'
In de light o' de moon
I tink 'Manh, you crazy
Or got ot' too soon.'

Cuz dere on de by-you
Wen I stretch ma' neck stiff
Dere's eight alligator
A pullin' de skiff.

An' a little fat druver
Wit a long pole-ing stick
I know r'at away
Got to be ole St. Nick.
Mo' fas'er and fas'er

His nose like a cherry
On secon' ought maybe
He lap up de sherry.

Wit' snow-white chin whisker
An' quiverin' belly
He shook w'en he laugh
Like de strumberry jelly!
But a wink in his eye
An' a shoo shoo de his head
Make my confidence dat
I don't got to be scared.

He don' do no talkin'
Gone straight to his work
Put play'ing in sock
An' den turn wit' a jerk.

He put bot' his han'
Dere on top o' his head
Cas' an eye on de chimney
An' den he done said:
"Wit' all dat fire
An' dem burnin' hot flame
Me I ain' goin' back
By de way dat I came."

So he run out de do'
An' he clim' to de roof
He ain' no fool, him
For to make one more goop.

He jump in his skiff
An' crack his big whip
De 'gator move down
An' don' make one slip.

An' I hear him shout loud
As a splashin' he go
"Merry Christmas to all!
Till I saw you some mo'!"

UPCOMING STORIES:
Dec. 27 — Cap-O' Rushee
(Fairy Tale from British Isles)
Jan. 5 — Three Billy Goats
Gruff (A Tale from Sweden)
Jan. 10 — Two Frogs (A Tale from Japan)

Children's Story Time will occasionally alternate with 'Tell Me A Story'. Children's Story Time are books or stories written by Louisiana authors.