



Peeking Past the Curtains

I'm peeking past the curtains in the still of night;
 the moon's shining down and the stars look bright.
 I'm looking out for someone who has brought me joy,
 since my early years of childhood as a tiny boy.

I remember all those times when he left me toys;
 figures, cars and games making lots of noise;
 dressing up as heroes; playing spaceship wars,
 ripping wrapping paper, laughing on all-fours.

Looking at the lamp-post with its amber glow,
 watching golden glimmers as it starts to snow,
 I think of all the Christmases now in the past,
 hoping that their memories will always last.



Q1: Find and copy a phrase which shows that the night is quiet.



Q2: List three things that the poet received for Christmas as a child.

- _____
- _____
- _____



Q3: What impression does the reader get about the poet's childhood?

Give a reason.



Glancing down the road and the snow's quite thick,
 The pavement's totally covered and it's coming down quick,
 It looks like heavy icing laying on the cars;
 deep and soft and chunky like white candy bars.

I think of all the presents gathered by the tree,
 twinkling under coloured lights so peacefully.
 Soon the sun will rise, bringing us Christmas cheer,
 silence will be broken and new gifts appear.

Off we'll stomp like elephants running down the stairs,
 laughing like hyenas, rushing past the chairs,
 skidding to a halt beneath the Christmas tree,
 tearing open presents as Mum sips her tea.



Q4: Why does the author describe the snow on the cars as like 'heavy icing'?

Q5: Where does the poet say that the presents are gathered?



Q6: Which word in the final verse means the same as 'stop'?

Q7: Why do you think that the silence will be broken when the sun rises?



We'll play all day, we'll watch a film, we'll eat our sprouts,
we'll smile into our cameras giving lots of pouts,
Grandpa will be snoring in his favourite space,
Mum will soldier on to tidy up the place.

I turn again to look out at the night time scene:
the moon shines on the snowfall with a silvery gleam,
I stare into the skies; into the crisp black air,
I hold my hands together and I say a prayer.

I pray for all my family, and for others too,
I pray for all their dreams and then I pray for you.

I'm looking out for someone that I still believe,
I'm peeking past the curtains on a Christmas Eve.



Q8: Who do you think the poet has been looking for? Give a reason for your answer.



Q9: How old do you think the poet is? What gives you that impression?

Q10: How does the poet's Christmas Day compare to a celebration in your house?



Q11: What do you think the key point of this poem is?





Peeking Past the Curtains Answers

Q1: Find and copy a phrase which shows that the night is quiet.

Accept the phrase 'in the still of the night' or any section of it which conveys the same message.

Q2: List three things that the poet received for Christmas as a child.

Accept any three of the following items:

- figures
- cars
- games
- superhero costumes
- toy spaceships

Q3: What impression does the reader get about the poet's childhood? Give a reason.

Accept answers which discuss the fact that the poet had a happy childhood which is looked back on fondly, based on any of the following extracts from the text:

- brought me joy since my early years of childhood as a tiny boy
- I remember all those times when he left me toys
- laughing on all-fours
- hoping that their memories will always last

Q4: Why does the author describe the snow on the cars as like 'heavy icing'?

Accept answers which discuss giving the reader a good image of what the cars look like, or answers which explore any of the following themes:

- The snow completely covers the cars like icing completely covers a cake.
- You can't see through the snow just like you can't see through icing on a cake.
- The snow goes over the top of the cars like icing goes over the top of cakes.

Q5: Where does the poet say that the presents are gathered?

Accept the answer 'by the tree' or 'by the Christmas tree'. Do NOT accept the answer 'under the Christmas tree'.

Q6: Which word in the final verse means the same as 'stop'?

Accept the answer 'halt' only.

Q7: Why do you think that the silence will be broken when the sun rises?

Accept answers which discuss the fact that the children will wake up with excitement when the sun rises knowing that it is Christmas morning and, therefore, may be shouting, laughing and making noise, e.g.

- The silence will be broken because the children will get up when the sun rises and make noise when they see all of their presents.

Q8: Who do you think the poet has been looking for? Give a reason for your answer.

Accept the answer 'Father Christmas' or any other name for the same person, provided that a valid reason is given in support of their answer, such as:

- **I think it is Father Christmas because the poet says that he 'brought him joy' as a child by leaving him toys and that it something Father Christmas does.**
- **I think it is Santa because he is looking out of the window on Christmas Eve and that is when Santa arrives.**
- **I think it's Father Christmas because the poet says he still believes in him and lots of people believe in Father Christmas at that time of year.**

Q9: How old do you think the poet is? What gives you that impression?

Accept answers which infer that the poet is either a teen, young adult or adult due to the fact he is reminiscing about childhood Christmases and states that he 'still believes', inferring that it is after quite a few years, e.g.

- **I think the poet is around 20 because he is talking about receiving toys for Christmas when he was little, which tells me that he isn't little anymore.**

Q10: How does the poet's Christmas Day compare to a celebration in your house?

Accept any reasonable comparison between any celebration experienced in that child's household compared to that discussed in the poem, such as:

- **The little boy gets presents on Christmas morning and I get presents on Eid morning.**
- **The family all eat and watch films together on Christmas Day in the poem and we do the same thing when it is someone in my family's birthday.**

Q11: What do you think the key point of this poem is?

Accept answers which discuss that the key point of the poem is about the poet who sits watching for Father Christmas on Christmas Eve whilst reminiscing about his childhood memories of Christmas, e.g.

- **The key point of the poem is that an adult thinks about Christmas in the past whilst he waits for Santa to come.**