

THE HELPFUL CHRISTMAS MOUSE

Divide the group into **three smaller groups** and assign each group one of the words listed below. Read the story. After each of the words is read pause for the group to make the appropriate response.

MOUSE "SQUEAK, SQUEAK",

SANTA "HO, HO, HO"

NIGHT "HO-HUM"

'Twas the **NIGHT** __ before Christmas, and fast asleep in the house,
Was wonders of wonders a little fat **MOUSE** __.
A **MOUSE** __ sleeping at **NIGHT** __, oh what a riot,
But the reason it happened, he was on a diet.
How the **MOUSE** __'s stomach began to hurt and growl,
But since he was dieting, at **NIGHT** __ he shouldn't prowl.
Mom was so thoughtful before she retired at **NIGHT** __,
And for dear old **SANTA** __ she had left a bite.
That **NIGHT** __ in his dreams, the **MOUSE** __'s nose did twitch,
As the smell of the food into his nostrils crept!
Soon the poor little **MOUSE** __ began to claw at his nose
Then he began to quiver from his head to his toes.
Though he was trying to sleep with all of his might,
His sleep had been ruined for the rest of the **NIGHT** __.
So up the **MOUSE** __ got and with a great, big yawn,
He peeked out the window and there on the lawn,
He saw something there that was, indeed a strange sight,
For there sat **SANTA** __ in the cold, dark **NIGHT** __.
He was holding his beg as if ready to leave,
But great salty tears were bouncing off his sleeve.
The **MOUSE** __ just stood there as if in fright,
Trying to imagine what was wrong that **NIGHT** __.
Then he crept to the door and threw it open wide,
And motioned for **SANTA** __ to come and join him inside.
So **SANTA** __ came in and sat down with the **MOUSE** __
And confessed that **NIGHT** __ he felt like a louse.
He had eaten so much during the Holiday Season,
He almost got stuck in the chimney and that was the reason.

So **SANTA** ___ and the **MOUSE** ___ made a contract that **NIGHT** ___
That he would help **SANTA** ___ make Christmas come out right.
So off they went together, Old **SANTA** ___ and that **MOUSE** ___
To pay the yearly visit to each and every house.
With the fat little **MOUSE** ___ so filled with delight,
As he ate for old **SANTA** ___ all the snacks left that **NIGHT** ___.
When the journey was over, the **MOUSE** ___ returned to his home,
With his stomach full of goodies, he no longer wanted to roam.
But he had followed **SANTA** ___ and helped a Merry Christmas to give,
So he'd just sacrifice and as a fat **MOUSE** ___ live.
When he went fast to sleep with not a worry in him,
Since he had eaten all **NIGHT** ___ he would just dream he was slim.