

You know Dasher and Dancer
Prancer and Vixen,
You know Comet and Cupid
Donner and Blitzen.
Say you recall?
That most important reindeer of all?

Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer
Had a very shiny nose,
And if you ever saw it,
You would even say it glows.

All of the other reindeer
Used to laugh him and call him names;
They never let poor Rudolph
Join in any reindeer games.

Then one foggy Christmas Eve,
Santa came to say,
Rudolph with your nose so bright,
Won't you guide my sleigh tonight?

Then how the reindeer loved him
When they shouted out with glee,
Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer,
You'll go down in history. 2x



In 1823, the *Troy Sentinel* (The **Troy Sentinel** was a semi-weekly newspaper published between 1823-1832, which served Rensselaer County in upstate New York) published the poem *A Visit From St. Nicholas*, commonly known as *The Night Before Christmas*. The poem features eight flying reindeer pulling Santa's sleigh and, for the first time, they are identified by name:

When what to my wondering eyes should appear,
But a miniature sleigh and eight tiny reindeer,
With a little old driver, so lively and quick
I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick.

More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,
And he whistled and shouted and called them
by name;

"Now, Dasher! now, Dancer! now, Prancer and
Vixen!

On, Comet! on, Cupid! on, Dunder and
Blixem!

To the top of the porch, to the top of the wall!
Now, dash away, dash away, dash away all!"

"Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer" is a song written by Johnny Marks based on the 1939 story Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer published by the Montgomery Ward Company.

A recorded version by Gene Autry became a No. 1 hit in the U.S. during Christmas 1949. It was the first No. 1 song of the 1950s, the official date of its No. 1 status being for the week ending 7 January 1950. Autry's recording sold 1.75 million copies its first Christmas season, and went on to sell more than 12.5 million copies. In total, if counting more than 300 different cover versions of the song, the sales of "Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer" are well over 150 million copies, making it one of the best-selling single of all time, just behind "White Christmas".