



Ririro

READ ANYWHERE, ANYTIME

A Rhyme For Christmas

John Challing

If Browning only were here,
This yule-ish time o' the year—
This mule-ish time o' the year,—
Stubbornly still refusing
To add to the rhymes we've been using
Since the first Christmas-glee
(One might say) chantingly
Rendered by rudest hinds
Of the pelt-clad shepherding kinds
Who didn't know Song from b-U-double-l's-foot!—
Pah!—(Haply the old Egyptian *ptah*—
Though I'd hardly wager a baw-
Bee—or a bumble, for that—
And that's flat!)

But the thing that I want to get at
Is a rhyme for Christmas—
Nay! nay! nay! nay! not *isthmus*—
The t- and the h- sounds covertly are
Gnawing the nice auricular
Senses until one may hear them gnar—
And the terminal, too, for *mas*, is *mus*,
So that will not do for us.



Try for it—sigh for it—cry for it—die for it!
O but if Browning were here to apply for it,
He'd rhyme you Christmas—
He'd make a *mist pass*
Over—something or other—
Or find you the rhyme's very brother
In lovers that *kissed fast*
To baffle the moon,—as he'd lose the t-final
In *fas-t* as it blended with *to* (mark the spinal
Elision—tip-clipt as exquisitely nicely
And hyper-exactly sliced to precisely
The extremest technical need): Or he'd *twist glass*,
Or he'd have a *kissed lass*,
Or shake neath our noses some great giant *fist-mass*—
No matter! If Robert were here, he could do it,
Though it took us till Christmas next year to see through it.

Stories help us explore cultures, learn moral lessons, connect with nature — or simply have fun. That's why ririro.com offers 3,000+ free stories — fairy tales, fables, bedtime stories, myths and more — for every age, in 13 languages, with free printable PDFs and often audio. Reading should be a right, not a privilege. Share ririro.com and spread the joy of reading.

Instagram: @ririro_reading · Pinterest: pinterest.com/ririrocom