



# T'was the Night before Testing

By Laura O'Riffel

T'was the night before Testing, when all through the school  
Not a student was stirring, not even Joe Cool.  
The pre-tests were hung by the hallway with care,  
In hopes that Spring Break soon would be there.

The children were nestled all snug in their beds,  
While visions of passing tests danced in their heads.  
And the custodian who'd finished sweeping the halls in a snap,  
Had just settled his brain for a short springtime nap.

When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,  
He sprang from the hallway to see what was the matter.  
Away to the window he flew like a flash,  
swung open the door and knocked over some trash.

The moon on the dew of the newly blooming crocus  
Gave the lustre of mid-day to objects in focus.  
When, what to his wondering eyes should be seen  
But eight tiny unicorns and a man dressed in green.

He was a little old man, so lively and sprite,  
He knew in a moment it must be his lucky night.  
More quiet than marshmallows his coursers they came,  
And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name!



"Now Confident! now, Pride! now, Prepared and Ready!  
On, Focused! On, Alert! , on Well-rested and Steady!  
To the top of the school! to the top of the wall!  
Now dash away! Dash away! Dash away all!"

As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,  
When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky.  
So up to the school-top the coursers they flew,  
With the cart full of pencils, and the tiny leprechaun too.

And then, in a twinkling, he heard on the roof  
The prancing and pawing of each little hoof.  
As the custodian drew in his head, and was turning around,  
Down the hallway the leprechaun came with a bound.

He was dressed all in green, from his head to his toes,  
And his clothes were all sparkly with glitter and bows.  
A bundle of number two pencils he had flung on his back,  
And he looked like a peddler, just opening his pack.

His eyes-how they twinkled! His dimples how merry!  
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry!  
His jolly little smile was as sly as a fox,  
And the beard of his chin was tiny red locks.

He also had feathers in every color of the rainbow.  
He said, "Remember the elephant who flew, named Dumbo?"  
"With these feathers the students will fly  
The tests will be cinchy and that's no lie."

He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf,  
And the custodian laughed when he saw him, in spite of himself!  
A wink of his eye and a twist of his head,  
Soon gave him to know he had nothing to dread.

He said, "Put a feather in every child's sock",  
it's a lucky feather that will make them rock."  
And blinking his eye he gave the custodian a wink,  
And giving a nod, down the hallway did shrink!

He sprang to his cart, to his team gave a whistle,  
And away they all flew like the down of a thistle.  
But the custodian heard him exclaim, 'ere he flew out of sight,  
"The students' test scores will be awesome and bright!"

Happy Testing to All and to All a Good Night

