

# Signs

In "Signs," the narrative illustrates the changing behavior of children as Christmas approaches, emphasizing their sudden adoption of good manners and obedience, as incited by the anticipation of Santa Claus's arrival. Through poetic verses, it paints a picture of young ones, who ordinarily may not always heed advice or tidy up after themselves, now transforming into paragons of virtue at the whisper of Santa's imminent visit. The text captures this seasonal transformation with lines that speak to children's efforts to be on their best behavior, showcasing how the essence of Christmas fills the air, making even the most mischievous child ready and willing to be tucked in bed early, without a protest, as a sign of Santa's nearing visit.

"The Family's Homely Man" shifts focus onto a different theme, celebrating an often-overlooked member within families—the homely man. This character, described with physical features that may not align with traditional standards of attractiveness, is portrayed as the embodiment of kindness, love, and wisdom. The poet emphasizes that while this man's outward appearance may be ordinary or even uncomely, it conceals a heart of gold and virtues that far outweigh physical looks. Through this characterization, the chapter venerates inner beauty and moral fiber over superficial attractiveness. It suggests that the homely man's presence is invaluable to the familial unit, providing a stabilizing source of love and sage advice, thereby making a case for reassessing the true worth of individuals based on their actions and character rather than their appearance. The chapter concludes with a reflective nod to the often-underestimated contribution of such individuals to their families and communities, imploring recognition and appreciation for their inherent worth before it's too late.