

# POETICAL PONDERERS

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The fill-in poem is a type of literary amusement popular in the late eighteenth century. Note that the fourth line in each quatrain does not rhyme with the second line, but if you substitute the appropriate word for each parenthesized word or phrase, it will rhyme and scan. Place the answers under each other, and you will have created an acrostic whose first and last letters reading downward generate the name of a famous soccer player.

The situation that the poem describes is a common one. The oldest child in the family tells the youngest one that there is no such person as Santa Claus. The youngster comes to you with the question and it is your job to convince the non-believer. There are two challenges contained in this poem. The first is the easy one of finding the answers and the corresponding double acrostic name. The second and much more difficult one is to compose the youngster's five response quatrains, using answers that spell out SANTA CLAUS on the first and last letters.

YES, VIRGINIA	Answer
Hear the reindeer On the roof; Noisy clatter Is my .. (evidence)	.....
You say I lie, You little weasel? He's bringing Dad A painter's .. (stand)	.....
Still deny it? This won't do; I'll find swearers, One or .. (a pair)	.....
Other people Say it's so: Hottentot and .. (Indian of north)	.....
Santa travels With his load Through the heavens, Not by .. (highway)	.....