



THE CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL OF GRAPHOLOGY

Advanced Diploma Course In Graphology

Seasonal Lecture

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Seasonal Lecture



SEASONAL LECTURE

FATHER CHRISTMAS HANDWRITING

As we are fast approaching the festive season, it occurred to me to write a lecture on something Christmassy. Images of Father Christmas are everywhere at the moment which gave me the idea for this lecture.

As you all know, Father Christmas or Santa Claus is portrayed as a jolly old man with white hair, white beard and moustache. He is dressed in a bright red suit with white trimmings. Interestingly, he used to be dressed in green, but his image was up-dated and popularised after the introduction of Coca Cola in the 1930s!

Santa Claus is based on the legendary figure of Saint Nicholas who devoted his life to the needy, the sick, and the suffering. He was well known for his generosity and over the centuries many different stories and legends have been told about his good deeds.

One account tells of a poor man with three daughters. In order to marry them off, he needed to offer a prospective suitor a dowry and without this, the daughters were more or less doomed to a life of poverty. All seemed hopeless, then as if by magic, on 3 separate occasions, a bag of gold appeared. It had been tossed through an open window and miraculously fell into stockings left drying by the open fire. The three daughters were saved from their impending doom. This story led to the custom of hanging stockings by the fireplace on Christmas Eve.

So, what would Father Christmas' handwriting look like? If you will allow me some poetic licence here, I will highlight well known aspects of his character that we all can recognise. I am only considering Father Christmas – the legend – not the human version (dressed-up to look like Father Christmas) that we see (or used to see) in large stores or on charity floats.

I have made a list of character traits that I would expect to see in Father Christmas. They are subjective of course and not totally comprehensive. I am sure you could all think of other traits that would apply.

Shy – reserved	Attentive to detail, patient
Dextrous – good at wrapping parcels	Imagination
Honest and trustworthy	Loves children and animals
Reliable	Generous, altruistic
Intuitive	Conventional
Fun loving	Sensuous – lover of good food
Fit	Good concentration
Optimistic	Good organisation
Enthusiastic	Loner
Loyalty	Initiative
Determination	Willpower

So what clues do we have in terms of his emotional responsiveness? First of all, we know that the true Father Christmas is a very **shy** individual. He doesn't want children or adults to see him on Christmas Eve.

He appears unreachable and keeps himself to himself. We know that he also loves children yet communicates with them in a detached way. He does not crave social interaction with them. He is friendly and outgoing on the surface but actually gives very little of himself away. We also know of his love of animals. He is happy to spend the rest of the year devoted to their care.

This translates into an **FA** slant.

In terms of the holistics, what should we expect? Movement gives us a holistic view of the writer's dynamism, his energy or 'fuel' to do what he needs to do and the speed of writing gives us an idea of the writer's pace of life, thinking, actions and reactions. His goal in life is to carry out an annual tradition so his actions are not spontaneous but carefully thought out and planned to the last minute, so there would be a degree of control in his writing, so speed would be slow to average. Controlled Movement reflects caution, a need for stability, conformity and a desire to be in control.

As he is shy, he does not propel himself forward to meet people so there would be some inhibition (confirming the FA slant) and this would be revealed in restricted letter forms – narrow letters. Letter spacing indicates the emotional rapport and sympathy, which the writer has with the emotional needs of others as well as the ability to interact with others on a personal basis.

We would expect him to start his writing fairly close to the left margin because of his inner **reserve** and lack of spontaneity. A narrow margin of around 6 – 15mm would be expected. This would reveal someone who prefers **conventional** ways and the familiar in general. New situations arouse no excitement as he does the same thing year in year out. He always wears the same outfit, so he is not concerned about new fashions or trying out new forms of transport.

What about the other margins? As he has excellent **organisation** and planning skills, we would expect there to be balanced narrow margins all round. After all he does get involved in other people's lives at Christmas time to the point of intrusiveness!!

We should also expect to see some disconnections between letters. This would reveal his **intuitive** nature. This gives him an uncanny insight into children's thoughts and desires and the ability to anticipate what they want for Christmas.

There would also be fairly large gaps between words because he enjoys his own company. He is an outdoor type who puts a priority on privacy and time alone to think through matters of interest or concern (what presents would suit each child). Being with people is not so much of an incentive for him and although he spends much time alone, he is rarely lonely. He does have his elves and animals after all! A desire to be alone suggests someone who is self sufficient and would rather work independently than share responsibility with others.

A **loner** fears closeness or intimacy with other people and this is true of Father Christmas. He has a great deal of confidence in his own efforts and prefers to do things his own way. We haven't as yet seen any rival setting themselves up to compete with him for his charitable work on the same global scale! He has high standards and wants to live up to them. Thus being a loner, we would also expect to see straight downstrokes below the baseline.

The length of the downstroke would also reveal the level of **determination** or staying power. The straighter and heavier it is, the stronger the trait. Father Christmas must have a great deal of determination as it reflects his capacity to keep moving towards his goal and the ability to finish what he started.

He does not have to be prodded every year because he automatically follows through. He would also need **willpower** - the capacity to plan and set goals and to drive towards their achievement, which he so obviously has.

It would be difficult for Father Christmas to stay retired from active life or refrain from doing what interests him.

His baseline would have to be straight. Horizontal progression signifies faithfulness of the writer towards his own goals – a steadfast adherence to his chosen path and an unshakeable resolution. After all, Father Christmas is single-minded in pursuing his goals. Maintaining a straight baseline is a sign of **reliability**.

He has the ability to mentally schedule ahead and each goal that he sets is carefully planned. In addition the baseline should have an ascending tendency because Father Christmas is **optimistic** – he has faith in his own success to deliver presents to all young children who believe in him on Christmas Eve.

So what about Form? This is the most conscious aspect of handwriting and tells us a lot about the writer's image he has created for himself. Father Christmas is original and quite unique. We would therefore expect his writing to reflect this. Originality can be expressed either through simplification or elaboration. Well, personally I'd go for elaboration here, but not overly so. Father Christmas is BIG and exciting. His behaviour could be considered dramatic and theatrical. So what would his writing look like? Well, we all know that he is a happy chap, with all his ho, ho, hums. That would mean his writing would have many garland connectives. Saudek said that garlands were 'signs of the benevolent disposition' which we know Father Christmas has. There should also be garlanded finals because we know how kind and **generous** he is.

We would expect to see some loops in his upper zone reflecting his abstract **imagination**. An important aspect of imagination is the power to transcend time and space. Father Christmas can create images of both the past and the future. He can have more fun in his own mind. For him half the pleasure is in the anticipation of planning his trip. He needs **initiative** also - he knows what has to be done and gets on with it. We would expect to see this illustrated in forward thrusting strokes in the middle zone.

One aspect that should strike us is his **manual dexterity**. He is well practised in the art of present wrapping. Not only that, but he would have to be able to mechanically sort out his sleigh if anything went wrong. So, we would expect to see flattish tops to his letter *r* or accompanying letters such as *m* or *n*.

Size-wise, Father Christmas needs to **concentrate** for long periods of time and be **attentive to detail**, but he also needs to be aware of the bigger picture. This means that the size of his writing should be about an average 3mm in height for the middle zone letters. We would expect to see consistency in the height of middle zone letters and the diacritics would be placed close to the i-stems. The i-dots would need to be rounded because Father Christmas is **loyal** to his yearly cause.

The depth of his handwriting is likely to be heavy. Why? Because Father Christmas possesses great amounts of determination and endurance and although he may try to conceal them, he has strong, deeply felt emotions. He experiences joy and happiness from his toes up. He has a deep **passion** for life, food, drink (think about all those mince pies and sherry he must consume!), travel, challenges and adventure. He is **fun loving** and has a genuine and intense interest in being generous. He is **fit**, despite his size, with lots of energy to spare.

He needs to be extremely **enthusiastic** to fulfil his purpose on Christmas Eve every year. Apathy is not in his vocabulary. He gives all of himself to his cause. Enthusiasm can have a contagious effect as it can inspire others and assure their support. Others have caught his excitement and demonstrated they want to join in. We see these followers on the charity floats or in the superstores handing out presents to eager children.

Finally we know that he is **honest** and **trustworthy**. When we have young children of our own, we are not afraid of letting him into our homes. We trust him implicitly. So his handwriting should have clear uncontaminated ovals and no signs of red flags.

FATHER CHRISTMAS' HANDWRITING

First of all to create his writing, I thought to myself, who would Father Christmas write to? The elves of course – but what would he write? Well, I pondered and here we go.

“Note to Elves

I notice that Rudolph's red nose has lost some of its former glow – can you give him an extra feed of beetroot and use the juice to also freshen up my fading suit.

*Love Fat C
Ho Ho Hum”*

.....

His writing would start very close to the left margin because of his inner reserve and lack of spontaneity. I have started his writing with a margin of 12 mm as he is very much tied to the past and stays with the familiar. The right margin would be similar in width and because he is intrusive and invades people's privacy every year, both the top and bottom margins would normally be narrow also but they are not shown adequately in this example.

In terms of emotional responsiveness, he would have an **FA** slant because of his shyness and reserve.

But how to start the letters? I indicated that Form would be original and quite unique. We would therefore expect his writing to reflect this. Originality can be expressed either through simplification or elaboration, but I opted for elaboration although not overly so. As his winter soirée across the globe is spent on a sleigh, I thought his letter N would reflect this favoured mode of transport. The letter E would be whimsical I felt and reflect his fun loving nature and also his love of reindeer.

His capitals would be much larger than the rest of the text because he is BIG and self assured. The rest of his writing would be less than 3mm in height because he needs to concentrate consistently for a long period of time and not be deflected from the goals in sight. Attention to detail will reveal itself in i-dots being placed close to the stem.

We would expect his writing to be fairly slow because he is a cautious individual and the neatly placed i-dots would support this. They would be formed as rounds which also are an indication of his loyal adherence to the Christmas cause.

So movement would be controlled. This would be reinforced by a very stable and even baseline. He is so reliable because he never fails to turn up each year. The baseline is slightly ascending, because he is optimistic about achieving his goals.

In terms of arrangement, spacing between the lines would be balanced as he has a need for clarity and order. His mind is not cluttered as he needs to know precisely which present is for which child in which country.

Wide word spacing and restricted narrow letters show some prevailing anxieties, no doubt pertaining to his past - perhaps he was overly disciplined by his parents for giving all his toys away to other children – but whatever his personal history, human contact is no incentive for him as he is quite content to be on his own, so there are loner strokes in his lower zone. These loner strokes are long and straight revealing his amazing determination.

His writing will show signs of garlands and elevated finals indicative of his generous nature but overall there will be lots of disconnections revealing intuition. His communication letters would be closed at the top because he needs to keep a secret and these also are reflective of his honesty and trustworthiness, but there may be a little hint of secrecy in his ovals because he needs to conceal information from others for a whole year.

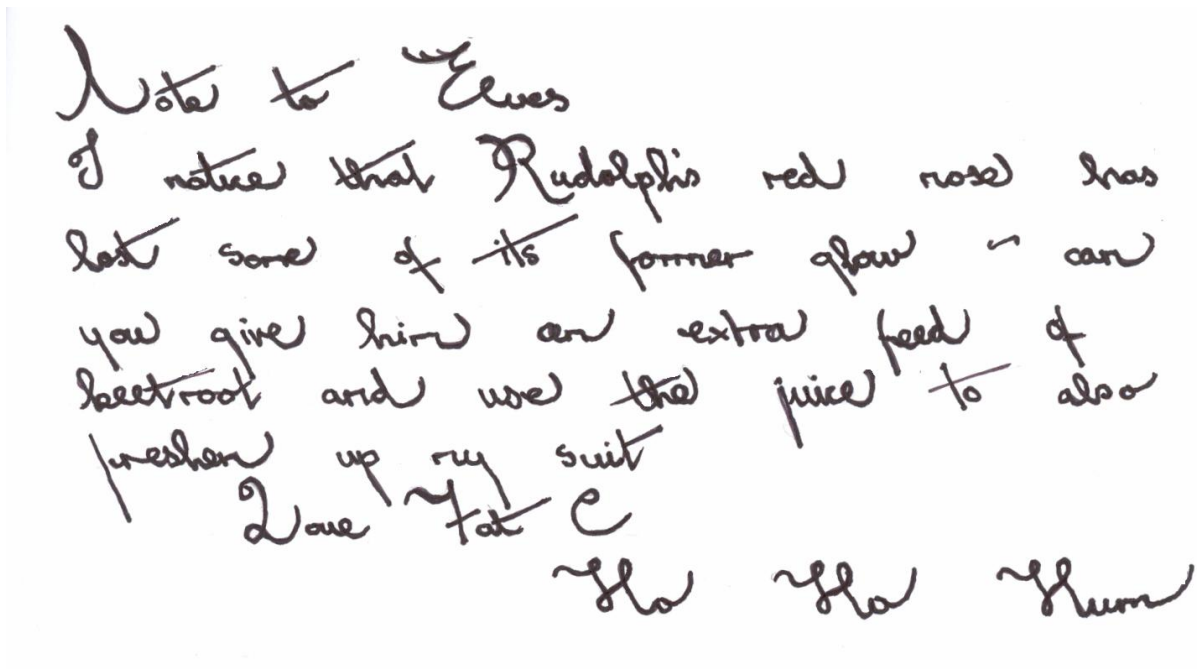
In the upper zone we would expect to see loops reflecting abstract imagination giving him the power to transcend time and space. As a result he can create images of both the past and the future.

He needs to have initiative but also willpower, so there will be a mixture of t-bars in his writing. The t-bars would also be long indicating his enthusiastic nature.

His manual dexterity would reveal itself by the flat tops to his letter *r* but could be seen elsewhere in his writing. There would also be pride shown in his *t* and *d* stems and his PPI is likely to be elaborated because of the impression he wants to make, especially in front of all those strangers. His PPI should also show desire for responsibility which is self-explanatory.

The depth is heavy suggesting not only a passion for food and drink but his boundless energy.

Well here it is. Father Christmas' writing.....



Not quite what you expected, probably!