Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer

The story

Rudolph's story was originally written in verse by Robert L. May for the Montgomery Ward chain of department stores in 1939 and published as a book to be given to children in the store at Christmas time. The story goes like this:
Once upon a time, there was a reindeer named Rudolph, the only reindeer in the world that had a big red nose. Naturally people called him "Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer."
Rudolph was unhappy about his red nose. All the other reindeer laughed at him and nobody wanted to play with him. Rudolph was very sad. "Why do I have such a shiny nose?" he cried.

Christmas Eve came and Santa Claus got his team of reindeer - Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, and Vixen, and the others - ready for their yearly trip to the world. Rudolph wanted to go also but the others laughed at him. "You can't go. Your nose is too shiny. We don't want you to come."
Rudolph was very, very sad and went away.

But, that night it was very foggy. Santa knew that the fog was so thick that he wouldn't be able to find a single chimney. Santa didn't know what to do. How could he go down to Earth? How should he find the children's homes? They were waiting for their presents!

Suddenly Rudolph appeared, his red nose glowing brighter than ever. Santa saw at once that here was the answer to his problem. He led Rudolph to the front of the sleigh, fastened the harness and climbed in the sleigh. They were off! Rudolph guided Santa and the other reindeer safely to every chimney that night. His shiny nose showed them the way.

And, so it was that Rudolph became the most famous of all the reindeer. Santa Claus told everyone that Rudolph had saved the day, and nobody laughed about his big red nose anymore. And from that Christmas on, Rudolph has been living serenely and happy.
The song

Johnny Marks, May's brother-in-law, decided to adapt the story into a song, which through the years has been recorded by many artists (most notably by Gene Autry). Here are the lyrics:

You know Dasher and Dancer
and Prancer and Vixen,
Comet and Cupid
and Donner and Blitzen,
but do you recall
the most famous reindeer of all?

Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer
had a very shiny nose
and if you ever saw him
you would even say it glows.

All of the other reindeer
used to laugh and call him names.
They never let poor Rudolph
join in any reindeer games.

Then one foggy Christmas Eve
Santa came to say,
“Rudolph, with your nose so bright,
Won't you guide my sleigh tonight?”

Then all the reindeer loved him
as they shouted out with glee:
“Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer,
you'll go down in history!”