

## Lesson 11

## READ THIS STORY #2, Advanced

**New Year's Eve**

**Our holiday vacation was almost at an end. Andrew wanted to do something special to make our New Year's celebration memorable, so he arranged for an old-fashioned sleigh ride.**

**As we waited for the driver to arrive, we heard the distant wail of a freight train. The moonlight filtered through the pine trees. The air was cold, and the crust on the snow made a crunching sound under the weight of our footsteps.**

**I heard the jingle of bells as the red sleigh pulled into view. The horses snorted and pounded their hoofs as they stood impatiently waiting for us to step in. Although we were dressed warmly, the driver tucked blankets tightly around our legs. Then he made a clicking sound, and the horses began to trot down the country lane.**

**Except for the jingle of the bells, and the clip clop of the horses, it was absolutely quiet as we glided over the pure white snow. We flew around a curve so fast that I thought we might tip over, but the sleigh remained upright.**

**Andrew had the foresight to bring a thermos of hot chocolate. At midnight, we filled three cups and toasted each other and our driver. Then we sang Auld Lang Syne.**

**On our flight home the next morning, I kept thinking of that magical, memorable night.**