

# Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus

<https://www.newseum.org/exhibits/online/yes-virginia/Focus on Part 1: Read or Listen>



- What type of document is it?
- who is the sender?
- Who is the addressee?
- What does the sender want to know? Why?
- Who are the other characters involved? What role do they probably play?
- What is an equivalent for « is there a Santa Claus?»
- Imagine what the editor will answer?

## Focus on Part 2 : Read or Listen

- « *Skeptical/skepticism* » = what phrase from the text defines these terms?
- « *Skeptical age* »: What « age » is being referred to?
- « *They have been affected by the skepticism* »: who/what does « they » refer to?
- « *Whether they be men's or children's , are little* » : who/what does « they » refer to?
- What is man compared with?
- What is man's main problem? Choose the correct answer:  
He has no imagination / He is too stupid / He is too small

## Focus on Part 3: Read or Listen

- Find a synonym in the text for « *there is a Santa Claus* »
- « *They abound* »: what /who does «the pronoun « they » refer to?
- What is Santa Claus' existence compared with?
- What is the world without Santa Claus compared with?
- What would be the consequences if Santa Claus did not exist?

## Focus on Part 4: Read or Listen

- Pick out negative words or sentences or phrases
- Which negative words or phrases are equivalent/similar in meaning?
- Use them to sum up Part 4.

## Focus on Part 5: Read or Listen

- « *There is a veil covering the unseen world* ». Using the context and transparency, guess the meaning of the word « *veil* ».
- What hides behind the veil?
- How could the unseen world be revealed?

## Focus on Part 6: Read or Listen

- What is the conclusion drawn about Santa Claus' existence?
- What is Santa Claus' role?

**Final Task: You are an editor for the New York Times and you decide to publish a modern version of this famous editorial in the newspaper you work for**

**Use the online newspaper clipping generator below, then save it to your computer and send it to your teacher by email.**

<http://www.fodey.com/generators/newspaper/snippet.asp>

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### Resources

Original text <https://www.newseum.org/exhibits/online/yes-virginia/>

Audio readings by different voices : <http://librivox.org/yes-virginia-there-is-a-santa-claus-by-francis-pharcellus-church/>