A short history of the song, Silent Night!

You can share this story with your grandchild by reading it to her or him. Or you can read it yourself and tell the story in your own words to your grandchild. Have fun!
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More than 200 years ago, in 1818, a man named Joseph Mohr, who was a Catholic priest, was walking outside on a quiet winter's night. He lived in Austria in a time of unrest. And he was so happy that this night was peaceful, that he began to write a poem called, Stille Nacht. He wrote his poem in the German language. But we know it now as, Silent Night.

It was three years later, on a snowy Christmas Eve that Joseph Mohr walked to a neighbouring town where his friend, Franz Gruber lived. Franz was an organist, guitarist and composer. Father Joseph needed a hymn for his Christmas Eve service. He hoped that Franz could take the verses he wrote for Silent Night and put them to a melody. Franz did that for him. And they played the new song together that evening at Father Joseph's church service.

The song became a big hit! It is sung in many different languages. But it is best known around the world in English as, Silent Night.