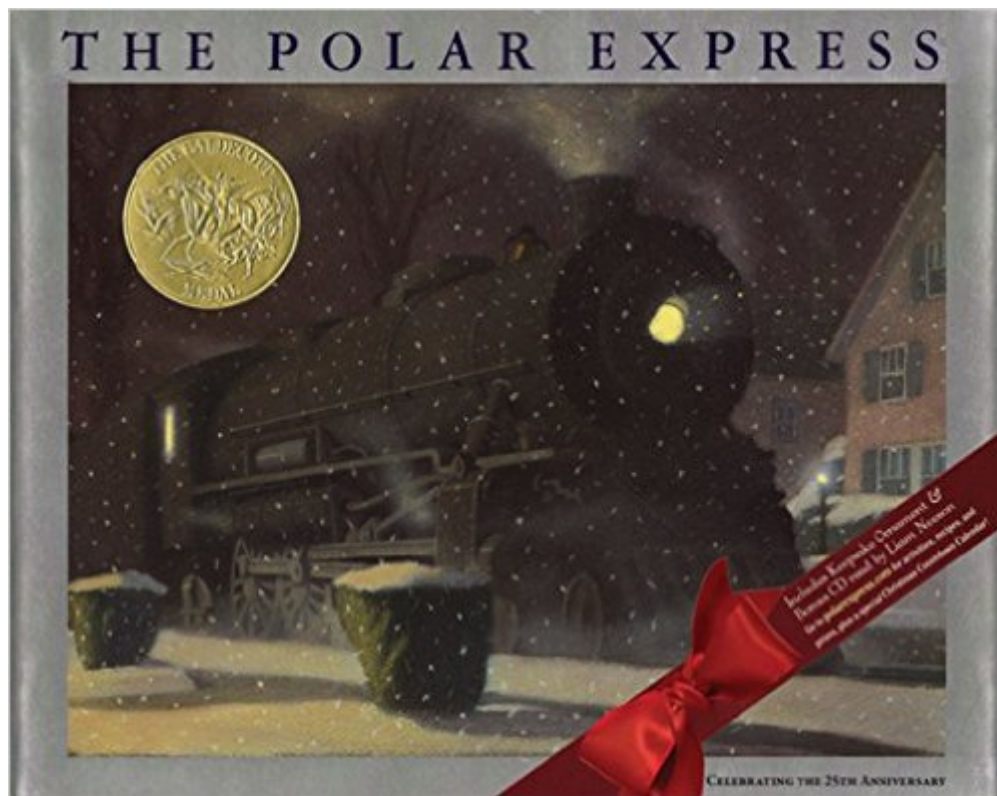


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# The Polar Express



## Synopsis

For twenty years, The Polar Express has been a worldwide bestseller and Christmas classic. A perfect keepsake for any family, this beautiful edition can be handed down to each new generation of readers. In 1986 The Polar Express was awarded the prestigious Caldecott Medal and hit the New York Times bestseller list. Since that time, more than six and a half million copies have been sold, and every December it faithfully reappears on national bestseller lists. In 2004, The Polar Express became a blockbuster holiday movie. The DVD release in 2005 assures, that like the book, the movie will become a holiday classic.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 520L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Houghton Mifflin; 1st edition (January 1, 1985)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0395389496

ISBN-13: 978-0395389492

Product Dimensions: 11.4 x 0.4 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.6 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (1,381 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #18,185 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #35 in [Books > Children's Books > Cars, Trains & Things That Go > Trains](#) #70 in [Books > Children's Books > Holidays & Celebrations > Christmas](#) #361 in [Books > Children's Books > Classics](#)

Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

This book opens the possibility that Santa Claus -- as presented to most of us -- may not physically exist. It does this in a way that will allow children and their parents to ease into that question, a graceful move from the belief in a living St. Nick, to a belief in the spirit of Christmas. It begins like this: "On Christmas Eve, many years ago, I lay quietly in my bed. I did not rustle the sheets. I breathed slowly and silently. I was listening for a sound -- a sound a friend had told me I'd never hear -- the ringing of Santa's sleigh." There is no Santa,' my friend had insisted, but I knew he was wrong. "From here, we follow a beautifully illustrated story of this young boy's quiet night ride with other children, on the Polar Express train to the North Pole, a "huge city standing alone at the top of

the world, filled with factories where every Christmas toy was made."Our narrator is the fortunate child, picked by Santa, to receive the first gift of that Christmas. He knows exactly what he wants, a simple gift that will help him continue to believe in the magic of Christmas, a silver bell from a reindeer's harness. He gets his wish, but loses it on the train ride home. However, there's a happy ending -- evidently Santa has found the bell, and put it under the tree. The boy and his little sister admire the beauty of the sound it makes, but their parents say, "Oh, that's too bad....It's broken."Many years later, the boy's sister and all of his friends can no longer hear the bell."Though I've grown old, the bell still rings for me as it does for all who truly believe.

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