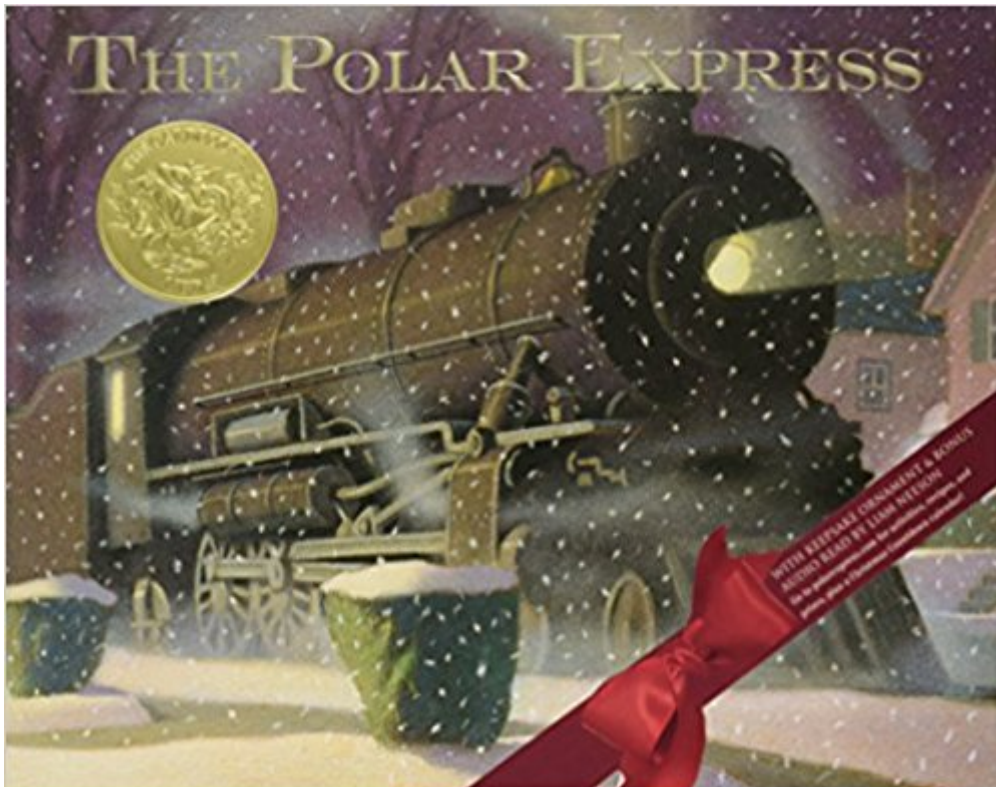




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Polar Express 30th Anniversary Edition



Synopsis

1986 Caldecott Medal Winner A young boy, lying awake one Christmas Eve, is welcomed aboard a magical trip to the North Pole . . . Through dark forests, over tall mountains, and across a desert of ice, the Polar Express makes its way to the city atop the world, where the boy will make his Christmas wish. For millions of readers worldwide, this mysterious journey to the North Pole has become a beloved classic. In this 30th anniversary edition, the inimitable artistry of Chris Van Allsburg is revealed in a never-before-seen fashion, with a new jacket design and expanded interior layout. Includes author's note, downloadable audio read by Liam Neeson, and golden "All Aboard" ornament.

Book Information

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers; Rei/Acc/Ps edition (September 15, 2015)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 11.4 x 0.5 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 1,640 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #6,873 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #7 in Books > Children's Books > Holidays & Celebrations > Christmas #15 in Books > Children's Books > Cars, Trains & Things That Go > Trains #170 in Books > Children's Books > Classics

Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

North Pole Cozy Cocoa Recipe Gather the ingredients below. Pour hot water, sugar, cocoa powder and salt into a large pot. Whisk over medium heat. When everything is combined, add chocolate chips and whisk mixture until chocolate chips are melted. Add milk and vanilla and whisk again. Serve with marshmallows or whipped cream! **Ingredients:** 1 cup cocoa powder 1 cup chocolate chips 1 tsp salt 1 cup hot water 1 cup sugar 1/2 gallon milk 1 tsp vanilla

Fun Facts About The Polar Express In celebration of the 30th anniversary of The Polar Express, enjoy these fun facts about the book! The setting of the book is based on Van Allsburg's childhood home in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The Pere Marquette

1225 train, now in Owosso, Michigan, was the inspiration for the story. As a child, Chris Van Allsburg played on the engine when it was on display, and to him, the number 1225 meant 12/25, Christmas Day! The real 1225 train inspired the animated train, and they recorded the 1225's different locomotive sounds to use in the movie. Chris Van Allsburg said that *The Polar Express* was the easiest of his picture book manuscripts to write. He created only one draft and had to make only a few changes to the text. The Polar Express is done with oil pastels, and to get the night lighting just right, he mixed color complements (reds with greens, oranges with blues) to bring out the hues of colors in low light. Van Allsburg has an artistic connection to another Christmas classic — in 2014 he designed the sets for the Michigan Ballet's performance of *The Nutcracker*.

One couldn't select a more delightful and exciting premise for a children's book than the tale of a young boy lying awake on Christmas Eve only to have Santa Claus sweep by and take him on a trip with other children to the North Pole. And one couldn't ask for a more talented artist and writer to tell the story than Chris Van Allsburg. Allsburg, a sculptor who entered the genre nonchalantly when he created a children's book as a diversion from his sculpting, won the 1986 Caldecott Medal for this book, one of several award winners he's produced. The Polar Express rings with vitality and wonder.

Exclusive: A Letter from Chris Van Allsburg

Dear Readers,

Over the past twenty-five years, many people have shared stories with me about the effect that reading *The Polar Express* has had on their families and on their celebration of Christmas. One of the most poignant was told to me five or six years ago at a book signing in the Midwest, on a snowy December evening. As I inscribed a book to a woman in her sixties, she told me that it was the second copy she had owned, and wanted to know if she could she tell me what had happened to the first. "Of course," I answered. A dozen years earlier the woman, who had no children of her own, befriended a neighbor, a boy of about seven, named Eddie. He would often cross his driveway to visit her. She had a collection of picture books, which she read to him, but around the holidays, the only story he ever wanted to hear, over and over, was *The Polar Express*. One year she offered to give him the book, but Eddie declined because he wanted to hear her read it aloud to him, which she continued to do every year until the boy and his family moved away. Years later the woman learned from a mutual acquaintance that Eddie had grown up and become a soldier. He was stationed in Iraq. Since Christmas was approaching, the woman decided to send him a gift box. She included candy, cookies, socks, and her old copy of *The Polar Express*. She wasn't sure what a nineteen-year-old battle-weary soldier would do with the book in an army barracks in the Middle East, but she wanted

him to have it. A month later, after the holidays had passed, she received a letter from Eddie. He told her he was very happy to have heard from her and to get the box of gifts. He had opened it in his barracks, just before curfew, with some of his fellow GIs already in their bunks. A soldier in the next bunk spotted the book. He knew it well from his own childhood and asked Eddie to read it. "Out loud?" he asked. "Yeah," his buddy told him. Eddie, quietly and a little self-consciously, read *The Polar Express*. When he'd finished and closed the book, a moment of silence passed. Then from behind him a voice called out, "Read it again," and another joined in, "Yeah, read it again," and a third added, "This time, louder." So Eddie did. He wrote to the woman that he'd stood up and read it to his comrades just the way he remembered she had read it to him. All aboard, Chris Van Allsburg

[Recipes and Activities to Celebrate the 25th Anniversary of The Polar Express \(Click on Images for the Recipe or Activity \[PDF\]\)](#) [Snacks for Santa](#) [Candy Cane Sugar Cookies](#) [Polar Chocolate Nougat Caramel Squares](#) [Christmas Snowball Cookies](#) [Fun and Games](#) [A Polar Express Word Search](#) [A Polar Express Crossword](#) [A Polar Express Maze](#)

PreSchool-Grade 2-Chris Van Allsburg's Caldecott-winning Christmas classic (HM, 1985) is 15 years old, but it is a timeless story that just keeps getting better. Actor Liam Neeson's authoritative, unhurried narration brings the story to life. Peaceful, unobtrusive orchestrations punctuate the text like falling snow. As the Polar Express pulls into town one Christmas Eve, offering a magical, unforgettable trip to the North Pole, a young boy boards the train. When Santa offers him the first gift of the season, the boy chooses one bell from the harness of a reindeer. On the return trip, the bell is lost, and Christmas for the boy seems to be ruined, until the bell reappears under the Christmas tree, with a mystery of its own, solved only by a belief in the spirit of Christmas. This release won't sit on the shelf long. Parents, teachers, and librarians everywhere will be grateful to have someone else read this tear-jerker in their stead. This well-written, impeccably presented package deserves all the attention it will get. Kirsten Martindale, Buford Academy, GA Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.

This book and movie are an obsession for my little boy. He would have me read him this every night before bed all year if I didn't tell him that Santa took it back to the north pole (along with all the other Christmas books) when he brought the presents. He still insists on watching the movie several times a week, because I wasn't slick enough to hide that. We're also going to ride the Texas State Railroad Polar Express ride this year, because the only thing he asked for for Christmas was to ride a train. He'll be 4 in December, so the magic is still very much alive for him.

Every "th" from "the" was missing from the print! Really annoying. The 2nd time I've bought an ebook and had print missing.

I bought a physical copy of this book for a nephew's 1st Christmas. I remember my parents reading it to me during Christmas time as a child and really treasure the memories. I'm not sure if a kindle version would be able to really do it justice. Van Allsburg's writing is concise, but descriptive. Paired with the beautiful illustrations, this book creates an atmosphere of eerie wonder and calm that few books are able to achieve. I still have the original copy of this book that my family purchased in the 90's. My parents are very tidy and aren't ones for keeping things. Most of my childhood books have been donated or gifted to younger cousins. Our copy of The Polar Express was placed in the keepsake box. My nephew's family had never heard of The Polar Express when I gifted it to them, though it seemed well received. I asked the family to write a message to the nephew on the inside of the book's covers; these well-wishes will become his "first gifts of Christmas" when he's older and reading the book with his parents. I'm really glad they did. Last month, the nephew's great-grandmother unexpectedly passed away. He'll be able to read her Christmas wish to him growing up.

My 1yr old and 3yr old are obsessed with the movie. I didn't know how the book would be or if it would be age appropriate for their age. But it's amazing. Beautiful big pictures, great story, and it came with their very own Christmas ornament. It's going to be a great gift on Christmas morning.

Beautiful Garrison Keillor narration is tender and a serious favorite of my students! The album includes just the music sound track, and my foreign language students rewrote the script taking dictation from Mr. Keillor, and then re-recorded their pages in front of a camera for presentation in their language classes. Great Project, and really beautiful purchase. Note: some computers might not be backward compatible to play this disc.

This is just a really great Christmas book. This, like a lot of people I'm sure, was unknown to me until after the movie. Well we've been fans of the movie for quite a few holiday seasons now, and my daughter loves reading and getting read to, so I figured we'd pick it for last Christmas. We are packing it away with the Christmas stuff, so as to not spoil a good thing. The story is not very long, and I think the people that made the movie did an amazing job taking what was in the story and

extending it to a 1.5 hour movie. Despite the size the story is great. And the artwork in this book is truly masterful. This, after only one holiday season so far, has already become one of our favorite holiday books to read.

With our first child being born this year I want to begin some holiday traditions. This story will be a part of those traditions for years to come as I plan to read this book on Christmas Eve to my daughter. The illustrations are wonderful and I love this book. The only issue I encountered was the book arrived damaged, torn dust jacket and mark on hard cover. In the end I guess it wasn't enough for me to send it back and deal with the hassle of a return. This does not effect the use of the book at all, which is a great purchase!

A beautifully illustrated book...BUT- I must warn those who are excited about the so-called "collectors ornament" included in this 30th Anniversary edition. It is a piece of junk! At first glance it looks like a nice, brass, laser cut ornament. But considering the ornament actually ripped while I was adding a wire to hang it from our christmas tree, I'm guessing its some kind of foiled cardboard-not certain but the metallic was starting to peel as soon as I ran my hand over the edge...***To be clear--ONLY the ornament is junk-Not-the Book itself. The actual Book is beautiful and since my nephews can't read yet they don't know there was supposed to be an ornament included (stated on the front red bow)...book is beautiful-trash the ornament.

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