

**Directions:**

Use what you know about *The Polar Express* to answer each of the following questions.

**1. What did the boy hear and see outside his window on Christmas Eve?**

- A It was Santa's sleigh with bells and reindeer.
- B He heard and saw some of Santa's elves.
- C It was a metal steam train that stopped in front of his house.
- D He didn't hear anything but the wind blowing.

**2. The central message of the story is to believe in Santa and the magic of Christmas. How can you tell if someone does NOT believe?**

- A They won't get any presents.
- B They won't hear the bells from Santa's sleigh.
- C You won't be able to see the elves.
- D They won't be able to find the North Pole on a map anymore.

**3. What caused Santa to bring a group of children to the North Pole every year?**

- A He needed the extra help.
- B He wanted the elves to see a real live human child.
- C Mrs. Claus said it would be a nice thing to do.
- D He chooses one child to receive the first gift of Christmas.

**4. What does the boy mean when he said that over the years the sound of the bell "fell silent" for his friends?**

- A They don't truly believe, and they can't hear the bell anymore.
- B His friends have broken their bells.
- C They are all getting old and can't hear as well anymore.
- D He meant they lost their bells and Santa wasn't able to return it.

**5. At the beginning, before he goes to the North Pole, what does the boy say a friend has told him?**

- A A friend told him that a train was coming to take him to the North Pole.
- B A friend told him to fix the hole in his pocket.
- C A friend told him Santa was not real, but he did not believe him.
- D A friend told him that he should ask for video games for Christmas.

**6. The boy is a true believer for life. Who else from the story might feel the same way?**

- A His mother
- B The other children from the train
- C His father
- D His little sister Sarah

**7. What do the words and illustrations show you about the North Pole?**

- A It is a big busy city with factories and many elves.
- B It is a small village with a workshop.
- C Only Santa and a few elves were invited to the ceremony.
- D It could only be reached by boat.

**8. How is the train different from Santa's sleigh?**

- A They are both made of metal.
- B Trains go fast, but Santa's sleigh is slow.
- C They are both a wonderful way to travel.
- D The train has an engine and runs on tracks, but Santa's sleigh has reindeer and flies.

**9. The boy is now an old man. Why is he telling a story of something that happened to him a long time ago?**

- A He is sad that his sister Sarah does not believe anymore.
- B He just wants to make some money from his story.
- C He wants more and more people to truly believe, like he does.
- D Santa told him it was okay to share the story now.

# The Polar Express

## CCSS Assessment Answer Key

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### Directions:

Use what you know about *The Polar Express* to answer each of the following questions.

**1. What did the boy hear and see outside his window on Christmas Eve?** (RL.3.1)

- A It was Santa's sleigh with bells and reindeer.
- B He heard and saw some of Santa's elves.
- C It was a metal steam train that stopped in front of his house.
- D He didn't hear anything but the wind blowing.

**2. The central message of the story is to believe in Santa and the magic of Christmas. How can you tell if someone does NOT believe?** (RL.3.2)

- A They won't get any presents.
- B They won't hear the bells from Santa's sleigh.
- C You won't be able to see the elves.
- D They won't be able to find the North Pole on a map anymore.

**3. What caused Santa to bring a group of children to the North Pole every year?** (RL.3.3)

- A He needed the extra help.
- B He wanted the elves to see a real live human child.
- C Mrs. Claus said it would be a nice thing to do.
- D He chooses one child to receive the first gift of Christmas.

**4. What does the boy mean when he said that over the years the sound of the bell "fell silent" for his friends?** (RL.3.4)

- A They don't truly believe, and they can't hear the bell anymore.
- B His friends have broken their bells.
- C They are all getting old and can't hear as well anymore.
- D He meant they lost their bells and Santa wasn't able to return it.

**5. At the beginning, before he goes to the North Pole, what does the boy say a friend has told him?** (RL.3.5)

- A A friend told him that a train was coming to take him to the North Pole.
- B A friend told him to fix the hole in his pocket.
- C A friend told him Santa was not real, but he did not believe him.
- D A friend told him that he should ask for video games for Christmas.

**6. The boy is a true believer for life. Who else from the story might feel the same way?** (RL.3.6)

- A His mother
- B The other children from the train
- C His father
- D His little sister Sarah

**7. What do the words and illustrations show you about the North Pole?** (RL.3.7)

- A It is a big busy city with factories and many elves.
- B It is a small village with a workshop.
- C Only Santa and a few elves were invited to the ceremony.
- D It could only be reached by boat.

**8. How is the train different from Santa's sleigh?** (RL.3.9)

- A They are both made of metal.
- B Trains go fast, but Santa's sleigh is slow.
- C They are both a wonderful way to travel.
- D The train has an engine and runs on tracks, but Santa's sleigh has reindeer and flies.

**9. The boy is now an old man. Why is he telling a story of something that happened to him a long time ago?** (RL.3.10)

- A He is sad that his sister Sarah does not believe anymore.
- B He just wants to make some money from his story.
- C He wants more and more people to truly believe, like he does.
- D Santa told him it was okay to share the story now.