



The Polar Express

Third Reading: Analysis

During this reading your child and you will read the story all the way through. Two ways that you can add fun and improve recall during this reading:

- You may switch roles and become the listener and the questioner as your child “reads” (retells) the story to you.
- Your child and you may alternate the pages you read to each other.

DISCUSSION OPTIONS:

- Do you think The Polar Express runs all year? Why or Why not?
- If Santa gives you the choice of the first Christmas gift what would you choose? Why?
- Share your best Christmas memories with each other.

ACTIVITY OPTIONS:

- Where is the North Pole? What can you learn about it?
- Go back into the text and look at the many examples of figurative language. Draw pictures of the figurative language, such as:

ocean liner sailing on a frozen sea

so high it seemed as if we would scrape the moon

barren desert of ice

broke my heart

wrapped in an apron of steam

like a car on a roller coaster

sailing on a frozen sea

- Think of your own examples of figurative language. (My granddaughter loves to say that she is as fast as a cheetah. Other common examples are: I’m so hungry I could eat a bear. I can touch the sky. Listen for people using figurative language during the day. People use them frequently in ordinary conversation. After you hear or think of an example, draw a picture of it.
- Draw a map of the route of The Polar Express. Use some of the information that you have learned about the North Pole and details from the story.
- Write down the best Christmas memories that you shared with each other. Use story paper and illustrate them.