

# Common Core Aligned Comprehension Assessment

## The Polar Express CCSS Assessment

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Score: / 9

### 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
- ☐ C They are all getting old
- ☐ D He meant they lost the

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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.

Common Core Assessment:  
One question for each Reading  
Informational OR Reading Literature  
standard (1-9)

Answer Key