

## Bi-Level Script Northern Lights

### **Lap 1 – Zones A & B: As Polar Express departs:**

*(In Bi-Level, ticket punching will go on throughout the trip. It will be interrupted for the various skits.) (Trainman and Steward at front of car; LTG seated 3/4 of way through where Trainman will punch tickets.)*

**Steward:** Your attention please! Your attention please!

Welcome! Welcome aboard the Polar Express. You are about to begin a magical, round-trip journey to the North Pole. As we race northward, I would like to remind you that railroad safety regulations require everyone to remain in their seats while the train is in motion. Once we reach the North Pole, please remain seated until our Conductor gives us word that it is safe to leave the train.

**Trainman:** We are on a very tight schedule. This train has never been late before. We cannot have Christmas without the Polar Express and that means we must get to the North Pole on time. *(Pulls out pocket watch)* WHAT IN THE BLAZES! We're running a little late! We better get this train moving! *(Look around to see if train is moving.)*

Now ... everyone needs a ticket to ride the Polar Express! Tickets, tickets please! Let's see those Polar Express tickets! Hold them up! *(Steward encourages passengers to hold up tickets. Trainman & Steward punch tickets ... quickly.)*

*(Trainman, after punching a few tickets, picks out a child.)*

**Trainman:** Well, are you ready to go to the North Pole? *(Child response)* Well are you sure? *(Child response)* We better be sure. Just a minute. *(Holds out clipboard to child.)* Is this you? Well it says here ... NO photo with Santa, NO letter to Santa, made your sister put out the milk and cookies ... Sounds like this is your critical year.

*(Place clipboard on staged command hook and keep punching tickets. While punching work in lines:*

**Trainman:** Soon we will no longer see the lights of the city. We will be traveling through cold, dark forests where lean wolves roam and white tailed rabbits will hide from our train as we thunder through the quiet wilderness.

*(Trainman reaches LTG.)*

**Trainman:** *(To LTG)* Ticket, ticket please.

**LTG:** *(stand up)* Ticket? I seem to have lost my ticket.

**Trainman:** Check your pocket. *(Pause)* Check your other pocket. *(Pause)* What no ticket? This young lady has lost her ticket. Let's look around and see if we can find it. *(Encourage passengers to look around. After a few moments ... )* Well young lady, no ticket ... you'll need to come with me! *(Escort LTG from car.)*

**Steward:** You know what's gonna happen now? Don't ya? He's gonna throw her off the train. Yeah, he's probably gonna throw her off the rear platform. It's standard procedure. That way she won't get sucked under the wheels. They may slow the train down a little bit, but they're never gonna stop.

### **Lap 1 - Zone C:**

**Trainman:** Well now that she is taken care of, we can get on with Christmas. Let's make sure everyone here has YOUR Polar Express ticket. Hold them up for me. Great! Sometimes we get a hobo on this train. He never has a ticket. He thinks he owns this train. Oh, oh, look outside. The hobos are out there. *(Should be able to see hobos outside train at rear of Lenfestey Center.)*

*(Continue punching tickets.)*

**Trainman:** Now where were we?

**Steward:** Well, I think we were about to sing a Christmas song.

**Trainman:** OK, which one?

**Steward:** It's a song about Santa's helpers.

**Trainman:** A song about the elves?

**Steward:** No, No! Santa's four-legged helpers!

**Trainman:** Oh, you mean the reindeer.

**Steward:** Not just any reindeer. There is one very special reindeer. Does anyone know who that is? *(Get passengers to call out Rudolph.)* That's right, Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer. *(Encourage children to stand at seat and dance along to song.)* We are going to need some help from a few dancing reindeer to make this song really sound great.

**Trainman:** OK, let's sing and dance ... *(lead passengers in singing Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer)*

### **Lap 1 - Zone D:**

**Steward:** *(Standing with Trainman)* Do you know what I love to do during the holidays?

**Trainman:** Drink lots of hot chocolate?

**Steward:** Well, yes, that too. But I'm thinking of something else.

**Trainman:** Eat cookies until they come out of your ears?

**Steward:** Well, yes, that too. But I'm thinking of something else.

*(Hobo enters car. Walks up aisle to Trainman and Steward. Interrupts program.)*

**Hobo:** Was you talk'n 'bout hobos back there?

**Trainman:** Excuse me sir. You are interrupting our train ride. We are on a very tight schedule and need to get to the North Pole.

**Hobo:** No, excuse me. Where are my manners? Did you say, "North Pole"?

**Trainman:** Yes, that is the destination for the Polar Express.

**Hobo:** Ah, the Pole Ex. *(Turning to passengers.)* I'll bet yous gotts a whole trainload of believers here. Well, hello there everyone. Now. How many of yous can see me? Raise your hand if you can sees me. Maybe some of you can, some of you can't. But one thing is for sure ... seeing is believing. Am I right? Sure I am. Seeing is believing. But. Sometimes the most real things in the world are the things we can't see. Oh, where are my manners? For those whos can see me, allow me to introduce myself. I am the proud owner of this train. It's like I'm king of this train. The king of the Polar Express! So ... I hop aboard the rattler anytime I feels like it. And I like to meet Polar Express passengers; cuz I'm very curious to see those golden tickets of yours, ifin yous don't mind. For those of yous that has a ticket hold'em up for me, will you! High in the air! Well, lookie, lookie there. A whole bunch of official, authentic, gen-you-ine tickets to ride. I'd be keepin' those in a safe place if I was yous. Those tickets was given to yous for a very special reason. Even some of you, can I say, of the elder persuasion, gots one just to make sure you knows where your goin' tonight. I'll bet some of yous are doubters. Maybe you don't really believe in the Big Red Man. I'd like to know what's your persuasion on Santa? And, I'd like to see those tickets!

*(Hobo moves through car, looking at tickets, asking if passengers believe and then leaves.)*

## **Lap 2 - Zone A:**

*(Jokes can be said before, after (or both), the Herpolsheimer's Bay Window display.)*

**Steward:** Hey look everyone! Herpolsheimer's! Herpolsheimer's! *(Looking out the window.)*

**Trainman:** Wow, so many presents, I want all of them!

**Steward:** It's so Christmasy and cozy and wonderful!

**Trainman:** Hey, you wanna guess what my favorite Christmas gift ever was?

**Steward:** Uh, a pony?

**Trainman:** No! A broken drum...you can't beat it!

**Steward:** Say I've been wondering: What do you call a snowman that can walk?

**Trainman:** I don't know, what do you call a walking snowman?

**Steward:** Why a SNOW-mobile!

**Trainman:** Seriously ... we're on the way to the North Pole not the North Woods of Wisconsin! Hey, I once saw a frog hanging from the ceiling at Christmas time.

**Steward:** Oh no! That wasn't a frog that you saw. It was a Mistle-TOAD!

**Trainman:** Funny! Funny! Did you hear Santa listening to his tunes the other day?

**Steward:** No! Who's his favorite singer?

**Trainman:** None other than Elf-is-Presley!

**Steward:** Speaking of famous people, if a piece of mistletoe wanted to become famous, where would it go?

**Trainman:** Out on a limb?

**Steward:** No! It would go to HOLLYWOOD!

**Trainman:** What do call a scary looking reindeer?

**Steward:** Seriously? Wrong holiday. That's a Halloween joke. Everyone knows that scary looking reindeer are Cari-BOOS!

## **Lap 2 - Zone B:**

**Trainman:** *(Looking out the window.)* OOOOH, boys and girls ... It appears we have reached *(pause)* Glacier Gulch! You knnooow what that means ...

**Steward:** No, what does that mean?

**Trainman:** Glacier Gulch is only the steepest down hill grade in the entire world. We're about to drop 300 feet, which is about 30 stories, or the length of a football field or like 300 cereal boxes piled one on top of another or ...

**Steward:** Alright, already! You mean we are about to go down a really big hill, really, really fast!

**Trainman:** YES! And the engineer is going to need our help to keep the Polar Express on the rails.

When you see me move that way *(point to the right)* everyone lean to the right. When you see me point that way *(point to the left)* everyone lean that way. When you see me lean back *(lean back)* you lean back. When you see me lean forward *(lean forward)* you lean forward. When you see and hear me do this *(toss hands in the air and scream)* ... I think you get the idea. Ready? We're at the top ... Now, everyone hold on tight ... here we goooooo! *(Lead passengers through a series of moves from a minute or two.)*

*(At end of actions)* Weeeeeee've made it to the bottom of Glacier Gulch! That was quite the ride. We could not have done it without your help. I do believe that you all helped save Christmas this year! And that might mean extra presents! Great job kids!

## Lap 2 - Zone C

*(Train comes to a sudden stop before switch behind Lenfestey Center.)*

**Steward:** Why are we stopping?

**Trainman:** It's the emergency brake! *(Ask passengers)* Who in the blazes applied the emergency brakes? *(Single out some dad and scold them.)* You! In case you didn't know, that emergency brake cord is to be pulled for emergencies only! And, in case you weren't aware tonight is Christmas Eve. And, in case you hadn't noticed, this train is on a very tight schedule. Now ... *(interrupted by Steward)*

**Steward:** Um, excuse me ... I don't think the emergency brake cord was pulled ...

**Trainman:** Then what in the name of Mike stopped this train?

**Steward:** Caribou.

**Trainman:** Caribou? Caribou? *(Looking out the window.)* I make the herd to be at least 100,000, maybe even a million. It's gonna be hours before they clear the track.

**Steward:** Oh, now were in a jam!

**Trainman:** We're in some very serious jelly!

**Steward:** A tough nut to crack!

**Trainman:** In a tight spot!

**Steward:** Up a tree!

**Trainman:** Up a creek!

**Steward:** What are we going to do?

**Trainman:** Scare'em!

**Steward:** What?

**Trainman:** We're gonna scare the caribou right off the tracks.

**Steward:** How?

**Trainman:** Everyone here is gonna help! Just shout as I do ... as loud as you can. *(Lead passengers in several caribou calls.)*

**Steward:** Wow! It really worked. The caribou moved out of the way! Great job everyone!

**Trainman:** Yes, that was a great job! In fact, look at those caribou go. It's almost like they are doing the Christmas Twist. *(Song plays. Trainman and Steward dance in aisle. Engage passengers to dance in seats.)*

**Lap 2 - Zone D:**  
*(Christmas Twist dance)*

**Lap 3 - Zone A:**  
*(Finish Christmas Twist dance. Interact with Passengers until the Polar Bear scene.)*

**Steward:** Oh, look! There are Ursus Maritimus out there. *(Direct passenger to look out at bears.)*

**Trainman:** What?

**Steward:** You know Ursus Maritimus. They have white, water-repellent coats; live around the Arctic Circle; are 6 to 9 feet long; weight 800-1,300 pounds. Ursus Maritimus. They're right out there.

**Trainman:** All I see is polar bears.

**Steward:** Yes, Ursus Maritimus! The scientific name for what you call polar bears!

**Trainman:** Ursus Mari-what-us, huh, they're polar bears!

**Steward:** You're right ... polar bears! The word Ursus is Latin for bear. Maritimus means living near water or the ocean. That's a polar bear. What did I tell you?

### Lap 3 - Zone B:

**Trainman:** Well that also means we must be getting close to North Pole. And, if you know so much, tell me this: Which can jump higher: one of Santa's reindeer or a house?

**Steward:** Let me see. *(Doing math in air.)* If you add the weight of the reindeer, minus the head wind at the time of the jump, plus how much the deer ate for dinner ...

**Trainman:** *(Interrupts)* No, no, no ... smarty ... It's simple ... the reindeer!

**Steward:** How do you figure that?

**Trainman:** Houses can't jump!

**Steward:** Well I bet you don't know why Comet, Cupid, Donner and Blitzen, Santa's reindeer, are always wet?

**Trainman:** *(Thinking gesture)* Hmm ... I know ... They don't have umbrellas at the North Pole.

**Steward:** NO ... they're rain deer. Get it? Rain deer?

**Trainman:** Ho, ho, ho ... very funny.

**Steward:** Ho, Ho, Ho ... that's why Santa has three gardens on the North Pole. So he can Ho, Ho, Ho!

**Trainman:** Wait, Wait ...

**Steward:** What?

**Trainman:** We just crossed it!

**Steward:** Crossed what? I didn't see anything ...

**Trainman:** We just crossed it! Latitude sixty-six degrees, thirty-three minutes; the Arctic Circle. We are getting very close to the North Pole! Watch the skies for the Northern Lights.

**Steward:** Ah, yes, the northern lights or Aurora Borealis. You know they are actually the collisions between millions of electrically charged particles from the sun that enter the earth's atmosphere.

**Trainman:** And, if you're lucky you might see Ursa Major up there playing in the Northern Lights. *(Dim car lights just before bridge. Watch Northern Lights.)*

### Lap 3 – Zone C:

**LTG:** *(enter car and approach Trainman.)* I still can't find my Polar Express ticket. Can you help me?

**Trainman:** Well yes, young lady, I can. Look around folks; did anyone see this young lady's ticket? Oh, here it is! *(Find ticket, hold it up.)* Now let me punch that ticket just for you. *(Punch ticket)* There! *(Hand ticket to girl.)*

**LTG:** *(Looking at ticket. Hold up to light)* T – H? What's T – H?

**Trainman:** Well that's a very good question. It could mean many different things. But tonight, T – H just happen to be the first two letters of a very important phrase.

**LTG:** Thank You?

**Trainman:** Yes, thank you for riding the Polar Express. You see, the one thing about trains: It doesn't matter where they are going. What matters is deciding to get on. You and everyone else here, decided to get on the Polar Express tonight. And, for that we say thank you.

**Steward:** Look there in the distance ... it looks like the lights of a strange ocean liner floating on a frozen sea ...

**Trainman:** That is the North Pole ... we are just about there ... *(pulling out pocket watch)* and just about in time! It's five minutes to midnight! So if you are a believer, let's get Santa to hear us. We want Santa to hear our Christmas spirit!

### Lap 3 – Zone D:

**Trainman:** Let try another Christmas song!

**Steward:** Oh, yes! How about Santa Claus is coming to town?

**Trainman:** Lead us off!

**Steward:** *(Lead passengers in song) (Santa Claus Is Coming To Town)*

You better watch out  
You better not cry  
You better not pout  
I'm telling you why



Santa Claus is coming to town

He's making a list,  
Checking it twice,  
Gonna find out who's naughty or nice.  
Santa Claus is coming to town

He sees you when you're sleeping  
He knows when you're awake  
He knows if you've been bad or good  
So be good for goodness sake

You better watch out  
You better not cry  
You better not pout  
I'm telling you why  
Santa Claus is coming to town

**Santa:** *(Santa enters car)* Ho, Ho, Ho! Let's have this little fella right here. *(Santa picks a child at the front of the car. Hold one silver bell up.)* The first gift of Christmas. *(Present bell to child.)* This bell is a wonderful symbol of the Christmas spirit. Better keep that in a safe place. Remember, for all those who truly believe, the true spirit of Christmas lies in your heart. I invite all of you to visit with me inside the depot when the Polar Express arrives at the North Pole.

*(Repeat song and entrance for second half of Bi-Level.)*

*(Music up ... Trainman prepare for arrival at Depot.)*

**Steward:** May I have the attention of all Polar Express passengers. We are arriving at the North Pole. Please remain in your seats until our engineer let's know the brakes are set. Then we will get everyone safely off the Polar Express. This concludes your adventure here at the National Railroad Museum. Please have a safe drive home and a very Merry Christmas.