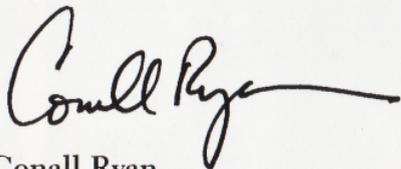


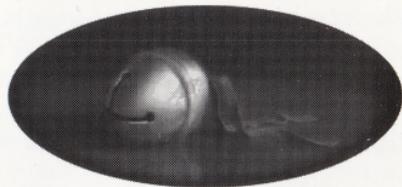
Welcome to Houghton Mifflin Interactive. As you explore our software, you will discover titles based on children's classic characters and stories, creative play activities, leading business figures and renowned reference guides. HMI has brought them all to life on CD-ROM.

HMI is a full division of Houghton Mifflin Company with over twenty CD-ROM titles and three active web sites. We're offering an exciting line of high-quality titles created in the tradition of excellence established by Houghton Mifflin Company 160 years ago. We believe that the best way to earn a place on your CD-ROM shelf is to deliver software that pleases your eyes while stimulating your mind. We love what we do. We hope you will, too.



Conall Ryan
President & Publisher,
Houghton Mifflin Interactive

Welcome to The Polar Express, CD-ROM Edition



System Requirements

Windows®:

486/33 MHz or higher • Windows® 3.1 or higher (including Windows® 95) • 8MB RAM (12MB recommended for Windows® 95) • Double-speed CD-ROM drive • MPC2-compatible sound card (22KHz, 16-bit) • SVGA display (256 colors) • Mouse • 15MB free hard disk space

For Internet access and browser launch: 14.4 bps modem, 12MB RAM recommended

Macintosh®:

68040 or higher (including PowerPC®) • System 7.1 or higher • 8MB RAM (12MB recommended for PowerPC®) • Double-speed CD-ROM drive • Color display capable of 256 colors • Mouse • 15MB free hard disk space

Note: For Internet access option, 14.4k bps modem and Internet service provider required (not included).

Usage Instructions for Improving Performance

If you are using *The Polar Express, CD-ROM Edition* on a computer with 8MB RAM, be sure you have quit all other applications prior to starting the program. The more RAM you have available, the better the product will perform.

Macintosh® Users: If you wish to improve performance, you should turn off virtual memory, disable RAM Doubler™ or increase the memory partition of **The Polar Express** application file on your hard disk. Please consult your Macintosh documentation for instructions on how to do this.

Internet Access

The Polar Express, CD-ROM Edition includes a feature that enables one-click access to the Internet and to **The Polar Express Share the Spirit** web site (<http://www.polarexpress.com>). You must have a web browser already installed on your computer to use this feature. Once you have completed Internet access installation, you can go online from within **The Polar Express** by clicking on the **bell** icon on the **Share the Spirit** screen.*

You may go online by double-clicking on the icons in the **HMI** program group (Windows®) or **The Polar Express** folder (Macintosh®). Double-click on the **HMI Net** icon to visit Houghton Mifflin Interactive's web site (<http://www.hminet.com>). Double-click on the **Share the Spirit Online** icon to go to the **The Polar Express Share the Spirit** web site.

*If you have a Macintosh® with less than 16MB RAM, you will be prompted to close **The Polar Express** CD-ROM before going online.

The Polar Express Share the Spirit Web Site

Houghton Mifflin Interactive invites you to join our online holiday community. Tell us how you keep the holiday spirit alive or share your favorite holiday memory. Or, like the little boy in **The Polar Express**, tell us what you would choose as the first gift of the season. Click on the bell to go online and share your own special thoughts and memories at www.polarexpress.com.



Installation Instructions

Windows® 3.1

1. Insert *The Polar Express* CD-ROM into the CD-ROM drive.
2. From the Windows Program Manager, choose **FILE**, then **RUN**.
3. At the Command Line, type **D:\SETUP.EXE** (where **D:** is the label of your CD-ROM drive; if your CD-ROM drive has another label, please enter that instead). You will be prompted to indicate on which hard disk you would like the program group installed. The setup program will then create **The Polar Express** icons inside an **HMI** program group.
4. To start the product, double-click on **The Polar Express** icon from within the **HMI** program group.

Windows® 95

1. Insert *The Polar Express* CD-ROM into the CD-ROM drive.
2. From the **START** menu, select **RUN**.
3. At the Open line, type **D:\SETUP.EXE** (where **D:** is the label of your CD-ROM drive; if your CD-ROM drive has another label, please enter that instead). You will be prompted to indicate on which hard disk you would like the program group installed. The setup program will then create **The Polar Express** icons inside an **HMI** program group.
4. To start the product, from the **START** menu, under **PROGRAMS**, select the **HMI** program group, then select **The Polar Express** icon.

Macintosh®

1. Insert *The Polar Express* CD-ROM into the CD-ROM drive.
2. Drag **The Polar Express** folder from the CD-ROM window onto your hard disk.
3. To start the program, double-click on **The Polar Express** icon ON YOUR HARD DISK (inside **The Polar Express** folder).

Internet Access Installation

Internet Access Installation: Windows®

You may setup Internet access during or after the normal product installation process. If you skip the Internet access portion of the installation, you may reinitiate the process by double-clicking the **Internet Access Setup** icon in the **HMI** program group.

1. During installation, you will be prompted to setup Internet access.
2. Follow the on-screen instructions to locate and select your browser. If you use Microsoft Internet Explorer™ or Netscape Navigator™, the setup program will automatically find your browser and prompt you to select it.
3. Launch **The Polar Express**, then click on the **Share the Spirit** icon from the home screen.
4. On the next screen, click on the **bell** icon. Your browser will launch to **The Polar Express Share the Spirit** web site.

Internet Access Installation: Macintosh®

You may set up Internet access at any time by double-clicking on the **Internet Access Installer** icon in **The Polar Express** folder. You may also initiate the process from within **The Polar Express** program:

1. Click on the **Share the Spirit** icon from **The Polar Express** home screen.
2. On the next screen, click on the **bell** icon. Internet access installation will begin.
3. Follow the on-screen instructions to locate and select your browser. If you use Microsoft Internet Explorer™ or Netscape Navigator™, the setup program will automatically find your browser and prompt you to select it.
4. Once setup is complete, your browser will launch to **The Polar Express Share the Spirit** web site.

Contacting Technical Support

If you have questions about the program and have access to the Internet, visit the HMI Customer Service and Technical Support Site on the World Wide Web, at

<http://www.hminet.com>

If you don't have access to the Internet, or if you're still experiencing difficulty gather the following information and contact us at one of the listings below:

1. The product name (**The Polar Express, CD-ROM Edition**)
2. Amount of RAM in your system, video card and system information
3. A description of your problem including any error messages
4. A list of the steps that lead to the problem

From the United States or Canada:(800) 210-0241

7:00 am - 1:00 am, Monday - Friday

8:00 am - 8:00 pm, Saturday - Sunday

(Eastern Standard Time)

From outside the US or Canada, call:(617) 503-4888

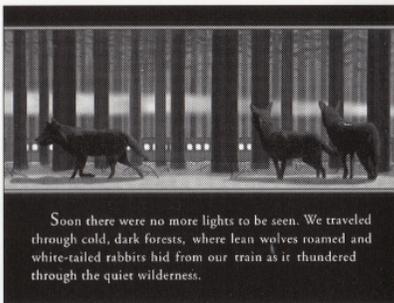
Send correspondence to:.....HMI Technical Support
120 Beacon Street
Somerville, MA 02143

Send faxes to:(617) 503-4900

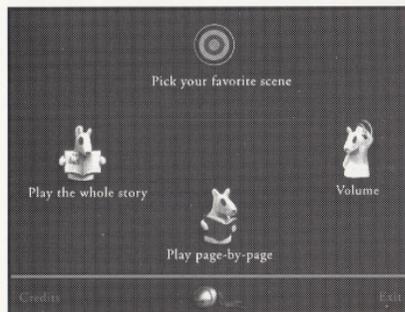
Send e-mail to:HMI_Tech@hmco.com

Product Overview

Welcome to *The Polar Express, CD-ROM Edition*, where Chris Van Allsburg's classic story of a boy's wondrous journey to the North Pole comes alive through subtle animation. As you play each scene of the story—in any of the story-telling modes—if you wish to skip to the end of a page, press the space bar and the navigation buttons will appear.



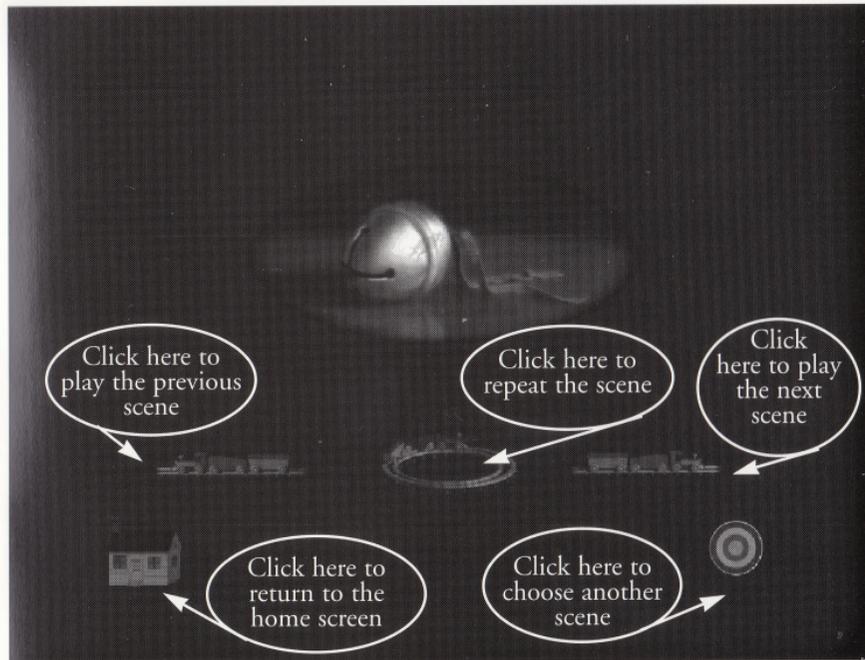
You can listen to *The Polar Express, CD-ROM Edition* in your audio CD player. To listen to the music only, start on Track 2, or go to Track 3 to hear the music and narration together. Be careful not to play Track 1 on your audio CD player as it could cause damage to speakers in older systems.



At the main menu you can choose to play the story scene by scene or play the whole story. Or you can just pick your favorite scene.

Click on the bell to learn about the **The Polar Express Share the Spirit** community and to go online.

When you play the story scene by scene or play your favorite scene, you can return to previous scenes, replay a favorite again and again, or choose another favorite scene.



SHARE THE SPIRIT

Visit Houghton Mifflin Interactive's Polar Express Share the Spirit web site at
www.polarexpress.com

Thousands of web surfers have left heartwarming messages that share the spirit of the season, and HMI invites you to share your own. Tell us how you keep the holiday spirit alive or share your favorite holiday memory. Or, like the little boy in The Polar Express, tell us what you would choose as the first gift of the season.

Click on the bell to go online now.

Click on Santa's bag to read messages that share the spirit.

Visit us online and share the spirit this
holiday season.

<http://www.polarexpress.com>



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