
The Polar Express
A Pilgrimage of Faith

Review from last class:

- The Stagnation of Unbelief
- Grace vs. Human Free Will
- The Polar Express as *Ecclesia*
- The Liturgy of Hot Chocolate

Aspects to Look For Tonight:

- Punched Tickets
- Ministry of Restoration
- Ghost in the Machine

Let’s Take a Look



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18:23-33:54

The Punched Tickets



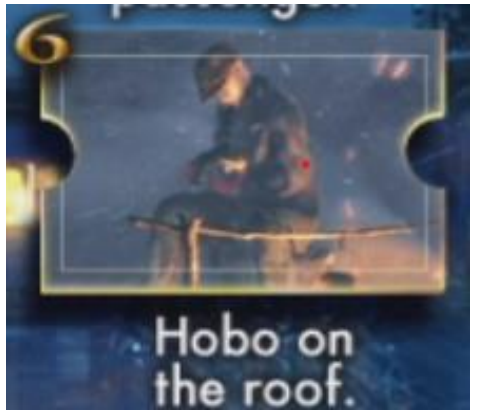
- The Sealed Covenant
  - **The Individual Indelible Mark:** The Conductor uses his punch to permanently carve letters into their transit documents.
  - **The Hidden Word:** The punches initially look like random letters but form words defining each child's specific path toward sanctification ("BE," "LE," "RE," "LE").
  - **The Final Inspection:** The tickets must be presented to complete the journey, symbolizing the review of one's soul.

The Ministry of Restoration

- **Bearing One Another's Burdens (Galatians 6:1-6)**
  - **Leaving No One Behind**: The children explicitly risk their own safety to pull Billy onto the train and ensure he is included.
  - **The Lost Ticket Crisis**: When Hero Girl loses her validation, the Hero Boy risks everything to recover it, showing mutual care.
  - **Shared Fellowship**: Eating, drinking, and singing together unifies the children into a bonded community of faith.
  - No Isolated Salvation: Spiritual transformation occurs through relationships and mutual support inside the vessel.

Bound for Glory: The Ecclesiastical Journey

The Ghost in the Machine



- **The Wind that Blows Anywhere**: The Hobo lives on top of the train, unbounded by compartments or rigid seats.
- **The Questioner of Hearts**: He challenges the Hero Boy's assumptions, acting as a conviction mechanism for doubt.
- **The Hidden Protector**: He rescues the boy on the roof, demonstrating an unseen, comforting presence that intervenes during existential crises.

The Hobo as the Holy Spirit / The Mystic Witness

Time to Question



- Who is the conductor, and what role does he play in the story?
- Who is the hobo, and what role does he play in the story?
- What role does the Know-It-All character play in the group?
- Which character did you relate to most and why?

Some questions may be asked again, at the end.
Will your answer be the same?