

# Small Fred, Larry The Polar Bear

In nineteen thirty-who at a zoo in Los Angeles  
a polar bear named Larry performed for the crowd,  
they'd cheer aloud  
He'd go slipping and sliding, jumping and diving  
The people would laugh. They took his photograph.  
Larry was born at the zoo  
He never knew as he grew older  
anything colder  
than Los Angeles  
which is warmer than Alaska  
where Larry's parents were born.

## CHORUS:

Larry the polar bear  
He'd never harm a hair on a child's head  
He'd do tricks for them  
at the Los Angeles zoo,  
as he'd been taught to by his keeper Fran.  
Fran would teach him new tricks  
A funny pose  
scratching his nose  
He knew there'd be a fish at the end,  
Fran was his friend.  
One day she said "Larry, you'll be in the movies  
with real movie stars and a few simple tricks  
and lots of fish  
to be filmed on location in Alaska."  
and so they rehearsed for Larry's big scene,  
He's supposed to be mean  
and growl at a woman who was rescued by a man who scared him away  
It was stupid  
but fun to do.  
The director would frown  
and jump up and down  
kind of like the chimps at the zoo.

## CHORUS

At last came the day of the trip  
They put Larry in a crate  
twelve foot by eight  
and he sailed aboard a steamship  
The journey was long  
and boring  
Fran would visit  
she'd talk to him  
and bring him his favorite fish  
then the noise and the rumbling stopped  
and they lowered him down  
set the crate on the frozen ground  
and opened it  
Fran said "Larry, we're here  
It's time for your tricks."  
And Larry appeared  
He looked out at the gray Bering Sea  
He squinted and puzzled  
put his nose to the wind  
and the scent of the seal made him tremble  
He smelled the fox in its lair  
and the weasel and hare  
felt lichen and snow 'neath his paws,  
and he looked at the tundra and ice,  
looked at the loon in the sky and he ran  
slowly at first  
kind of lumbering  
he ran  
gathering speed

gathering memories from within  
old and dim  
growing stronger  
to run and to swim,  
to dive and to float,  
the cold at his throat  
But warm inside  
'neath the fur and hide  
Ocean and ice all around him  
He ran  
He ran  
He ran  
and he swam away.