



LAST STOP ON MARKET STREET

AUTHOR: MATT DE LA PEÑA

ILLUSTRATOR: CHRISTIAN ROBINSON

See a video of the book read aloud here: [Last Stop on Market Street](#)

**** REMEMBER: HAVE FUN AND THE KIDS WILL TOO! ****

OVERVIEW

ABOUT THE BOOK

Every Sunday after church, CJ and his grandma ride the bus across town. But today, CJ wonders why they don't own a car like his friend Colby. Why doesn't he have an iPod like the boys on the bus? How come they always have to get off in the dirty part of town? Each question is met with an encouraging answer from grandma, who helps him see the beauty—and fun—in their routine and the world around them. This energetic ride through a bustling city highlights the wonderful perspective only grandparent and grandchild can share, and comes to life through Matt de la Peña's vibrant text and Christian Robinson's radiant illustrations. ([amazon.com](#))

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Matt de la Peña is the New York Times Bestselling, Newbery Medal-winning author of six young adult novels. Matt received his MFA in creative writing from San Diego State University and his BA from the University of the Pacific where he attended school on a full basketball scholarship. De la Peña currently lives in Brooklyn NY. He teaches creative writing and visits high schools and colleges throughout the country

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Christian Robinson is an American illustrator of children's books and an animator. He is based in San Francisco and has worked with The Sesame Street Workshop and Pixar Animation Studios. He graduated from the California Institute of the Arts.

THE READ ALOUD

BEFORE READING

Use these before reading the story to help students activate background knowledge and make predictions:

- (cover) Where do you think the boy and woman are going?
- Introduce the title and author.
- Where do you think this story takes place? What clues from the cover did you use?
- Let's find out about the adventures these characters have while taking the bus.

LAST STOP ON MARKET STREET

TOPICS & THEMES:

- Giving
- Beauty
- Empathy

Tips for every book!

POWER PHRASES:

I WONDER...

I NOTICE...

TELL ME MORE...

DIGGING DEEPER:

"Tell me more, why do you think that?"

"How do you know that?"

"Why do you think they feel like that?"

"Interesting, did you notice anything else?"

DURING THE STORY

Use these while reading the story to help students interpret the action and content:

- (p. 2) I wonder what the author meant by “The outside air smelled like freedom”. What do you think?
- (p. 12) Where do you think Nana and CJ are going? Why was CJ feeling sorry for himself?
- (p. 16) Did you notice that CJ is smiling? Do you have any idea why?
- (p. 22) I wonder how Nana was able to find so much beauty around the city?
- (p. 28) How is everyone feeling in this picture and why?

AFTER READING

Use these after reading the story to help students understand what they just read:

- Why do you think that CJ and Nana went to Market Street after church every week?
- How did this story make you feel?
- Are there people you know or have seen that might need this kind of help?
- I wonder if there is a way you can help people in need.

BRINGING THE BOOK TO LIFE!

- Give a thumbs up if you have ever ridden on a city bus. (Reader: ask a few of the students where they went, what they saw)

COOPERATIVE LEARNING

- Talk to your neighbor about people in your life, like Nana, who help you look at the good in a situation?

SMALL-GROUP IDEAS

1. DISCUSSION ACTIVITY

- Conduct a picture walk through the book and have students discuss what happens in the beginning, middle and end of the story.
- I wonder why the author decided to write this story. Any ideas?
- I noticed that CJ was interested in the riders on the bus. Can you discuss why?
- What did the author mean by, “Some people watch the world with their ears”?
- Have you ever closed your eyes and felt like you were somewhere else?

Suggested Optional Activity:

- (Reader: discuss with students how it would feel not to have any food at home.) Draw a picture to represent a way you can help someone who doesn't have any food.

2. WRITING ACTIVITY

- Write a letter to your neighbors telling them why it would be a good idea to give food for a food drive for the soup kitchen.

3. EXTENSION ACTIVITY

- Create a poster to invite people to come to the soup kitchen. Talk about where to put your poster.

COMMON CORE LINKS

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.5, 2.6.