

Last Stop on Market Street

By Matt de la Peña,

Illustrated by Christian Robinson



Ideas for enjoying the book at home

Created by Pam Spycher

About the Book:

This is a beautiful story that mirrors the diverse world we live in. One day, a young boy named CJ and his Nana take a trip on a bus through their neighborhood. CJ is having a hard time seeing the beauty in his neighborhood, and he feels that some things are not fair, like having to ride the bus. As the story progresses, Nana teaches CJ to appreciate the experience of riding the bus, the different people they meet on it, and the beauty in their community. At the end of the story, CJ and Nana arrive at the last bus stop to volunteer in a meal program that serves people in need. Through its words and artwork, this story teaches children that all people are valuable and that there is beauty all around us, if we just learn to notice it.

Jump into Joyful Reading!

Invite your child to share their thinking and ask questions as you enjoy the book together. The main thing is to have fun and enjoy one another's company as you read together. Here are some things you can say and do to create a joyful reading experience for your child.



Before Reading:

- What do you notice about the cover?
- What do you think about the title?
- What do you think we will discover in this book?



While Reading:

- What do you notice in the picture?
- What do you think about what we just read?
- What are you curious about now?



After Reading:




- What did you think about the book?
- How did it make you feel?
- What was your favorite part?
- What do you think the author wanted us to learn from this story?

Turn the page over for
creative expression ideas!



Creative Expression Activities

After you read the book, unleash your imagination and creativity! Use the ideas below to choose your own adventure. What other ideas did the book inspire your amazing mind to think of?

 <h2>Creative Writing</h2>	 <h2>Visual and Digital Arts</h2>	 <h2>Kindness and Community</h2>
<p>Write and illustrate your own version of the story in <i>Last Stop on Market Street</i>. Here are some questions to help you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where does the story begin? • How is CJ feeling at the beginning of the story? What does he say? • Where are CJ and Nana in the middle of the story? • Who do CJ and Nana meet on their bus ride? • How is CJ feeling when he is on the bus? What does he say? • How does Nana help CJ? What does she say to help him? • Where are CJ and Nana at the end of the story? • What does CJ learn in the story? 	<p>Draw, paint, or take a photograph of a place or a person in your community. What makes your community beautiful? What makes the person valuable?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Once you have your drawing, painting, or photograph, write an artist statement about your creation. • You can use these language frames to get you started: • This is _____. • Some things that make this person/place beautiful are _____. • This person/place is valuable because _____. 	<p>In <i>Last Stop on Market Street</i>, CJ and Nana do something kind for their community by feeding people at a meal program. What is something kind that you can do for your community?</p> <p>Here are a few ideas you can do with a parent, family member, or caregiver:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take a walk around your neighborhood. Smile at and say hello to the people you encounter. • Make your neighborhood more beautiful. Maybe you could pick up trash on the sidewalk or plant some flowers in your front yard. • Visit a grandparent or an elderly neighbor. Ask them questions about their life, tell them some things about you, or tell them your favorite stories.
 <h2>Mindfulness and Self-Awareness</h2>	 <h2>Music and Movement</h2>	 <h2>Pretend Play</h2>
<p>In <i>Last Stop on Market Street</i>, CJ learned that every person is valuable. Remind yourself each day how valuable and special you are.</p> <p>Pick three things to say to yourself over and over again during the day. You can pick different things each day, if you want to.</p> <p>Here are some ideas to get you started:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I am kind. • I am creative. • I am fun to be with. • I am helpful. • I am a good friend. • I am peaceful. • I am talented. • I am strong. 	<p>In <i>Last Stop on Market Street</i>, CJ closes his eyes and learns to feel the magic of music. Ask an adult to play some music. Perhaps they could play music that's new for you.</p> <p>Close your eyes and listen carefully.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do you see in your imagination when you listen to this music? • What do you feel in your body as you listen to this music? • When you're ready, open your eyes and describe what you saw and felt. 	<p>Find one or two friends and pretend to be the characters in <i>Last Stop on Market Street</i>. Choose who will be CJ, who will be Nana, and who will be one or more of the other characters in the story.</p> <p>As you pretend, say the things your character said in the story, and do the actions that they did. You can also make up new things your character would say.</p> <p>You can use costumes, props, puppets, dolls, figurines, or other creative materials to retell the story. The most important thing is to have fun!</p>