

Last Stop On Market Street

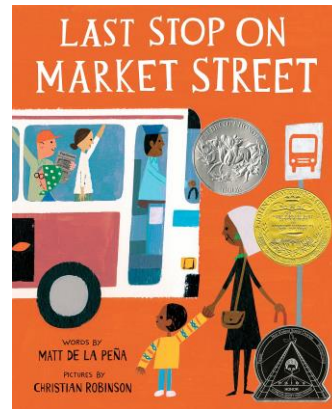
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Grades 1-5

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Discussion Questions

Before Reading

- Look at the cover of the book. What do you think the last stop on Market Street will be? Where do you think the woman and the boy are going?
- Have you taken a public bus before? Where did you go? What did you see on your route?

During Reading

- When you're traveling by foot, car, or bus through your neighborhood, what types of people do you see? Are they similar to who CJ sees on his bus? What about the buildings you pass by? Are they old or new? Do you notice anything else?
- What does Nana mean when she says, "Some people watch the world with their ears"? Have you ever watched the world with your ears when walking around or taking the bus in your neighborhood?
- What do you notice about the buildings on page 23? How do the buildings look similar or different to each other or to buildings that are in your neighborhood? Do you think some of them might be old or new?

After Reading

- What made the adventure with Nana special for CJ? Have you traveled to different parts of the city with your grandparent or parent before? Where did you go? What made that experience special?
- Why do you think it is important to Nana that she takes CJ to the neighborhood at the very end of market street? How does Nana help CJ understand that he is more fortunate than the people he helps in the story? Why is it important to help others who may not have the same life as you?
- Does your city have a neighborhood like the one CJ visits with Nana?



- How do CJ's feelings about visiting the soup kitchen change over time? Why do you think CJ thought differently after his adventure with Nana? How did Nana help CJ see places differently?
- Have you ever found beauty in a place other people did not? What did you see and what made this place beautiful?



Suggested Vocabulary Words

Arcing: the formation of a curved structure or path

Creaked: make a high pitched sound

Freedom: the power to do, think, or speak freely without restrictions

Patter: make a continuous tapping sound like rain drops

Soup Kitchen: a place where free food is served for those who might need it

Witness: a person who sees an event occur

Activity Ideas

Bus Ride

- Provide students with the bus template on the next page. Brainstorm the different kinds of people students see on their commutes to school or to other places in their city or neighborhood. Who would you see if you took the bus like CJ and his Nana did? Who lives in your neighborhood?
- Have the students draw the people and decorate the exterior of the bus.

Last Stop On My Street

- As a follow-up to the previous activity, have students write a short story about where their buses are going. Use the following questions as prompts:
 - o Think about your neighborhood. What do you see on your way to school or to the market? What types of buildings do you see? Are they old or new?
 - o Are there any special places in your neighborhood? What makes them special? What do they look like? What happens there?
 - o Use your senses. What do you see, hear, and smell on your route?
 - o Instruct students to write a short story about where their bus is going and what the passengers see on the way there.



Bus Template

