

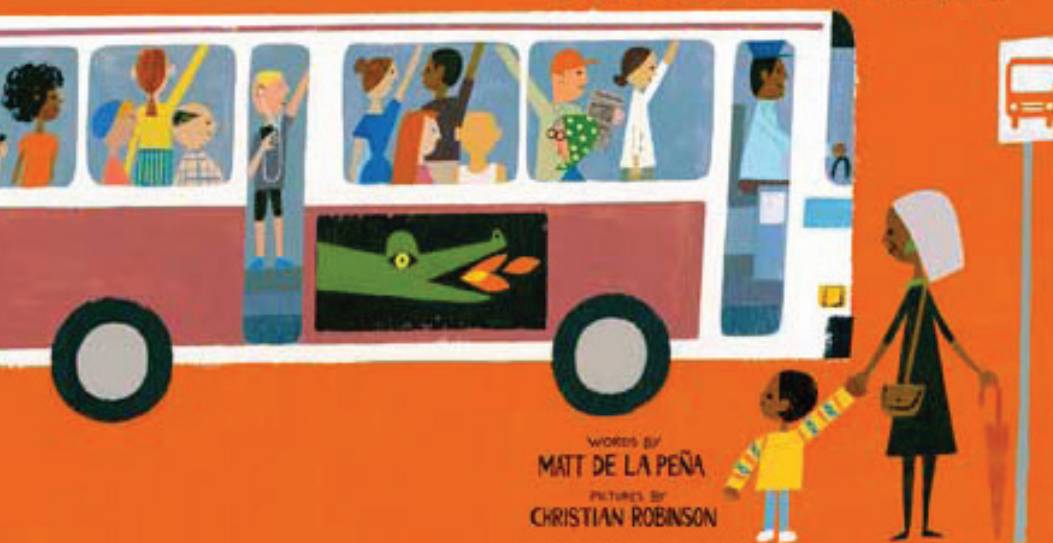


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LAST STOP ON MARKET STREET



November 8-24, 2024

Spotlight: Literacy is a Playhouse program with original funding provided by Joanne and Milt Brown.



Getting to Know You:

The Cast of *Last Stop on Market Street*

Nana helps CJ see that there is beauty everywhere we look. Where are some places you find beauty in your school? Your neighborhood? Your community?



Kendall Bruce (*Madam Butterfly, Grandma Posey & Others*) I find beauty in the way my community helps one another, whether that be

helping others do yard work, take out trash, or even offer a fresh baked good. The people in my community are what brings me the most joy.



Toné Cheré (*Nana*) There is street art in an alleyway that's right behind the former Kum & Go Theatre. It's really pretty but it's a little unfortunate

because a lot of events don't happen there so not many people see it because it's hidden away.



Jaydon Keyon Hall (*Ensemble*) When I walk to my secret spot in my neighborhood, I look at the tiny ants and all the little bugs

on the ground that are so perfect. Then I look up into the sky and see really, really big trees that are so perfectly made, and there is only one reason why! It is God!



Jackson Hamilton (*Ensemble*) I love attending my weekly lessons at City Voices. It is a community organization where people

come together to use their talents to help others grow and become the best version of themselves. I love walking in and hearing the various voices and sounds from the different performers.



Dionysus Lewis Manuel Jr (*Tatted Man & Others*) I work at a preschool where some of them have different struggles, so it gives me a

good feeling when I see them sharing or being kind to friends.



Jeanela McKinney (*Jojo & Others*) Since moving to West Des Moines, I started going on late night walks with my stepbrother. There is a church

with a small playground across our street. We hang out there and talk about anything new happening in our lives.



Owen Nicolino (*Mr Dennis & Others*) There's a secluded area beside a creek on the bike trail where I like to relax when I go on walks. It's a

beautiful place to read a book, take in the surroundings, or just to stop and look around. I don't often see many people there so it is a good place for me to collect myself and enjoy the day. It is one of the most beautiful places to my heart.



Caethen Stocker (*CJ*) I find beauty in cars, the ocean, and music. I love to listen to every little detail of songs and likewise listen to the

"harmonies" cars can have to them, not necessarily just in engine sounds but also in how they look too.



Ian Williams (*Ensemble*) I find beauty in my school's theatre club. We all support each other and make sure we're on top of everything. It's

truly wonderful.



About the Author

Matt de la Peña

Matt de la Peña writes novels for young adults and picture books for young children. He was awarded the Newbery Medal in 2016 for his second picture book, *Last Stop on Market Street*. Matt often includes characters of racial and economic diversity in his works. Other award-winning picture books written by Matt include *Carmela Full of Wishes*, *Love*, and *A Nation's Hope: The Story of Boxing Legend Joe Louis*.

Matt was born in San Diego County, California, to a Mexican father and a white mother. He grew up in a working-class family and earned a basketball scholarship to the University of the Pacific in Stockton, California. He went on to complete a master's degree in creative writing at San Diego State University.

Matt teaches creative writing and visits schools and colleges throughout the country.

Read more about Matt:

Encyclopedia Britannica for Kids



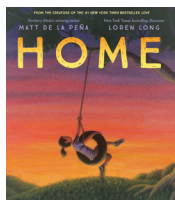
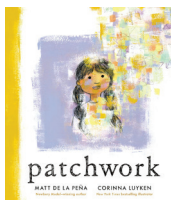
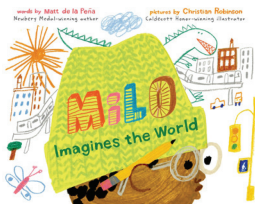
Matt de la Peña's website



Read it!

If you liked *Last Stop on Market Street*, check out other picture books by Matt.

Carmela Full of Wishes • *Milo Imagines the World* • *The Perfect Place*
Love • *Patchwork* • *Home* • *Miguel and the Grand Harmony*



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Here are some questions that encourage you to think more about it.

Why is CJ upset at the beginning?

How does his mood change throughout the show?

As you enjoy this story, take notice of how CJ and Nana see their world. **Do they have a shared vision and see things in the same way? Do they see things differently? How does it compare to how you see the world?**

Nana is a very a positive person, always seeing the bright side of a situation. **Is it possible to choose to be a positive person? If so, why, and how?**

Some people have a lot, meaning they have everything they need and more. Some people have very little. **Do some people have more responsibility to help others? Why or why not?**

CJ and Nana volunteer at a soup kitchen on Sundays – they help cook and serve food to people. **Can you think about a time when you helped someone do something? How did you feel?**

<https://oaklandliteracycoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Read-Aloud-Guide-Last-Stop-on-Market-Street.pdf>

SING-A-LONG **Do you remember the lyrics for “The Wheels on the Bus?”**

The wheels on the bus go round and round, round and round, round, and round.

The wheels on the bus go round and round, all through the town.

The wipers on the bus go swish, swish, swish; swish, swish, swish.

The wipers on the bus go swish, swish, swish, all through the town.

Now replace the words with these terms: Bus Beep, Money Clink – Baby, Wah, Mommy – Shh.

Next, come up with a different character that would be riding the bus.

Non-Traditional Lyrics Sample:

The dentist on the bus goes brush, brush, brush, brush, brush, brush.

The dentist on the bus go brush, brush, brush, all through the town.

The mailman on the bus says, here's your mail, here's your mail, here's your mail.

The mailman on the bus says here's your mail, all through the town.

Try to incorporate as many of the characters into the song as you can.

https://mainstreettheater.com/wp-content/uploads/0822_LastStopOnMarketStreet_StudyGuide_8.5x11-PRINT-nobleeds.pdf



Take a virtual field trip

Sometimes it's hard to understand how another place looks unless we see images of it. Take a virtual field trip with an adult to a community different from yours! Talk about the distance, population, and other interesting facts you find. Don't just look at the map. Hear the language, talk about the foods that are eaten in the region and see what homes look like there. Talk about the similarities and differences of all the cultures and locations that you study.

Have an adult scan the QR code to
begin your virtual travels!



<https://travelnitch.org/just-for-kids/>

Acts of Kindness Challenge

Kindness is a choice we can make over and over again. And every time we do, we make a difference to those around us.

1. **Choose** your kind act.
2. **Plan** your kind act.
 - Who** will you do it for?
 - When** will you do it?
 - Where** will you do it?
3. **Do** your kind act!
4. **Observe** what happened and how you feel.

Idea Bank:

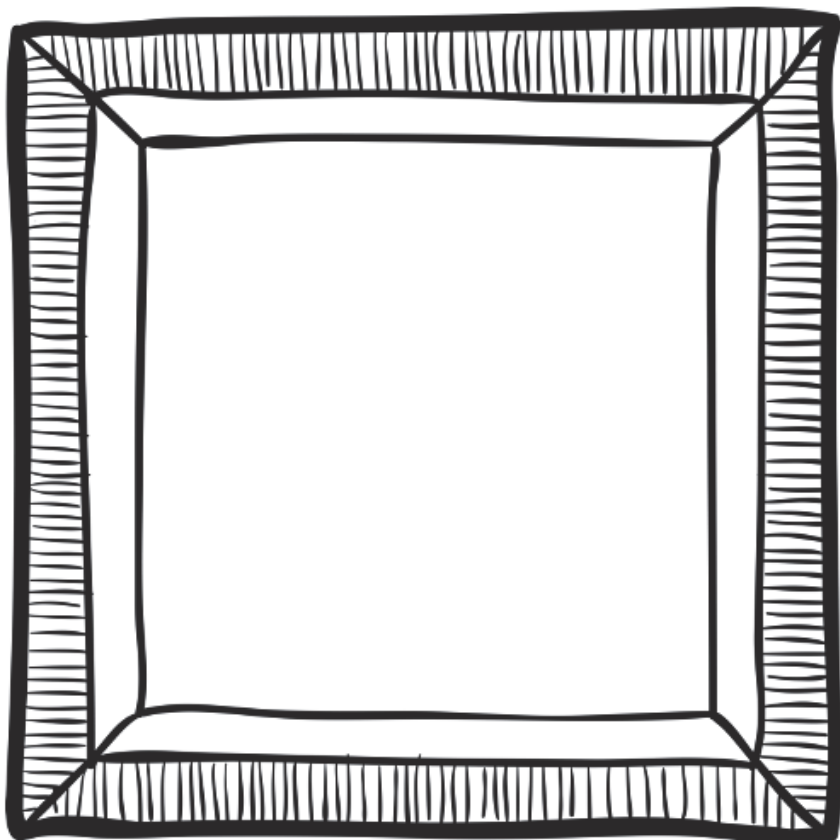
- Invite someone to something
- Thank someone for something they did
- Take a mindful moment for yourself
- Pick up litter or trash
- Draw a picture for someone
- Help with a chore you don't normally do
- Give someone a compliment
- Smile at someone
- Go outside and enjoy nature

Gallery of Gratitude

Nana helps CJ see that there is beauty everywhere, even in places we might not expect. Now it's your turn to think about where you see beauty around you!

1. **Think:** Take a moment to reflect on the places in your life where you find beauty. It could be in your school, your neighborhood, or your community. What makes these places special or beautiful to you?
2. **Draw:** Using the blank frame below, draw a picture of one of these places. It might be a park, a favorite classroom, a busy street, or even a quiet corner where you feel peaceful.
3. **Share:** Once you're done, display your drawing. This way, others can appreciate the beauty all around them that they may not have noticed before.

Remember, beauty isn't just about how something looks. It's about how it makes you feel. So, what places make you feel grateful or happy? Let your creativity shine!



<https://englishfuninstefyclass.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/gallery-of-gratitude.pdf>

SOMETHING GREEN

A BEAUTIFUL SOUND

A USEFUL OBJECT

Gratitude Walk

Gratitude is when you feel thankful for the good things in your life

Instructions: Take a gratitude walk with your family around your neighborhood, looking for discoveries that fill your heart or bring a smile to your face. What things in your community are you grateful for? How can you share these feelings of gratitude with others?

A SMELL YOU LOVE

A MAGICAL TREASURE THAT BRINGS YOU JOY

SOMETHING IN MY OWN YARD

A CREATURE THAT MAKES YOU GIGGLE

SOMEONE IN MY LIFE

SOMETHING THAT FLIES



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