



Reading Roundup



Last Stop on Market Street

Written by Matt de la Peña
Illustrated by Christian Robinson

Reading Roundup
Partners



Introduction

Gather the students around you so that they are able to see the illustrations of the book. Most classrooms will have an area rug defining this space. Introduce yourself and tell the students that you are excited to share Last Stop on Market Street, written by Matt de la Peña and illustrated by Christian Robinson.

Before Reading

C.J. and his grandmother, Nana, ride the bus when they need to go somewhere in the big city. He has a hard time seeing the beauty in ordinary things, even though Nana points them out along the way. Matt de la Peña tells a wonderful story with a surprising end – an end that is sure to make us stop and think about what we have and the importance of sharing.

During Reading

• Begin reading the book by starting on the title page. Hold the book so that students are able to see the illustrations. Give plenty of time for students to “read” and think about the pictures. Continue to read through **page 8**.

• **Page 8 – P** – *Even in the first pages, Matt de la Peña tells us about C.J. and Nana. Nana sees the beauty in things, but C.J. complains. What does C.J. say to tell us he doesn't like what's happening around him?* (“How come we gotta wait for the bus in all this wet? Nana, how come we don't got a car?”)

• **Page 15 – T/T** – *As C.J. looks out the bus window, he feels sorry for himself. He sees boys riding bikes and having fun. Turn and talk to your partner about what you think C.J. might be saying to himself. (Accept all reasonable answers.)*

• **Page 21 – P** – *Something wonderful happened as C.J. listened to the magic of music. C.J. began to see things as Nana sees them. “And in the darkness, the rhythm lifted C.J. out of the bus, out of the busy city.” Did the music really lift C.J. out of the bus? What's happening to C.J. through the power of music?* (No, C.J.'s body doesn't leave the bus. As C.J. closes his eyes and listens, he is beginning to change. He is beginning to see the beauty in what's happening around him.)

• **Page 25 – T/T** – *Nana says, “Sometimes when you're surrounded by dirt, C.J., you're a better witness for what's beautiful.” I wonder what Nana means. Turn and talk to your partner about what Nana means about being a better witness for what's beautiful when you're surrounded by dirt.* (Remind the children that readers don't always know all the answers right away. It's good to take time to think about important words an author uses to make us think. It's easier to appreciate beautiful (good things) when you've lived with the dirt (bad things.)

After Reading

• **Page 35 – P** – *The last stop on Market Street is a soup kitchen, a safe, warm place where people who can't buy their own food can get something to eat. C.J. and Nana volunteer their time every Sunday after church. What does this tell us about Nana? What does she want to teach C.J.?* (Nana believes in helping others. She shows C.J. through her actions that no matter who you are, no matter how little you have, you must always find a way to give to others.)

Remember, regardless of our own situations, we can always find a way to give to others. Look for ways to help others who are less fortunate than you.

Vocabulary

freckled – spotted, p. 5

pool – come together, p. 8

lurched – jumped forward, p. 14

witness – see, p.25

