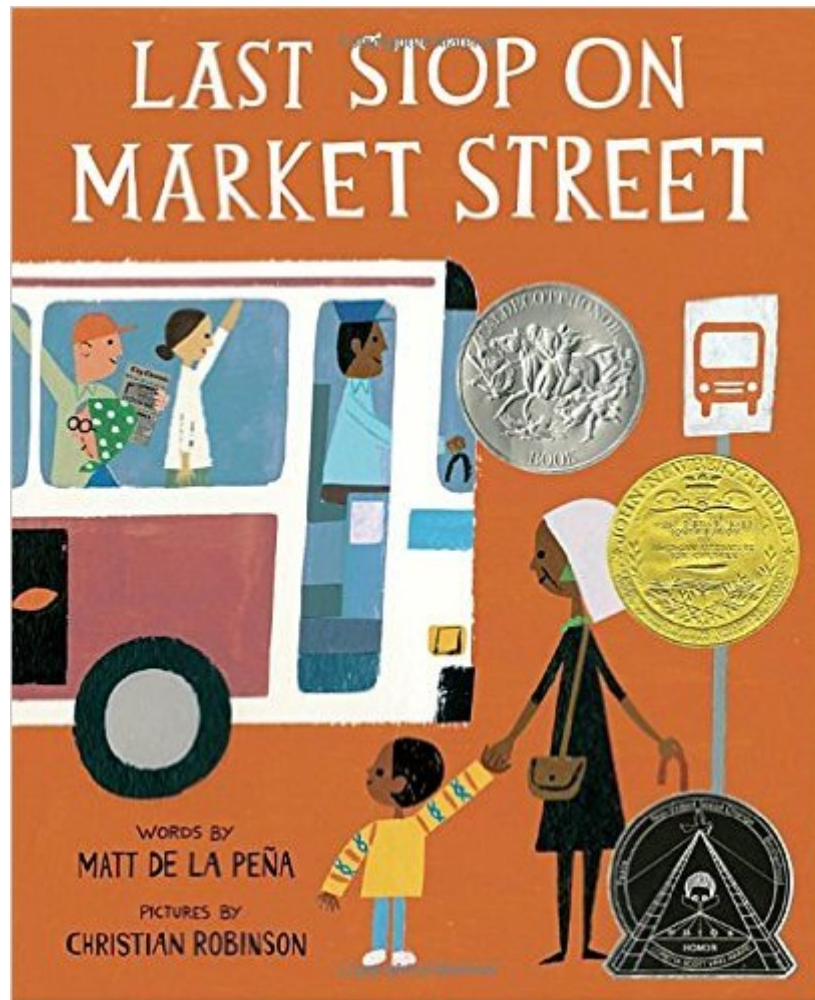


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# Last Stop On Market Street



## Synopsis

Winner of the 2016 Newbery MedalA 2016 Caldecott Honor BookA 2016 Coretta Scott King Illustrator Honor BookA New York Times Book Review Notable Children's Book of 2015A Wall Street Journal Best Children's Book of 2015Every 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.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD610L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers; 1 edition (January 8, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0399257748

ISBN-13: 978-0399257742

Product Dimensions: 8.9 x 0.3 x 10.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars See all reviews (161 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #501 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #1 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > African-American #2 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Multigenerational #6 in Books > Children's Books > Cars, Trains & Things That Go

Age Range: 3 - 5 years

Grade Level: Preschool - Kindergarten

## Customer Reviews

When I read this book I got goosebumps that wouldn't go away, which (according to the Dickinson definition) makes it poetry. Matt de la Peña's prose was lyric and Christian Robinson's illustrations were beautiful. CJ's voice is so real, and the Nana who spurs CJ to see the beauty of the city jumps off the page. My six year old daughter melted into me as I read it to her. I look forward to reading it

to my fifth graders in writing class to spur them to observe the ordinary all around us in magical ways. I am excited to have a mirror that accurately reflects our city, and a character of color that reflects my students. In addition, I am so excited to have dialogue that actually sounds how we talk! As soon as the paperback comes out, I will buy another copy for home and a copy for the classroom library.

This is a really nice book. For parents out there to write a negative review because of how this grandmother and grandson speak is, to my mind, quite ridiculous. Aren't we, as parents, supposed to raise children to become aware of others in their world who may not look exactly like them? Who may not talk exactly like them? Who may not live exactly like them? This book does a really nice job of presenting a loving family living in the city of San Francisco and also has a very powerful lesson about giving back. What more could a father (me) or mother ask for in terms of an appropriate and loving book for their pre-schooler? I found it not only a charming story but a great vehicle for opening some doors into some important discussions. My daughter loves it and I couldn't recommend it enough.

Picture books are designed to be equal parts text and art--where both come together to create something bigger and better than the sum of its parts. Few picture books today achieve that goal; most focus primarily on the art and that one joke/surprise at the end. Enter **LAST STOP ON MARKET STREET**. This picture book is the perfect example of what a picture book should be. The beautifully-written and poignant text by Matt de la Pena and the evocative illustrations by Christian Robinson (which remind me of my great love for Ezra Jack Keats' art) capture a world few picture books enter (but should). While de la Pena is better known for his YA books, I hope he continues creating picture books that elevate the format. Congrats to author and illustrator.

Summary: CJ and his nana have a Sunday morning routine. After church they walk to the bus stop, board the bus, and take a ride. The book follows them on their bus ride one Sunday. CJ wishes he didn't have to go. He's envious of his friends who have cars, and who get to go home after church. But every time he complains, his nana points out all the good parts of their day. The rain is giving the thirsty trees a drink. The bus breathes fire and the friendly bus driver can pull a coin out of CJ's ear. The dirty city just makes the rainbow in the sky seem more beautiful. By the time they climb off the bus, CJ is glad to be going to the soup kitchen with Nana to help serve the friends who look forward to seeing them every week. Pros: The text is brief, but the writing is

beautifully descriptive (The outside air smelled like freedom, but it also smelled like rain, which freckled C.J.'s shirt and dripped down his nose). Nana is an inspiring character who gently points out the good in everything without being annoying. Cons: The guy with the tattoos really should give up his seat on the bus to Nana.

This is a simple, but beautiful story with heart. It is told by a little boy who apparently lives with his Nana. The illustrations are scenes painted in brilliant colors. C.J., the boy has many questions to ask his Nana, like why they have to ride the bus or always to do the same thing every Sunday? Nana patiently and gently answers every question and helps C.J. to open his eyes and his mind to the beauty around him. This book teaches children compassion and to look for good and beauty in people and their surroundings. It models empathy for those who have less than one has. Nana has a lovely spirit and great wisdom. She makes one feel that she is a lady one would like to know. Nana teaches the joy of giving back to others. This is a book I will read again and again.

I bought this wonderful book of stories and descriptions to share with my grandchildren. Stories are a big part of our weekly nana time. A big thank you to the creators of this wonderful new addition to our list. Vermont nana

Matt de la Pena has crafted a picture book that appears to be quite simple and yet is surprisingly deep. On the surface, it is just a boy and his grandmother, spending the day going somewhere. The discontented child wants to know why they are in the rain, why they have to take the bus, and why he doesn't have fancy electronics. The wise grandmother gives simple answers about what there is to appreciate about each circumstance. What I love about the story is the dialogue between the two main characters sounds like a dialogue between a person's ego and his higher self. The ego is unhappy (naturally) and the higher self responds with love and appreciation for 'what is.' It is pure universal wisdom. Ultimately, the last stop is a homeless shelter, where they arrive to volunteer. The boy learns to see his grandmother can find the beauty in anything, everywhere - and the journey takes them to a place where they can serve. Ah, beautiful. The cheerful, childlike illustrations keep the focus on what's important: the here and now. The art is a combination of acrylic paint and collage - a palette reminiscent of Ezra Jack Keats, "A Snowy Day." Also similar to "A Snowy Day", the main character is a low-income, African-American boy of about 5 years in age. The story celebrates cultural diversity and delivers an elegant moral: economic poverty does not have to mean spiritual poverty.

This is a really cute story. The writing is very lyrical and the illustrations are engaging. It can be hard to find contemporary children's stories that take place in the city and this is a good one. The message about helping and finding beauty in the everyday is very positive.

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