



Main
Street
Theater

Last Stop on Market Street Study Guide

all
THEATER FOR ^ YOUTH

Last Stop on Market Street

Last Stop on Market Street is a story about appreciating differences, happiness, and inequity. Every Sunday after church, CJ and his Nana take the bus to its last stop on Market Street. This Sunday, CJ begins to wonder why they have to wait in the rain, why they don't have a car, why they always make this trip. Nana responds by giving him different ways of appreciating what they have, what their routine is, and different people they meet. Nana shows CJ the value in differences and the joy in helping those that need it.
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Credits

Jennifer Bacall, Librarian
Melanie O'Neill, Graphic Designer

About the Author • Matt de la Peña



A San Diego, California, native, Matt de la Peña received his BA from University of the Pacific, which he attended on a basketball scholarship. He then received his MFA in creative writing from San Diego State University.

De la Peña wrote *Mexican WhiteBoy* in 2008, drawing on his own teenage passion for sports and Mexican heritage. The novel was banned from classrooms in Tucson, Arizona, starting in 2012, when lawmakers passed laws to remove materials containing “critical race theory,” until 2017, when the court ruled the law violated the

constitutional rights of Mexican American students.

In 2015, he wrote ***Last Stop on Market Street*** which won the 2016 Newbery Medal. De la Peña is the first Hispanic to win the Newbery Award. In 2021, he published ***Milo Imagines the World***, which was named to the 2022 Bank Street Children’s Best Books of the Year List.

As of 2022, he resides in Southern California. He teaches creative writing at San Diego State University.



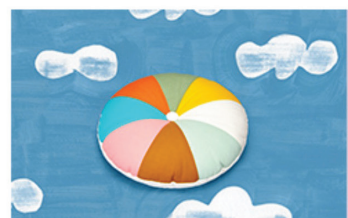
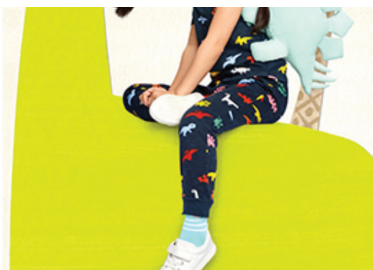
About the Illustrator • Christian Robinson



Christian Robinson began drawing as a child. Living in California, he grew up in a one-bedroom apartment with his brother, two cousins and grandma. He has worked for Pixar Animation Studios and Sesame Street. He had a mentor who helped him to work his way into college and to find work after.

The art of Christian Robinson was turned into a product line at Target in 2021. He continues to live in California.

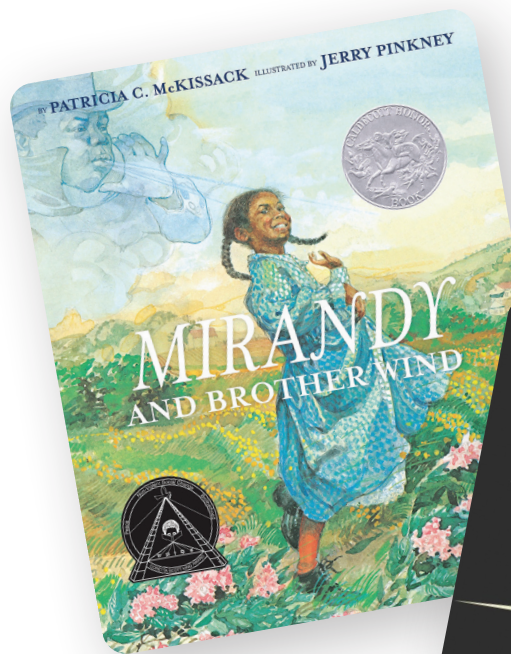
Christian Robinson X TARGET



About the Playwright • Gloria Bond Clunie



Gloria Bond Clunie is a multiple award-winning author living in Evanston, Illinois. She has written many adaptation and plays including ***North Star***, ***Mirandy and Brother Wind***, and ***Merry Kwanzaa***. Her honors include a Medallion Award from the Children's Theatre Foundation of America, the Theodore Wise Award for African-American Playwrights and New Professional Theatre Award.



Before You See the Play

Read the book as a class and describe what you see in the illustrations and what happens in the story.

- * Who are the characters in the story?
- * Talk about the setting. Where does the story take place?
- * What kind of transportation is used?
- * What kind of community members are mentioned or seen?
- * What do you think of the colors and drawing style?

Make some predictions.

- * Which characters do you think will be in the play?
- * What do you think will be the main message of the play?
- * What do you think the set will look like?

Talk about the rules of the theater.

Discuss some theater terminology.

Encourage the students to think about what book they would like to see made into a play.

How Should I Prepare My Students for a Trip to the Theater?

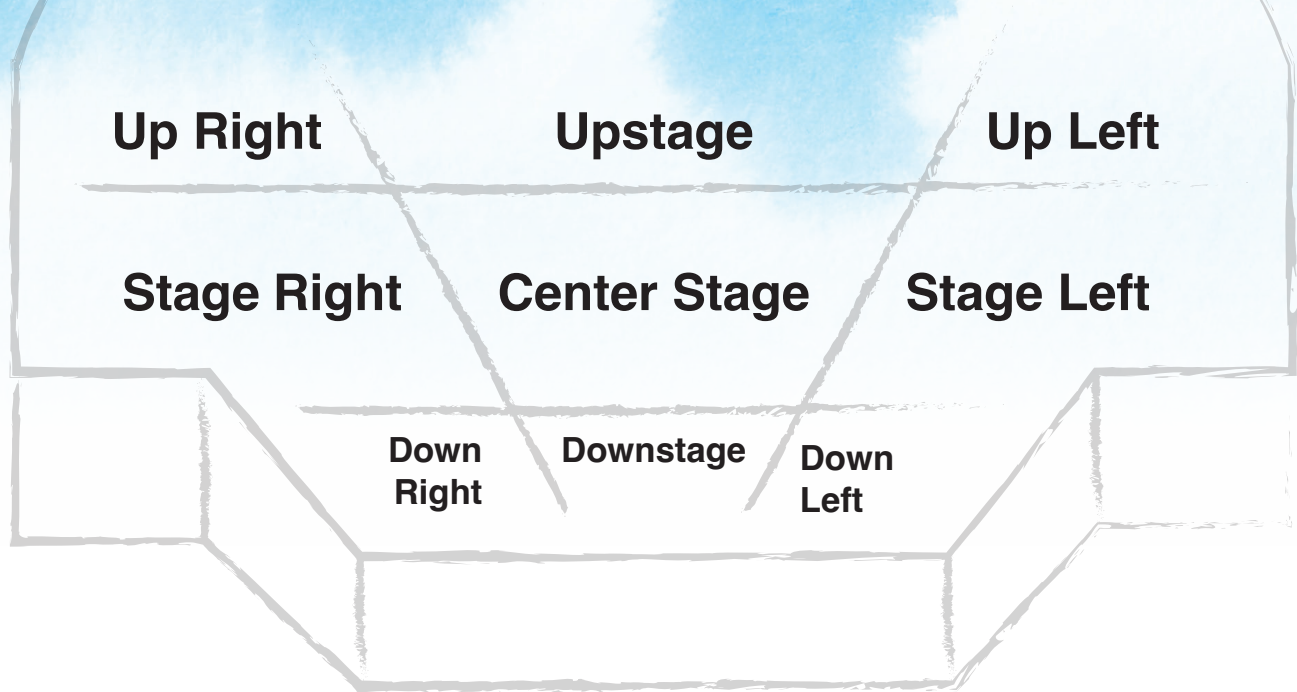
Being in a live performance is very different than seeing a movie in a movie theater or at home. The setting is much quieter and noises created by viewers can interrupt the show and distract the performers. Remember, that real people are on stage and they deserve your respect while they perform.

Here are some guidelines and rules to attending live theater:

- * No talking. Even whispers can be quite loud in a quiet room.
- * If you have a cell phone, it must be turned off AND put away during the show. The light can distract performers.
- * Keep bags, feet and bodies out of the aisles. Sometimes actors walk through them during shows.
- * Do not put your feet on the chairs in front of you or sit on your feet in the seats.
- * No food or drinks are allowed in the theater.
- * Cover your mouth for yawns, coughs or other noises.
- * If you think something is funny, feel free to laugh. The actors are energized by interaction from the audience.
- * Don't stand up or switch seats during the performance.
- * Use the restroom and get comfortable before the show starts.

Theater Terminology

Why does what looks like the right is called the left? The sides of the stage are spoken of as from the view of the actor facing the audience. That is why it seems opposite to the audience. The same is true of Upstage and Downstage.



Gel A slip of colored gel that is placed on top of a light to change its color.

Auditorium The part of the theater that the audience sits in.

(the) Book The script, which has all the lines for the actors as well as the stage directions.

Director The person who controls the production, interacts with all designers (costume, set, lighting), decides on the blocking of actors, runs the rehearsals and more.

Legs Curtains used to cover the wings.

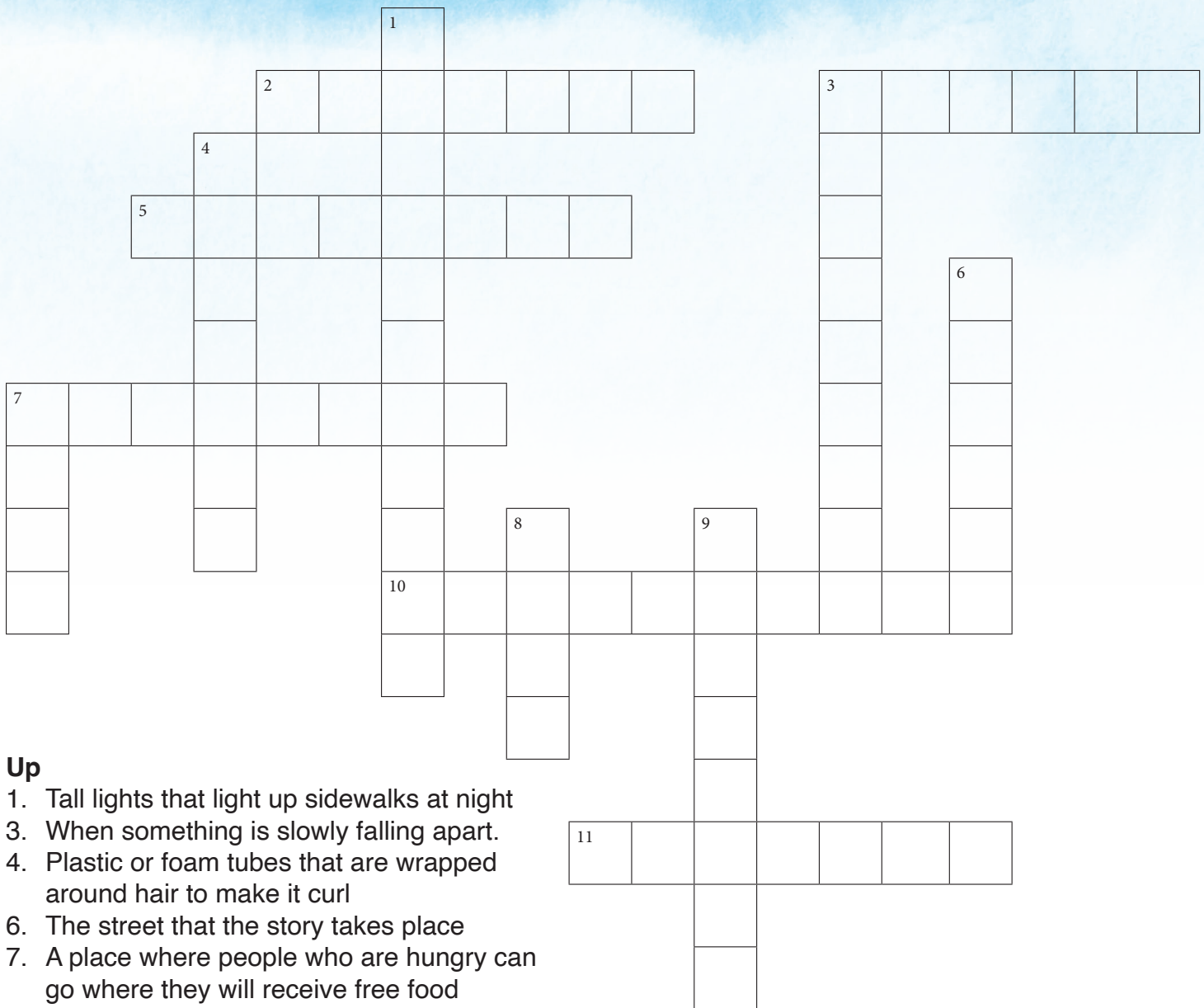
Set The scenery used during the play.

Wings The area just off of the stage left or stage right. The actors wait there before they go onstage.

Proscenium The part of a modern stage in front of the curtain.

Vocabulary Crossword

Use the clues to fill in the words. Words can go across or down.
Letters are shared when the words intersect.



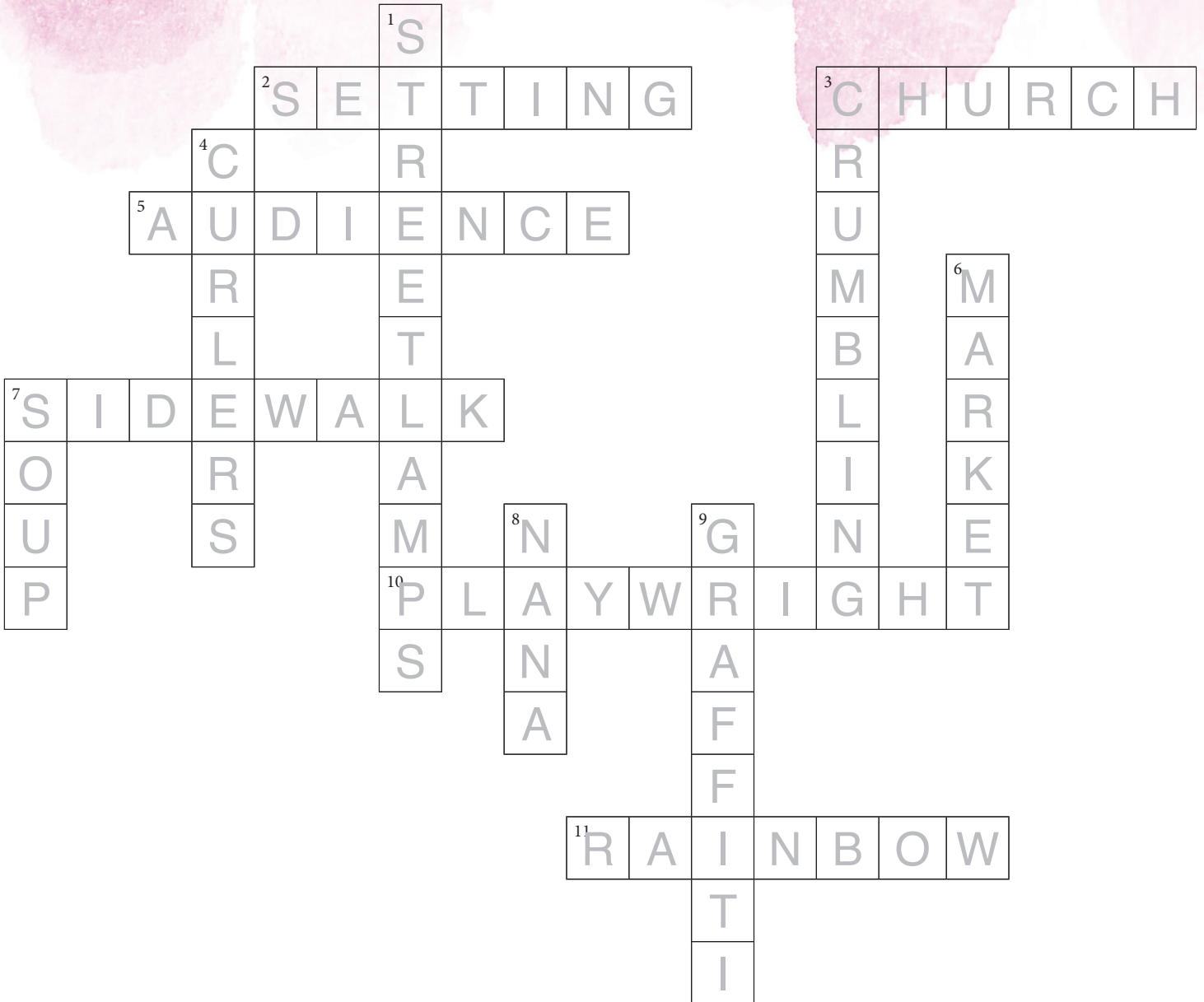
Up

1. Tall lights that light up sidewalks at night
3. When something is slowly falling apart.
4. Plastic or foam tubes that are wrapped around hair to make it curl
6. The street that the story takes place
7. A place where people who are hungry can go where they will receive free food
8. The older main character in the book
9. Things painted on walls, garbage cans, and other places that are done without permission

Across

2. The place that the play takes place
3. A building where Christian people go to celebrate their religion
5. The people who go to a play
7. A walkway next to a road that keeps walkers safe.
10. The name of the person who adapts the book into a play
11. A spectrum of light in the sky that is red, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet

Vocabulary Crossword • Key



Writing Lesson 1

CJ and Nana find beauty in their neighborhood. Beauty can be found anywhere! Think about things that can be found in your neighborhood that are beautiful. After you come up with 5 things, write the words by the numbers.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Next, try to write some sentences describing the things or share with your class your ideas.

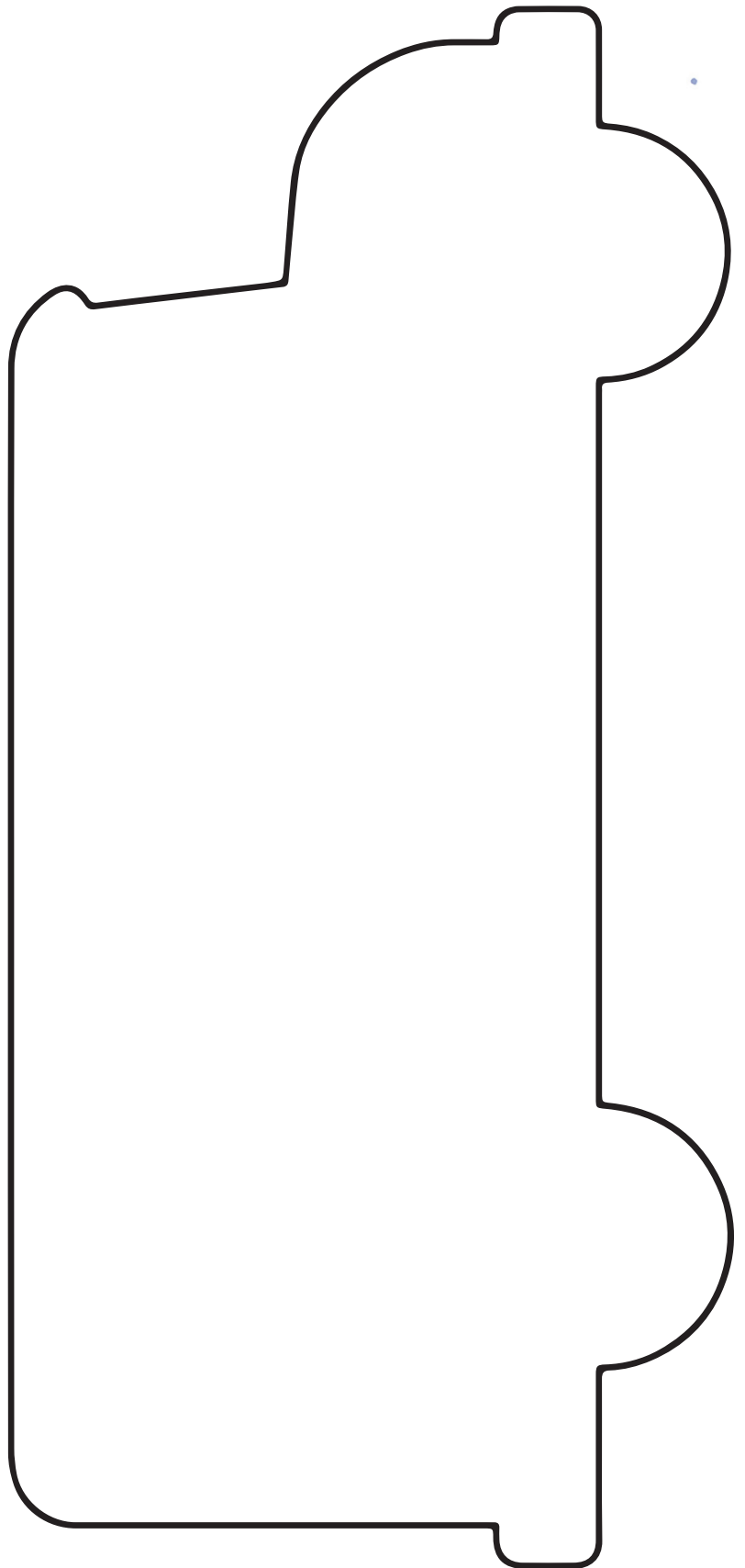
CJ spends the day with his grandmother, Nana, and learns a lot about her and she is able to teach him about her life.

Have your students interview their grandparents or another family member if they don't have access to a grandparent. If they can't write, they can make a video or voice recording. Ask them what it was like growing up in their neighborhood? What is their neighborhood that they live in now like? Who are some of the people that make up their neighborhood?

Art Lesson 1

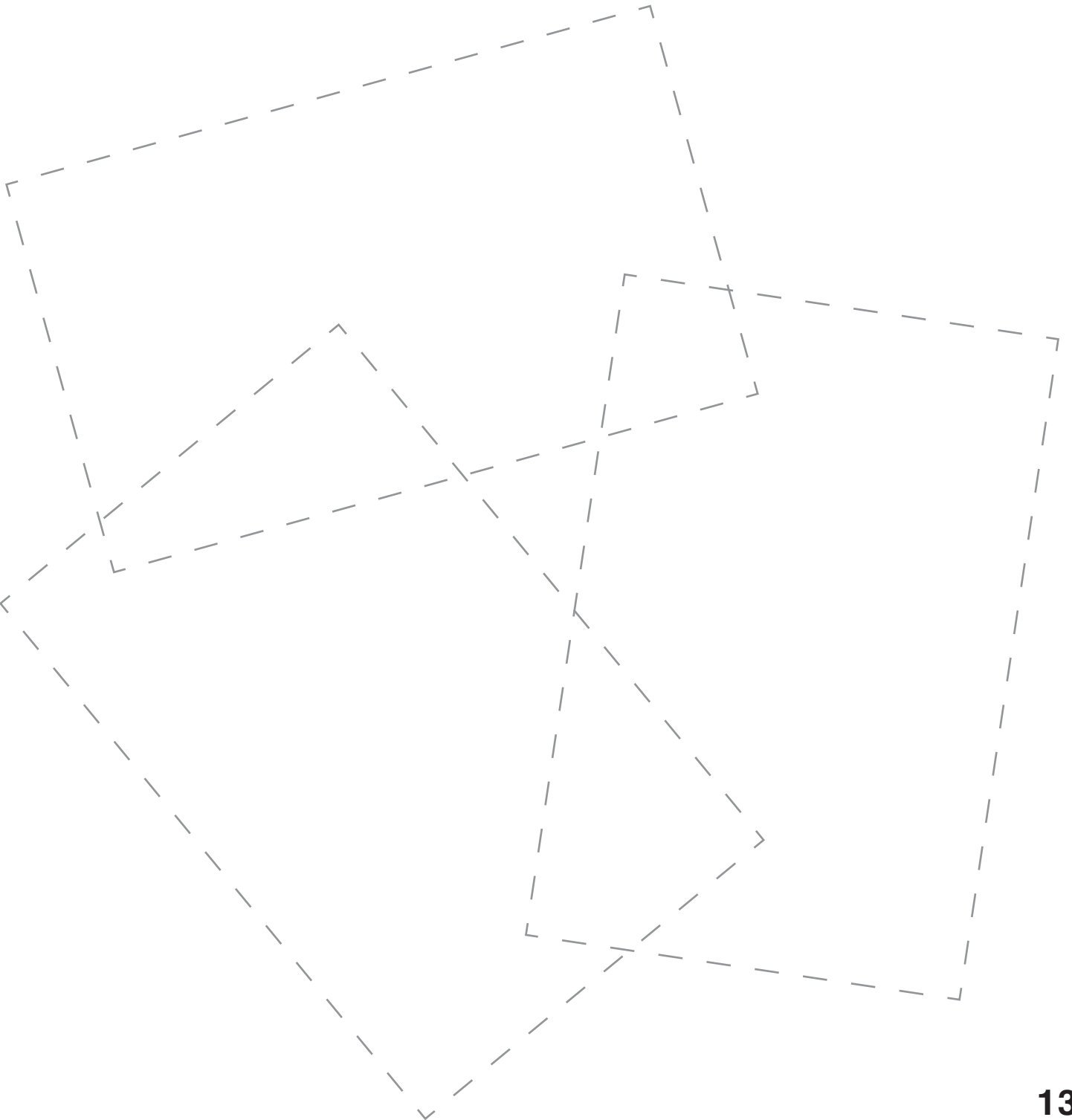
Nana and CJ ride the bus. Ask your students if they have ever ridden a city bus? What was it like? What kind of people were on the bus with them? Have them decorate the bus provided with the people they saw on the bus they rode on or with the characters they saw in the play.

- * You can allow students to cut people out from magazines.
- * Use popsicle sticks, glitter and other embellishments.
- * Make a sample so the students can see where the windows, wheels and door would be.



Art Lesson 2 • "I Am Thankful For..." Photo Hunt

Have your students hunt for photos at home of all the things they are thankful for. Photos could include family members, vacations, school parties, pictures of friends, objects, or special memories in their lifetime. If photos are not available, children can draw pictures of what they are thankful for. This could include many things around their home, neighborhood, school, family, and friends.



Math

Fill in one square on the line for each time the word is used. You may choose one page, several pages, or have the students count throughout the entirety of the book.

- * Do you have enough squares for each word?
- * Which of the words we counted was used the most?
- * Which was used the least?

Bus									
Beauty									
CJ									
Rainbow									
Crumbling									
Graffiti									
Nana									
Church									

Social Studies • Lesson 1

Who are the people in CJ's neighborhood?

What are some of the careers that he sees people working?

What did CJ see that he thought was bad and ugly?

What did Nana point out that was beautiful?

Now- go through all of the same questions, but thinking about your own neighborhood.

Appreciating Differences

1. The characters in the book are all different in different ways: some have cars, some are young, some are old, some are poor, some can see, some cannot see, some play instruments. Are there some ways in which they are all the same?
2. Can people just be different without one being better than the other?
3. There is a special seat on the bus where Nana and the blind man sit. Is it good that this seat exists? Why?
4. Do you think if the blind man could suddenly see he would be happier? Why or Why not?
5. If you suddenly could no longer see, would you be sad? Why or why not?
6. CJ and his Nana do the same thing each week (a routine).

Different families and different people have different routines. After church, CJ and his Nana go help at the soup kitchen. Do they have a good routine? What are some of your family's routines?

Happiness & Goodness

1. Why do you think Nana and CJ volunteer at the soup kitchen? Do they do it for the same reasons? Are some reasons for volunteering better than others?
2. 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?
3. Are there unhappy people in the book? What makes a person unhappy?
4. In the book, some people have things that other people lack. Do we think people are usually happier if they have more things?
5. What do we need to be happy? For example, do we need food, shelter, friends, a music player, the ability to see?

Inequity

1. When waiting on the bus CJ sees the two boys listening to the music player and wishes he had one. CJ also wishes that he and Nana had a car. Is it bad that the boys have a music player and CJ doesn't? Is it bad that Nana and CJ don't have a car, but others do? Why or why not?
2. When CJ and Nana reach the last stop on Market Street, they are headed to the soup kitchen where people are lining up to get food. Is it bad that some people must go to a soup kitchen for food and others don't? Why or why not?
3. Do you think there is a difference between CJ not having a music player and Bobo, Sunglass Man, and Trixie not having food? Is having food more important than having a music player? Why or why not?
4. 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?

Last Stop On Market Street - teaching children philosophy. Prindle Institute. (2021, January 27). Retrieved August 21, 2022, from <https://www.prindleinstitute.org/books/last-stop-on-market-street/>

Social Studies • Lesson 2

Give each student a small plastic cup or other container. Every time that you witness them giving an act of kindness, add a pom pom to the cup. When it is full have a celebration in the classroom. It might be a short dance break, extra quiet reading time or a longer recess. Use the gathered pom poms to make art.

This can also be done with one larger container that all of the class helps contribute to. This will also be an example of community!

What acts of kindness do you see in the book?

Are there ways that you could spread kindness to those around you?

Music Lesson 1

On the bus, C.J. closes his eyes, as suggested by the blind man sitting near him, to hear the guitar gently playing nearby. When he does this, he “sees” what he hears: “sunset colors whirling over crashing waves;” “a family of hawks slicing through the sky;” and “butterflies dancing free in the light of the moon.” Play a range of different music compositions for your students. Ask students to close their eyes as you play each segment, and when the music is over, give the students a minute to write down everything they saw in their mind’s eye. Have them compare and contrast what they see with when hearing the different compositions.

Some ideas of what to play:

Musical Composition	Composer
<i>Flight of the Bumblebee</i>	Nikolai Ramsky-Korsakov
<i>Pictures at an Exhibition</i>	Modest Mussorgsky
<i>Rhapsody in Blue</i>	George Gershwin
<i>The Entertainer</i>	Scott Joplin
<i>Iberia</i>	Isaac Albéniz

Don’t forget to mix in some memorable theme music:

<i>Star Wars</i>
<i>SpongeBob SquarePants</i>
<i>Bob The Builder</i>

Have fun by choosing any song that might set a mood for the children.

Music Lesson 2

Start by sharing the lyrics for ***The Wheels on the Bus*** with your students. Have each student come up with a different character that would be riding the bus. Try to incorporate as many parts of the charters into the song as you can.

Traditional Lyrics

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.

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

Non-Traditional 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.

You can go on as long as you'd like. Another fun way to play with this is to break students into small groups and have them sing each other's ideas.

How can you teach children about diversity?

A simple, kid friendly definition of diversity is difference(s) between two or more things.

You can discuss the difference in everyday things that we all know are the same.

For example:

- * Trees – Apple, Pine, Maple, Willow, etc.
- * Dogs – German Shepherd, Poodle, Beagle, Terrier, etc.
- * Music – Rap, Pop, Classical, Jazz, etc. (You can play examples of each).

Learn about other cultures through looking at and creating artwork from other cultures.

- * Dreamcatchers – American – Indian
- * Origami – Japanese
- * Rangoli Sand Art – Indian
- * Paper Mache – Caribbean and Latin
- * Brush Drawing – Chinese

Go on a Virtual Field Trip. From YouTube, Pebble Go, Google Maps, and numerous other digital resources, you can take your students around the world!

- * Some children will have a hard time understanding how another place will look unless they see images of it. A visual vacation will enrich learning for all students.
- * You can incorporate some math into the lesson by talking about distance, population and other statistics.
- * Don't just look at the map. Let the children 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 of the cultures/locations that you study.
- * Have the students think about a culture that they would like to live in.

all4kids. (2021, December 17). Diversity Activities for kids: Teaching children about acceptance: Children's bureau. Child Abuse Prevention, Treatment & Welfare Services | Children's Bureau. Retrieved August 21, 2022, from <https://www.all4kids.org/news/blog/how-to-teach-kids-about-diversity-and-acceptance/>



Other books by Matt de la Peña



Miguel and the Grand Harmony

Miguel and the Grand Harmony is a beautiful original story based on the characters of the film, *Coco*. The discovery of a generations-old mystery leads to a most extraordinary and surprising family reunion.

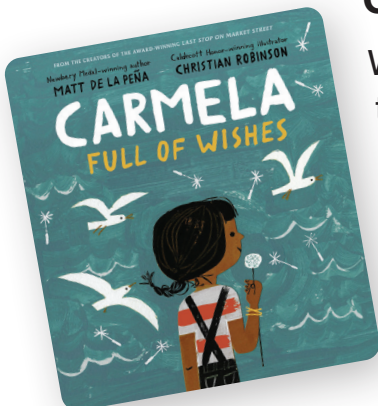
Milo Imagines the World

Milo is on a long subway ride with his older sister. To pass the time, he studies the faces around him and makes pictures of their lives. There's the whiskered man with the crossword puzzle; Milo imagines him playing solitaire in a cluttered apartment full of pets. There's the wedding-dressed woman with a little dog peeking out of her handbag; Milo imagines her in a grand cathedral ceremony. And then there's the boy in the suit with the bright white sneakers; Milo imagines him arriving home to a castle with a drawbridge and a butler. But when the boy in the suit gets off on the same stop as Milo--walking the same path, going to the exact same place--Milo realizes that you can't really know anyone just by looking at them.



Carmela: Full of Wishes

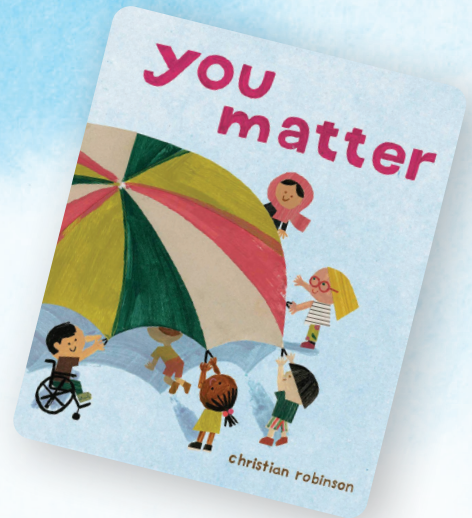
When Carmela wakes up on her birthday, her wish has already come true—she's finally old enough to join her big brother as he does the family errands. Together, they travel through their neighborhood, past the crowded bus stop, the fenced-off repair shop, and the panaderia, until they arrive at the Laundromat, where Carmela finds a lone dandelion growing in the pavement. But before she can blow its white fluff away, her brother tells her she has to make a wish. If only she can think of just the right wish to make.



Other books by Christian Robinson

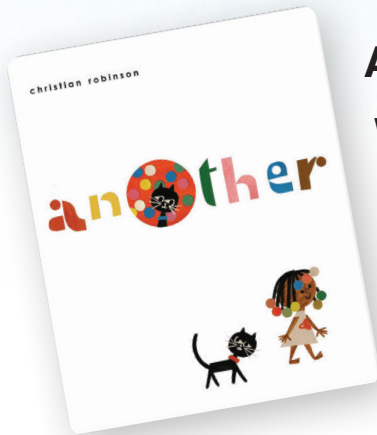
You Matter

In this full, bright, and beautiful picture book, many different perspectives around the world are deftly and empathetically explored—from a pair of bird-watchers to the pigeons they're feeding. Young readers will be drawn into the luminous illustrations inviting them to engage with the world in a new way and see how everyone is connected, and that everyone matters.



Another

What if you...
encountered *another* perspective?
Discovered *another* world?
Met *another* you?
What might you do?

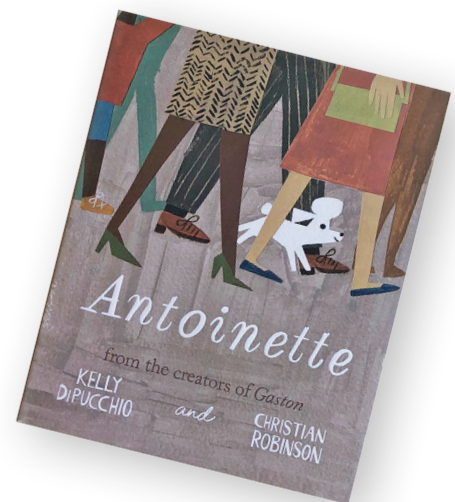


Antoinette

Antoinette's three burly brothers each have a special talent. Rocky is clever. Ricky is *fast*! And Bruno is **STRONG**. Mrs. Bulldog reassures Antoinette that there is something extra special about her—but Antoinette is not so sure.

Then one day, while Antoinette plays in the park with her friend Gaston, Gaston's sister Ooh-La-La goes missing. Antoinette feels a tug in her heart and a twitch in her nose. She must find Ooh-La-La. She *will not* give up!

Can Antoinette rescue the puppy in peril—and discover what makes her extra special along the way?



Other Books You Might Like



The Adventures of Beekle

This magical story begins on an island far away where an imaginary friend is born. He patiently waits his turn to be chosen by a real child, but when he is overlooked time and again, he sets off on an incredible journey to the bustling city, where he finally meets his perfect match and-at long last-is given his special name: Beekle.

Thank You, Omu!

Everyone in the neighborhood dreams of a taste of Omu's delicious stew! One by one, they follow their noses toward the scrumptious scent. And one by one, Omu offers a portion of her meal. Soon the pot is empty. Has she been so generous that she has nothing left for herself?



Pass It On

When you see something terrific, smile a smile and pass it on! If you chance upon a chuckle, hee hee hee and pass it on. Should you spot a thing of wonder, jump for joy and pass it on!

So begins Sophy Henn's ode to the excitement of sharing happiness with others. With a refrain that begs to be uttered before every turn of the page, children will eagerly read alongside their parents as they discover how wonderful--and fun! --it is to share the good things in life. After all, if you spread happiness to others, even on a gray, rainy day, when you least expect it, like a bolt out of the blue, a smile or a chuckle might be passed right back to you! This heartwarming, upbeat book is the perfect way to bring a warm ray of sunshine into every reader's life.

