ELED 3113  
Fall 2018  
Hayley Nowlin

The Last Stop on Market Street

Author: Matt De La Pena

Illustrator: Christian Robinson

Genre: Realistic fiction  
Awards: Newbery Medal Winner, Caldecott Honor Book

Multicultural: Yes

Summary

Each Sunday after church, CJ and his grand mother ride the bus across their town. One day, CJ begins to wonder why they don’t have a car like one of his friends, why doesn’t he have an IPod like one of the boys on the bus, why do they always get off at the dirty part of town? Each question that CJ asks, his grad mother answers with an encouraging message that’s full of grace. His grand mother helps him see how much he has to be thankful for and to look on the bright side of things.

Personal Response

I really didn’t know how this book was going to turn out when I read it the first time, but it is truly one of the most beautiful and positive stories I’ve had the joy of reading. CJ being a kid, just wants to do what kids do. He doesn’t see how what he’s doing every Sunday with his grand mother is making him into a great and gracious human being. This book inspires me to give back to my community and to look at the beauty of things and not the negative side. This is important for students to experience, especially where we live, to look on the brighter side of things instead of focusing on the bad. I just have so much love for this book!

Activity

After reading the book, *The Last Stop on Market Street*, the students will get a “Character’s response to challenges” chart. This chart has 3 columns, and 4 rows. The first column is labeled “challenge” the second column is labeled “CJ’s worry” and the third column is labeled “Nana’s answer”. There is one box in each column that is already filled in so the student knows where to start with each row. I chose this activity because it’s very important to see what the challenges are, how CJ reacts, and how his nana has a positive answer no matter what the issue. This also helps the students with recalling and retelling pieces of the story after having it read to them, which in turn helps with their comprehension.

Source: Teacher Pay Teacher