

November 2025
Book of the
Month with
Resources!

Quotes of the Month



"The heart that gives thanks is a happy one, for we cannot feel thankful and unhappy at the same time."

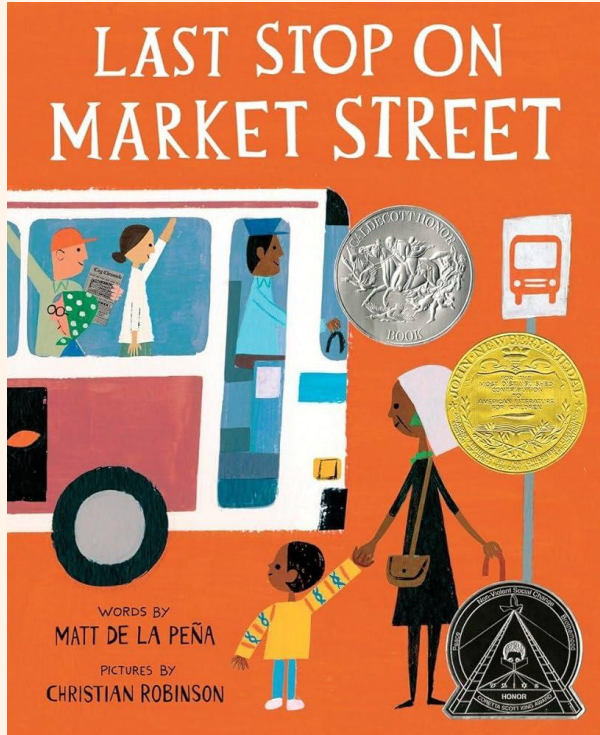
-Douglas Wood



"Enjoy the little things, for one day you may look back and realize they were the big things."

-Robert Brault

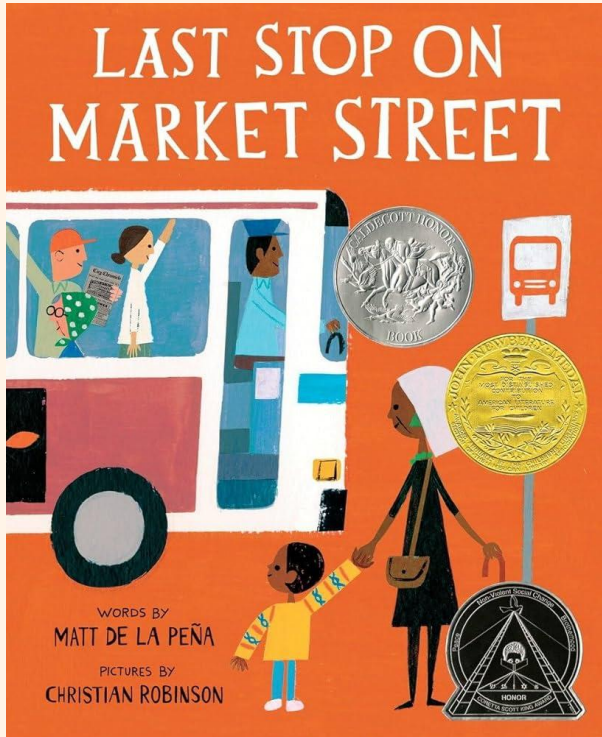
Book of the Month



Last Stop on Market Street

By Matt de la Peña

Summary



In preparation for Thanksgiving, “Last Stop on Market Street” is an ode to gratitude, kindness, empathy, and finding joy in unexpected places, and celebrates the special bond between a curious young boy and his loving grandmother.

On Sundays, CJ and his nana ride the bus across town to their stop on Market Street. But today, CJ's not happy about it. Today, he's wondering out loud why they have to wait in the rain and why they don't have a car like his other friends. It's Nana who opens young CJ's eyes and shows him the real beauty in the world around them—the spirit of the bustling city, the music in everyday life, and the magic of their often overlooked neighbors, so that CJ can appreciate the small things around him.

Read-Aloud Video



Click for Related Book Activities!

Last Stop on Market Street Discussion Questions

Teaching Resources

Extension Activities

Swat It

This game can be played by 2+ players.

You will need:

- Two clean fly swatters (or hands)
- A set of index cards with the focus words written clearly on them

How to play:

For two players: Lay all of your words out on the table face up. Give each player a fly swatter.

An adult calls out a focus word. The first child to find and swat the word reads or spells it aloud (turn to face the opposite direction for spelling). If the player answers correctly, they score a point. The first player to reach a pre-agreed number of points is the winner.

For a larger group: Tape word cards to a wall. Divide players into two teams. The first player for each team steps forward and competes to be the first to swat the word called. The player who wins the round scores a point for his team. Repeat for each pair of players until all team members have had a turn. The team first to reach a pre-agreed number of points is the winner.

"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 photos, 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.

Integrating Technology and Art

(Use this link: <https://americanart.si.edu/education/k-12>)



stop in front of them.
and the doors swung open.

Read Last Stop on Market Street with Pencil

Name: _____

Illustrate, or write about, 2 other ways you can volunteer in your community.

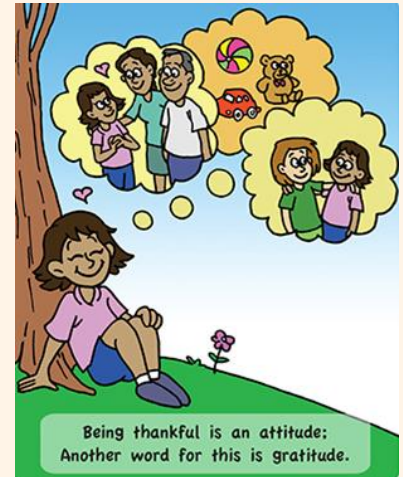
Draw your favorite soup!

Theme of the Month



Gratitude

Gratitude is when we feel thankful for good things. It means that we appreciate what makes us happy, like the things we have and people who are nice.



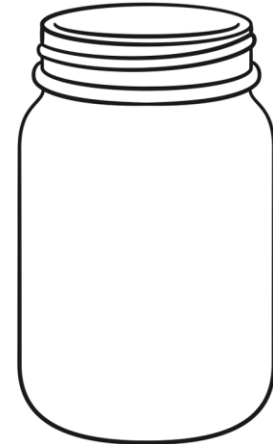
Theme of the Month: Gratitude



Challenge yourself
to complete the
Gratitude Scavenger
Hunt this month!

Gratitude Jar Activity

FILL THE JAR WITH WORDS AND PICTURES OF ALL THE THINGS YOU ARE GRATEFUL FOR



Practice Gratitude before Thanksgiving!

Gratitude Writing Prompts

Here is a picture of myself and why I am grateful to be me.

Speech bubble shapes for writing.



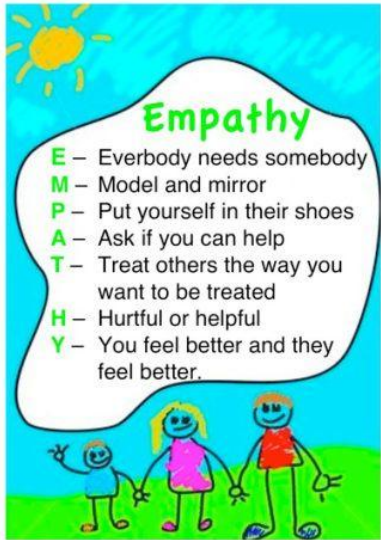
More Gratitude Activities

GRATITUDE POETRY
Acrostic

For each letter, write down a word or a phrase about something you are grateful for. Think about people, places, things in nature, and experiences in your life!

G _____
R _____
A _____
T _____
I _____
T _____
U _____
D _____
E _____

Habit of Mind: Empathy



In “Last Stop on Market Street”, CJ learned how to practice empathy by becoming more understanding of the feelings and experiences of other people, and by showing kindness and helping other people!



Empathy
Worksheets

ALL ABOUT EMPATHY!

Executive Functioning Focus: Flexible Thinking

In “Last Stop on Market Street”, CJ needed help from his grandma to change his thinking and appreciate the small things in the world around him. This month, try to look at problems a new way and change your thinking too!

Instead of saying:	I can say:
I don't want to sit there!	I can sit here for a little while!
I don't want to do this!	I can do this for a little while!
I hate this!	I can try something new!
This is stupid!	This is different!
I don't want to talk to them!	I can talk to them for a little while!
I don't want to work with them!	I can work with them for a little while!
I can't do this!	I can do this!

Tips To Improve Flexible Thinking

Flexible thinking, or cognitive flexibility, is the ability to adjust your thinking and adapt to new situations, ideas, or information.

For example...



- If you plan to play outside but it starts raining, flexible thinking allows you to come up with a new plan, like playing a board game inside instead.
- While this may seem like a simple concept, it can be a real challenge for some of our brains to be flexible.
- This can make everyday tasks feel overwhelming and frustrating.

5 Qualities To Help You Be More Flexible

- 1) Going With The Flow**
Tell yourself, "I might not like this, but I'm just going to go with the flow."
- 2) Letting Things Go**
Tell yourself, "I'm going to let this one go."
- 3) Don't Let Things Get To You**
Tell yourself, "This might be disappointing or annoying, but I'm not going to let this get to me."
- 4) Being Agreeable**
Tell yourself, "Even though my idea may be better or I don't think this is fair, I'm just going to be agreeable."
- 5) Be Patient**
Tell yourself, "I might not like waiting, but I can be patient in this moment. This is a good time to practice my patience."

Calming Activities That Help You Be More Flexible

- **Movement**
Exercise, walking, running, swimming, working out, cleaning, organizing.
- **Walk Away**
Take a break or remove yourself from the stressful situation.
- **Get Outside**
Spend time in nature, get some sun, or get some fresh air.
- **Relaxation Skills**
Taking deep breaths, think of a peaceful place, count from 1-100.
- **Engage Your Mind**
Immerse yourself in a hobby, or positive enjoyable activity.

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18+ Flexible Thinking Activities for Kids and Adults!

Social Emotional Connection: Thinking Positively!

I CAN BE FLEXIBLE!

AT SCHOOL

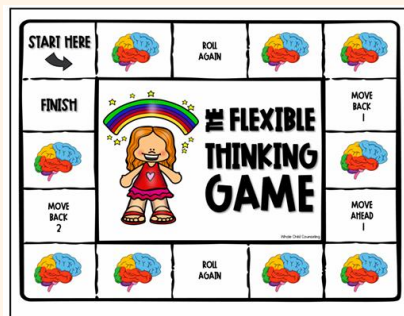
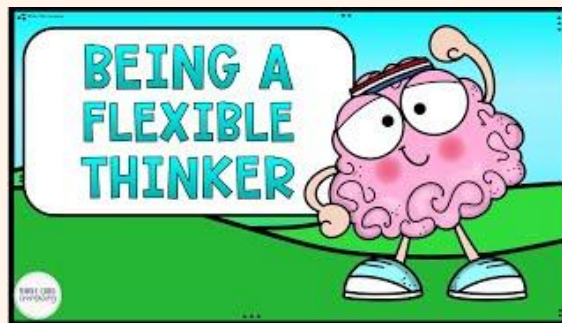
Activity Cards

I wanted to sit in the back seat on the bus going on our field trip but someone else was sitting there.
I can be flexible by: _____

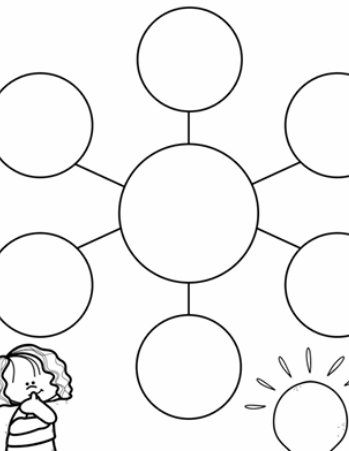
I wanted to add the ingredients in our science experiment but someone else was chosen to do it.
I can be flexible by: _____

I wanted to be the pig in our school play, someone else was chosen.
I can be flexible by: _____

My friend wanted to study owls for our group project by I don't really like owls.
I can be flexible by: _____



A person who is a flexible thinker
says or does these things:



Name: _____

With Child Counseling

Limited print copies of “Last Stop on Market Street” are available for checkout in the school library (Room 212). Please visit or reach out to Ms. Keiser at dkeiser@schools.nyc.gov if you would like to borrow a copy.

