At CTC, our mission is to Educate, Challenge, and Inspire our multigenerational audience. This Audience Resource Guide is just one of the ways through which we aim to enhance your experience and further your engagement, beyond just seeing the shows on our stage. Use these articles, conversation starters, and activities both before and after you watch Last Stop on Market Street!

Based on the Newberry Award-winning book written by MATT DE LA PEÑA
Adapted for the stage by CHERYL L. WEST
Music and lyrics by LAMONT DOZIER AND PARIS RAY DOZIER
Directed by HENRY GODINEZ
Co-commissioned with the CHICAGO CHILDREN’S THEATRE

Run Time: 75 minutes
Best Enjoyed By: 5 and up
Stage: Virtual Performance (filmed Oct. 11 & 12, 2018)
Runs Nov. 9–22
EDUCATE: Making ‘Last Stop on Market Street’

‘Last Stop on Market Street’ first premiered CTC’s stage in October of 2018. Read excerpts below from our 2017 interview with co-composer Paris Dozier to learn what went into adapting this children’s book into the vibrant musical you’re about to see! Read the whole interview here: https://offbook.childrenstheatre.org/interview-with-composer-paris-ray-dozier-4546e3fd8527

‘….When Paris Ray Dozier was asked about the role of music in this production, he keenly pointed out that music is placed in scenes at peak moments that call for further elaboration. “When CJ has a preconceived notion that needs to be corrected — it’s song time,” Paris said. Specific events or emotions can be represented through a tasteful tune in order to give a better indication of what the character is going through. He explains, “Music makes way for characters to roll out the carpet for their alter egos”….’

‘….Paris spoke very highly about [playwright] Cheryl L. West’s writing and how it lends itself to the addition of music: “She is a talented and confident writer who is dedicated to developing and nurturing the characters.” West is especially mindful of one of the themes of the play — the elderly can be stuck in their ways and children can be stubborn, but there is value in the willingness to adapt and change for the better.

Dozier hopes to convey this message in an entertaining musical fashion. CJ’s vacation is very visceral, as sights, smells and sounds permeate the city and are etched into his mind. Jolting sounds will be incorporated into the scenes, and then a gradual collection of noises will become rhythmic to create a tune. One of the larger numbers in the show takes place in a soup kitchen where trays and utensils will be utilized as percussive instruments….. The sounds of many different music styles are weaved throughout Last Stop on Market Street, incorporating a substantial Afro-Cuban influence, combined with Hip Hop, R&B, Gospel, and even a hint of Classical. Paris jokes, “It is not your regular jazz-hand music.”’
INSPIRE: Spark conversation with the prompts and activities below before and after you watch the show!

- Research food drives in your community. See if you have anything at home you can donate!
- Read *Last Stop on Market Street* by Matt de la Peña.
- Nana volunteers at the local soup kitchen to show kindness in her community. What can you do to show kindness in your community?
- What makes your neighborhood special?

- How does CJ change throughout the story? How does Nana
- Have you ever felt homesick? What made you feel better? What advice would you give to someone who is feeling homesick?
- Compare and contrast the book and play.
- CJ often feels grumpy in this play. When have you felt grumpy? What made you feel better?

- Have you ever ridden the bus? How is it different than taking a car, or walking?
- If you met CJ on his first day with Nana, what advice would you give him to help him not feel
- Mr. Vernon encourages CJ to “let your ears be your eyes.” Close your eyes and listen. What sounds do you hear? What is something you didn’t notice before?
- What is the lesson or message of *Last Stop on*

- Make a map of your community featuring the places that are important to you.
- Jojo gets very angry at CJ for calling him stinky. Have you ever had a fight with a friend? How did you become friends
- Who are the people in your neighborhood?
- What does community mean to you? How does your community look, sound, smell, and feel?
There are many reasons why a person may experience homelessness— in MN the top causes are:

- Lack of affordable housing
- Lack of access to employment
- Chronic health conditions or mental illness
- History of abuse
- Discrimination in housing policies
- Family rejection of minors from the LGBTQ community

Get Involved!

These are local Twin Cities organizations supporting people experiencing homelessness:

- Avenues for Homeless Youth
- St. Stephen’s
- Alexandria House
- Face to Face

Visit mnhomeless.org for more information about homelessness in Minnesota
**CHALLENGE: Actor’s Tools**

Actors use many tools to help them tell a story – three we focus on at CTC are body, voice, and imagination.

**Projecting** means using a loud voice and **enunciating** means speaking clearly. Practice projecting and enunciating by saying the title of the play, *Last Stop on Market Street*, as a group, and then individually.

What are some emotions that actors might portray? Try saying, “Last Stop on Market Street” using those emotions. What does your body do when you portray these emotions?

List some of the characters in the play along with characteristics of each. How would each of those characters say the title?

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**CHALLENGE: Character Bus**

This activity gives kids the opportunity to try on different characters and explore their traits.

**Directions:** Set up a group of chairs to represent a bus. There should be one chair for the driver and 4 — 5 other chairs for riders of the bus.

Choose one person to play the role of driver. They should sit in the driver’s seat. 4 — 5 other students will choose a character to become and ride the bus.

The 'driver' will pretend to drive to the bus stop and open the door. One person will board the bus and act as their character. The driver will continue to drive and pick up characters. The driver’s goal is to guess who each of the characters are. When they guess correctly, that character exits the bus at the next stop.

If the ‘driver’ becomes stuck and cannot guess the remaining characters, they can yell out “Last Stop on Market Street!” and all characters must exit the bus. Allow everyone to reveal their characters. Remind kids that the point of the activity is not to trick the bus driver but to clearly portray the character. Once everyone gets the hang of the game, try choosing characters from other stories, plays, or movies!
EDUCATE: Sound Design in Theatre

A sound designer is someone who thinks about what the world of the play sounds like, including the music and noises in the background. Close your eyes and listen to the sounds around you. Write what you hear below:

Now think about the world of *Last Stop on Market Street*. On the left is a list of locations in the story. Brainstorm on the right the sounds you might hear in that location.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Sounds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nana’s House</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City Bus</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Streets of the City</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soup Kitchen</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Work individually or together to create the sound effects you brainstormed above. Experiment with found objects to make the sounds or use technology. Focus on
CHALLENGE: Story Sequence

So much happens in the plays we see and the books we read! See if you can remember the order of events in Last Stop on Market Street by numbering the pictures below from 1st — 8th.
Use the sticky notes below to review the show. Take a photo of this page and send it to tickets@childrenstheatre.org to share with the cast and crew!

My Rating of *Last Stop on Market Street* at Children’s Theatre Company
Further Resources

**More about Last Stop on Market Street**
*Matt de la Peña reads Last Stop on Market Street*
https://youtu.be/KAjF2vfwOas

*Meet Matt de la Peña & Christian Robinson by Scholastic*
https://youtu.be/0-m6mlZY8al

*On Board a City Bus, A Little Boy Finds the Route to Gratitude— NPR*
https://www.npr.org/2015/02/06/383856887/on-board-a-city-bus-a-little-boy-finds-the-route-to-gratitude

**More about Matt de la Peña**
Matt de la Peña biography
http://mattdelapena.com/bio/

*Why We Shouldn’t Shield Children from Darkness by Matt de la Peña*

*From Reluctant Reader to Best-Selling Author— NPR*
https://www.npr.org/2017/06/16/533260528/matt-de-la-pe-a-from-reluctant-reader-to-best-selling-author

2016 Newbery Medal Speech
https://youtu.be/w1_7_cw4MkQ

*Matt de la Peña on Diversity in Children’s Literature*
https://chireviewofbooks.com/2016/03/25/matt-de-la-pena-interview-last-stop-on-market-street/*