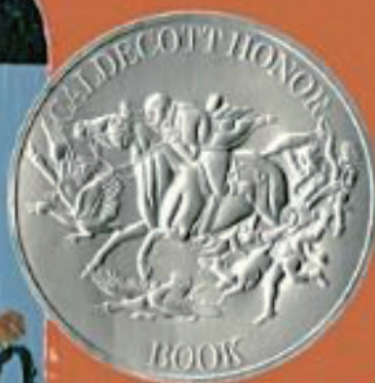


LAST STOP ON MARKET STREET



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MATT DE LA PEÑA

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For Luna and her two grandmas,
Roni and Grace
—M. de la P.

For Nana
—C. R.



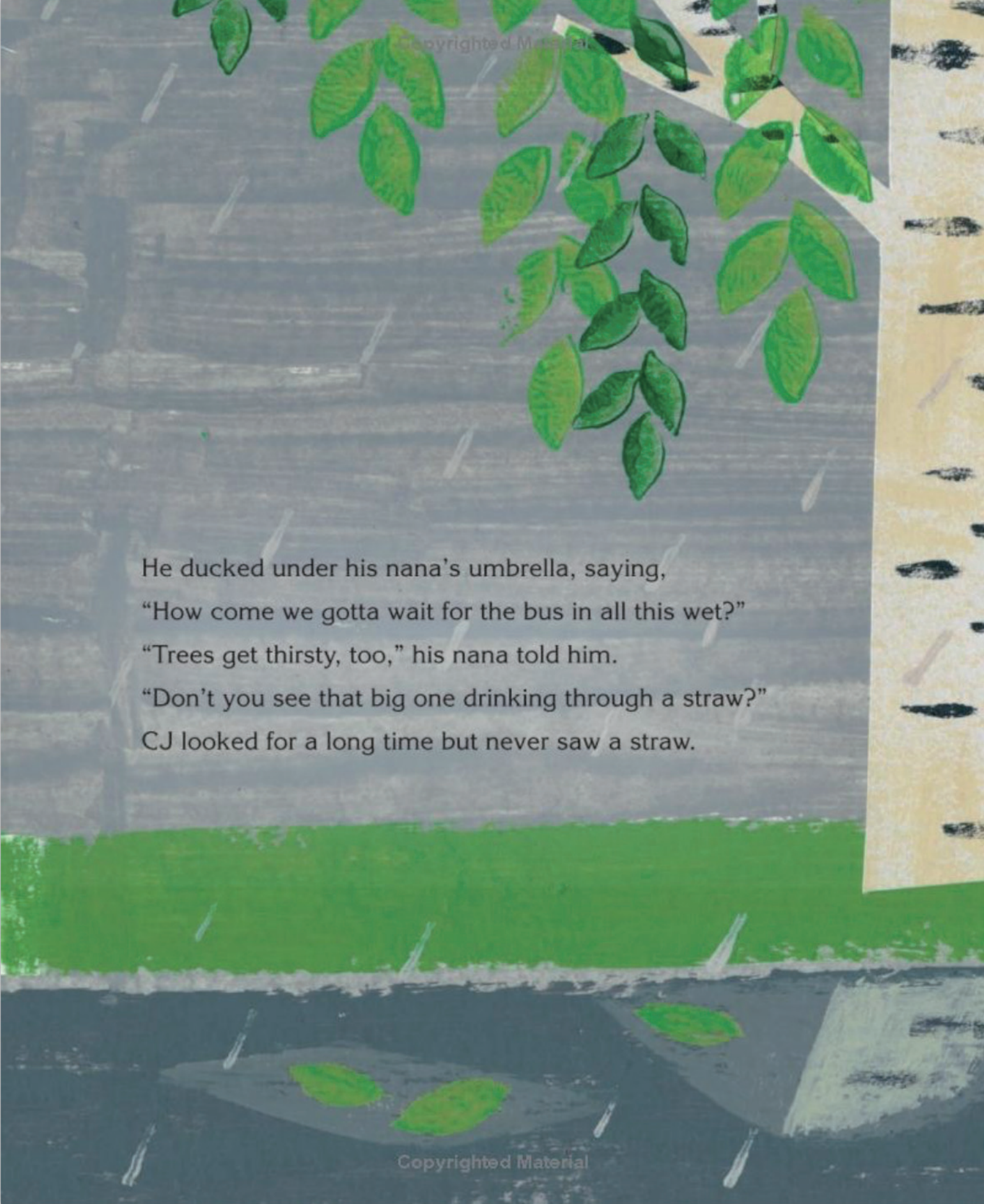




CJ pushed through the church doors,
skipped down the steps.



The outside air smelled like freedom,
but it also smelled like rain,
which freckled CJ's shirt and dripped down his nose.



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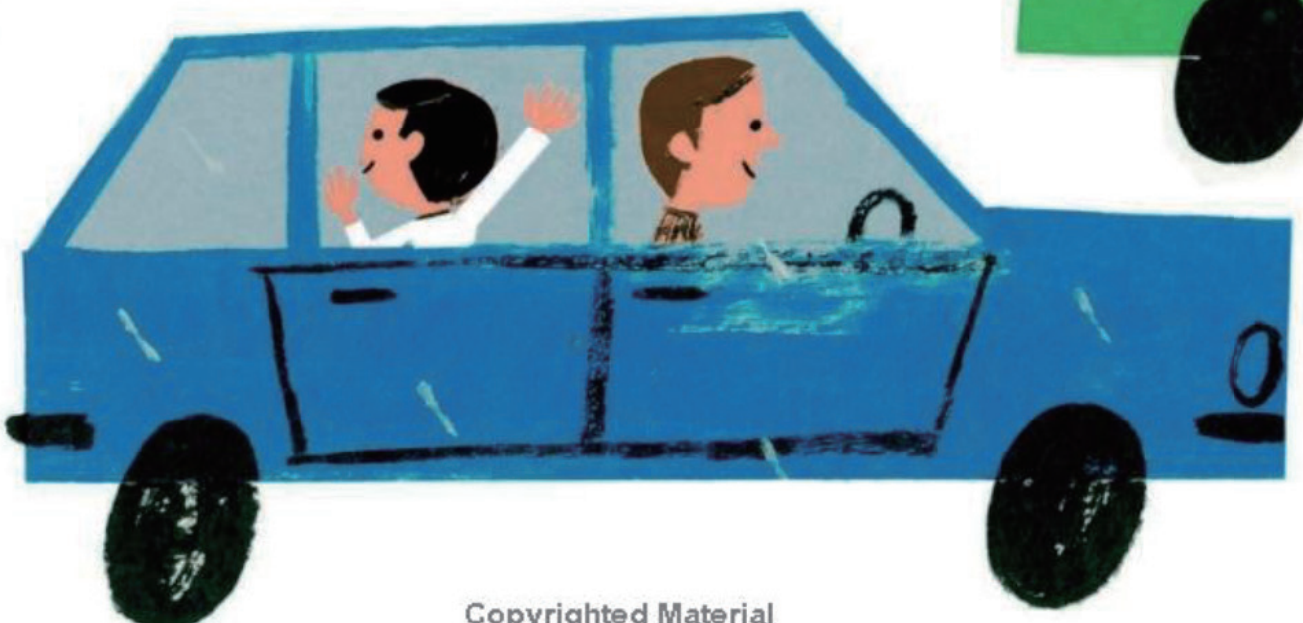
He ducked under his nana's umbrella, saying,
"How come we gotta wait for the bus in all this wet?"
"Trees get thirsty, too," his nana told him.
"Don't you see that big one drinking through a straw?"
CJ looked for a long time but never saw a straw.





From the bus stop, he watched water pool on flower petals.
Watched rain patter against the windshield of a nearby car.
His friend Colby climbed in, gave CJ a wave,
and drove off with his dad.

“Nana, how come we don’t got a car?”





G. P. PUTNAM'S SONS
 Published by the Penguin Group
 Penguin Group (USA) LLC
 375 Hudson Street, New York, NY 10014



USA | Canada | UK | Ireland | Australia | New Zealand | India | South Africa | China
 penguin.com

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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data
 de la Peña, Matt.

Last stop on Market Street / by Matt de la Peña ; illustrated by Christian Robinson.
 pages cm

Summary: A young boy rides the bus across town with his grandmother and learns to appreciate the beauty in everyday things.

[1. Buses—Fiction. 2. Grandmothers—Fiction. 3. City and town life—Fiction. 4. African Americans—Fiction.] I. Robinson, Christian, illustrator. II. Title. PZ7.P3725Las 2015 [E]—dc23 2014019913

Manufactured in China by South China Printing Co. Ltd.
 ISBN 978-0-399-25774-2
 1 3 5 7 9 10 8 6 4 2

Design by Ryan Thomann. Text set in Korinna.

The art for this book was created with acrylic paint, collage, and a bit of digital manipulation.