

LAST STOP A

Last Stop On Market Street-GBClunie/5 Char./Final- 01/30//20

START

CJ, ENSEMBLE 10

CJ:

Nana, how come it's gotta rain?

(CJ Splashes water)

ENSEMBLE: SPLAT!

NANA

Boy, don't you know? Flowers got to grow!

(INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PHRASE "CAN I GET A WITNESS!" as FLOWERS pop-up.)

ENSEMBLE as FLOWERS (voice and/or w/puppets)

Slurp!

(CJ turns, but misses FLOWERS moving. They disappear and/or freeze.)

NANA

And trees! What about trees!

*(INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC: "THE TREE" as
ENSEMBLE (1, 2 or 3 Actors) create THE TREE)*

They get thirsty, too. See that big one— drinking through a straw?

(THE TREE drinks— w/ deeply delicious sounds. TREE moves when CJ isn't looking!)

CJ

A straw?

NANA

Don't see them sipping from a sippy cup, do you?

CJ

Don't see no tree! Don't see no straw!

(NANA raises CJ's chin. CJ is surprised to see The TREE)

Oh.

Okay. A tree.

But don't see no straw!

NANA

So how you think the water in that tree get from way down here –

(NANA gestures w/ umbrella.

TREE: "Sluuurrrrp" – drinks loudly, wiggling from bottom to top. CJ doesn't see it.)
— to way up there? Lotta folk call that a tree trunk – I see a drinking straw!

(TREE: SLURP— and wiggles. CJ turns quickly—but misses seeing TREE move.)

(NANA laughs, understanding the TREE is playing with CJ. (Note: Red Light/Green Light Game))

NANA

Missed it. And you say you've got *three* eyes? If you were a glass of sweet-tea— that straw would sip you up like a puddle with a slice of lemon.

(TREE: Slurp! [TRANSLATION: "YEP!"]. CJ is startled, but misses seeing it again!)

See that bushy crown on top? Pretty and green!

Wonder what would happen if it couldn't sip rain?

(NANA offers CJ a water bottle from her purse.)

Wonder what would happen if we didn't water you?

TREE ENSEMBLE

(whispers with menace, mockery and a shrivel-wiggle)

Shrivel!!! Die!!!

(CJ is startled! But misses it! TREE quickly unshrivels (w/ sound.)! He misses it again.)

CJ

(cautiously approaches tree)

But, Nana? A straw?

(A TREE branch looks at CJ and startles him. He hides behind NANA.

CJ peeks, but the TREE is still.)

"How do you really see with two?"

How come— ? How come you *see* all this stuff, Nana?

NANA

Look, I guess. In the right place, at the right time—*in the right way.*

CJ

With more than just eyes?

NANA

Close your eyes. Listen.

(CJ and NANA close eyes, listen— long & deep— but don't turn to look.)

(TREE drinks (w sound)— long & deep — ending with a satisfied: "Ahhhhhhhhh.")

Hear that?

NANA/CJ

Thirsty tree!

(CJ rushes to thoughtfully examine the TREE as TREE waves and exits.)

NANA

(checking down street)

Be a while before we get there. You hungry, boy?

(CJ nods. NANA offers CJ a sandwich from her purse.

He takes the sandwich— but doesn't take his eyes off where the tree was.)

Thank you, Nana. CJ

Where is that bus? NANA

(CJ bites sandwich)

Nana? CJ

[MUSIC: "CONCER N"]
Pickles!?!]

Thought you liked pickles? NANA

Used to. CJ

Yesterday? NANA

Colby doesn't like pickles either. Nobody likes pickles, anymore!
(CJ is about to toss the sandwich in the trash—
—when NANA eyes CJ— he doesn't)
Not Miguel— Not me—

I do! NANA

(INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC: "BUSY STREET" underscores action. NANA checks down the street for the bus, as BUS RIDER 1 enter on phone/ w newspaper to wait for bus.)

Hmmmmmmmmmm. Pickles. CJ
(CJ points at HEADSET BUS RIDER 2 who enters bopping to music and waits for bus.)
Oh, look, Nana! Headphones. Just like Miguel's! Wouldn't music be nice, Nana?
Music— With headphones? Like Miguel?
(rap rhythm)

HEADPHONES! SINGING 'BOUT -'BOUT HEADPHONES—
SINGING 'BOUT- 'BOUT HEADPHONES—
SING AT HOME? WHERE IT'S DR Y?
NOT IN THE RAIN ON A BUS —
----- HEAD DED TO THE WESTSIDE ----(end rap)
with pickles— 'stead of music!?!]

END