

A boy and his grandmother meet fascinating people and find beauty in unexpected places as they ride a bus together.

For the first reading, curl up with your child and read the book together. Enjoy. For the next readings, here are some ideas for activities to do with your child. Don't try to do everything each time you read it. And most of all, have fun and enjoy sharing the story with your child.

Starting Up:

- Read the title and talk about riding a bus. Has your child been on one before?
- Show the illustration of the whole bus spanning across the front and back covers. Make observations such as, "I see a woman with a polka dot scarf and glasses. Can you find her?"

Reading the Story:

- Ask your child how CJ's neighborhood is the same as yours. Then discuss how it is different.
- When CJ uses his imagination, say, "Can you close your eyes and make pictures in your mind, too?"
- On the last pages, talk about what CJ is doing and how it helps others.

After the Story:

- Ask your child questions about the story.
 - Did CJ want to go on the bus ride? In the end, was he glad he went?
 - How do you feel when you help people?
- Learning on the Go:
 - Take a bus ride together or stroll through a nearby neighborhood. Look for people doing any of the activities shown in the book.
 - Use boxes or chairs to make a pretend bus in your home. Take turns being the driver or different passengers from the story.
 - Find ways to make other people feel good, such as helping a neighbor or saying "good afternoon" with a smile.

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