



# BOOK RESUME: MILO IMAGINES THE WORLD

## BOOK SYNOPSIS

**Title:** Milo Imagines the World

**Author:** Matt de la Peña

**Illustrator:** Christian Robinson

**Imprint:** G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers

**Publisher:** Penguin Young Readers

**On sale date:** February 02, 2021

**ISBN:** 9780399549083

**Format:** Hardcover

**Age Range\*:** 4-8  
(Suggested by Publisher)

**Grade Range:** PreK – 3  
(Suggested by Publisher)

The team behind the Newbery Medal winner and Caldecott Honor book *Last Stop on Market Street* and the award-winning New York Times bestseller *Carmela Full of Wishes* once again delivers a poignant and timely picture book that's sure to become an instant classic.

Milo is on a long subway ride with his older sister. To pass the time, he studies the faces around him and makes pictures of their lives. There's the whiskered man with the crossword puzzle; Milo imagines him playing solitaire in a cluttered apartment full of pets. There's the wedding-dressed woman with a little dog peeking out of her handbag; Milo imagines her in a grand cathedral ceremony. And then there's the boy in the suit with the bright white sneakers; Milo imagines him arriving home to a castle with a drawbridge and a butler. But when the boy in the suit gets off on the same stop as Milo—walking the same path, going to the exact same place—Milo realizes that you can't really know anyone just by looking at them.

## REVIEWS AND PRAISE

★“With the same combination of wide-eyed observation and suspenseful buildup to a socially conscious revelation that readers cherished in this duo's award-winning *Last Stop on Market Street* (2015), this picture book offers a child's view of the impacts of incarceration on families. De la Peña's descriptive language and Robinson's innocent, endearing art make for another winning package . . . A memorable, thought-provoking story poised to make a difference for many.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review

★“*Harold and the Purple Crayon* meets twenty-first-century urban realism . . . As in Jacqueline Woodson's *Visiting Day*, the joy and parent-child love shine through . . . This poignant, thought-provoking story speaks volumes for how art can shift one's perspectives and enable an imaginative alternative to what is . . . or seems to be.” —*The Horn Book*, starred review

★“Robinson intersperses scenes of his signature cut-paper collage artwork . . . with images of Milo's sketchbook, and the child-like drawings in thick crayon lines not only give insight into his imagination but his heart . . . An excellent conversation-starter for modern times.” —*Booklist*, starred review

★“A text that flows like poetry . . . Glorious.”

—*The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books*, starred review

Updated 9.13.2024

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\*Publisher suggested age range covers the wide range of readers publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate range for their diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book's intended use.

"In this rich, multilayered journey, the award-winning creators of *Last Stop on Market Street* celebrate a city's kaleidoscope of scenes, offer a glimpse at a child's experience with parental incarceration, and convey that child's keen observations about his circumstances and surroundings." —*Publishers Weekly*, starred review

"Readers of *Milo Imagines the World* will feel compassion stacked on top of heartache on top of humility on top of hope." —*Shelf Awareness*, starred review

"Pictures brimming with activity, an endearing main character, and threads for thinking about art, families, and what we see in others make this a book that will hold up to many readings." —*School Library Journal*

"De la Peña's prose is precise and evocative . . . His story respects young readers by incorporating their complex interior worlds and the observant ways they attend to issues of class . . . Robinson's signature collage illustrations bring Milo and his sister's distinct personalities to life . . . This sweet but never saccharine story is a classic in the making." —*BookPage*

"Bright, fun, whimsical . . . An absolutely wonderful book for kids."  
—*Good Morning America*

"Exquisite . . . Ends with a heartfelt punch." —*The TODAY Show*

#### **AWARDS AND ACCOLADES**

- A *Kirkus Reviews* Best Book of the Year
- A *Horn Book* Fanfare List Selection
- A *Publishers Weekly* Best Book of the Year
- A *Shelf Awareness* Best Children's Book of the Year
- A New York Public Library Best Book of the Year
- A Chicago Public Library Best Book of the Year
- A *BCCB* Blue Ribbon List Selection
- An ALA Notable Children's Book
- A Bank Street Best Children's Book of the Year
- A Washington D.C. Capitol Choices Reading List selection
- A *Parents Magazine* Best Book of the Year
- A Georgia Children's Book Award selection
- An Illinois Monarch Book Award selection
- An Indiana Read Aloud Book Award selection
- A Michigan MISELF Book selection
- A Michigan Mitten Book Award selection
- A Nebraska Golden Sower Book Award selection
- A North Dakota Flicker Tale Children's Book Award selection
- A Pennsylvania Young Reader's Choice Book Award selection

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- A South Carolina Picture Book Award selection
- A South Dakota Prairie Bud Award selection
- A Tennessee Volunteer State Book Award selection
- A Texas “Read Across Texas” Empathy Tiles selection
- A Wisconsin Picture This Reading List selection
- A 2022 In the Margins Award winner

#### **MEDIA AND RESOURCES**

- [Educator Guide](#)
- [TeachingBooks.net resources](#)
- [TODAY SHOW: Christin Robinson draws on his childhood for MILO IMAGINES THE WORLD](#)
- [NPR: A boy named Milo reminds us to choose imagination over impressions](#)
- [Good Morning America: Matt de la Peña and Christian Robinson talk about combining compassion and heart in MILO IMAGINES THE WORLD](#)

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