

# In the Heights

Lin-Manuel Miranda

**Usnavi** - Lights up on Washington Heights.

Up at the break of day.

I wake up and I got this little punk I gotta chase away.

Pop the grate at the crack of dawn,

Sing while I wipe down the awning.

Hey y'all good morning!

**PIRAGUERO** - Ice cold Piragua!

Parcha, china, cherry, strawberry

And just for today, I got mamey!

**Usnavi** - Yo piragüero, como estas?

**PIRAGUERO** - Como siempre, Señor Usnavi.

**Usnavi** - I am Usnavi and you prob'ly never heard my name

Reports of my fame are greatly exaggerated

Exacerbated by the fact that my syntax is highly complicated cause I immigrated from the single greatest little place in the Caribbean...

Dominican...

Republic...

I love it...

Jeez, I'm jealous of it - and beyond that, ever since my folks passed on I haven't gone back. I gotta get on that -

Fo! The milk has gone bad, hold up just a second... Why is everything in this fridge warm and tepid?

I better step it up and fight the heat, Cuz I'm not makin any profit if the coffee isn't light and sweet!

Ooo-oo!

Abuela, my fridge broke.

I got café but no con leche.

**ABUELA CLAUDIA** - Try my mother's old recipe: one can of condensed milk.

**Usnavi** - Nice Ay!

**ABUELA CLAUDIA** - Paciencia y fe...

**Usnavi** - That was Abuela, she's not really my abuela, But she practically raised me, this corner is her escuela!

Now, you're prob'ly thinkin I'm up the creek!

I've never been north of Ninety-Sixth Street!

Well you must take the 'A' Train...

Even farther than Harlem to northern Manhattan and maintain, get off at 181st, and take the escalator. I hope you're writing this down, I'm gonna test ya later. - I'm getting tested. Times are tough on this bodega. Two months ago somebody bought Ortega's. Our neighbors started packin' up and pickin' up and ever since the rents went up It's gotten mad expensive but we live with just enough...

**The People** - In the heights I hit the lights and start my day. There are fights, endless debts and bills to pay.

In the Heights, I can't survive without café ...I serve café Cuz tonight seems like a million years away!

En Washington—

**Usnavi** - Next up (bing), Kevin Rosario. He runs the cab company. He struggles in the barrio. See, his daughter Nina's off at college, tuition is mad steep. So, he can't sleep. Everything he gets is mad cheap!

**Kevin Rosario** - Good morning, Usnavi!

**Usnavi** - Pan caliente, café con leche!

**Kevin Rosario** - Put twenty dollars on today's lottery.

**Usnavi** - Ok, must be your lucky day!!

**Kevin Rosario** - Gotta be...!

**Usnavi** - Oh, my you're so excited...

**Kevin Rosario** - My Nina flew in at 3 A.M. Last night!

**Usnavi** - Sweet... Abuela has been cooking all week.

**Kevin Rosario** - Come by... when I see you this weekend.

**Both** - Are we going to eat!

**Usnavi** - Sonny, - you're late!!

**Sonny** - Chillax, you know you love me!

**Usnavi** - Me and my cousin runnin' just another dime-a-dozen Mom-and-pop stop-and-shop, and oh my god, it's gotten too darn hot. Like my man Cole Porter said: People come through for a few cold waters and a lottery ticket, just a part of the routine. Everybody's got a job; Everybody's got a dream. They gossip, as I sip my coffee and smirk. The first stop as people hop to work. Bust it— I'm like— One dollar, two dollars, one fifty, one sixty-nine I got it.

You want two quarter waters.

The New York Times - You need a bag for that?

The tax is added Once you get some practice at it. You do rapid mathematics automatically Sellin' Maxipads and fuzzy dice for taxicabs and practically everybody's stressed,- yes- but they press through the mess - Bounce checks and wonder what's next

**The People** - In the heights, I buy my coffee and I go...

I buy my coffee and—

Set my sights on only what I need to know...

What I need to know— In the heights, money is tight

But even so—

Even so—

When the lights go down I blast my radio!

**Benny** - You ain't got no skills!

Benny!

**Benny** - Yo, lemme get a— Milky Way (Yeah), lemme also get a— (Daily News— And a— Post)— And most important, my— (Boss' second coffee, one cream) — (both)Five sugars— I'm the number one earner—( What!)

The fastest learner— (What?!)

My boss, he can't keep me on the back burner!

**Usnavi** - Yes he can

**Benny** - I'm makin' moves, I'm makin' deals, but guess what?

**Usnavi** - What?

**Benny** - You still ain't got no skills!

**Usnavi** - Hardee-har

**Benny** - Yo, Vanessa show up yet?

**Usnavi** - Shut up!

**Benny** - Hey little homie don't get so upset (man.) Tell Vanessa how you feel. Buy the girl a meal. On the real, or you ain't got no skills -

**Vanessa** - Nooo!

No no nooo!

No no nooo, no no no!

Nooo, no no no!

No no no no no no no no no no no no!

Mr. Johnson, I got the security deposit. It's locked in a box in the bottom of my closet. It's not reflected in my bank statement, but I've been savin' to make a down payment and pay rent. No, no, I won't let you down.

**Benny** - Here's your chance, ask her out right now!

**Vanessa** - I'll see you later - we can look at that lease!

**Benny** - Do somethin', make your move,

Don't freeze—

**Usnavi** - Hey!

**Vanessa** - You owe me a bottle of cold champagne.

**Usnavi** - Are you moving?

**Vanessa** - Just a little credit check and I'm on that downtown train!

**Usnavi** - Well, your coffee's on the house - (Okay!)

**Benny** - Usnavi, ask her out! No way!

**Vanessa** - I'll see you later, so...

**Benny** - Yo... smooth operator, aw dang, there she goes!

Yo, bro, take five, take a walk outside!

You look exhausted, lost, don't let life slide!

The whole hood is struggling, times are tight, and you're stuck to this corner like a streetlight!

**Usnavi** - Yeah, I'm a streetlight, choking on the heat. The world spins around while I'm frozen to my seat. The people that I know all keep on rolling down the street, but everyday is different so I'm switchin' up the beat, cuz my parents came with nothing. They got a little more and sure, we're poor, but yo, at least we got the store and it's all about the legacy they left with me, it's destiny... and one day I'll be on a beach with Sonny writing checks to me...

**The People** - In the heights - I hang my flag up on display...

**Usnavi** - We came to work and to live and we got a lot in common

**The People** - It reminds me that I came from miles away...

**Usnavi** - We are DR, PR, we are not stoppin'.

In the heights

**Abuela Claudia** - Every day, paciencia ye fe

**Usnavi** - Until the day we go from poverty to stock options.

**The People** - In the heights, I've got today.

**Usnavi** - Today's all we got, so we cannot stop... This is our block...

**The People** - In the heights I hang my flag up on display -

**Piraguero** - Lo le lo le lo lai lai lo le!

**The People** - It reminds me that I came from miles away!

My family came from miles away— In the heights It gets more expensive every day -  
Every day- And tonight is so far away—

**Usnavi** - But as for mañana, mi pana, ya gotta just keep watchin' You'll see the Late  
nights... You'll taste Beans and rice... The syrups and Shaved ice... I ain't gonna say it  
twice. So, turn up the street lights... We're takin' a flight, to a couple of days In the life  
of what it's like.

In Washington Heights!