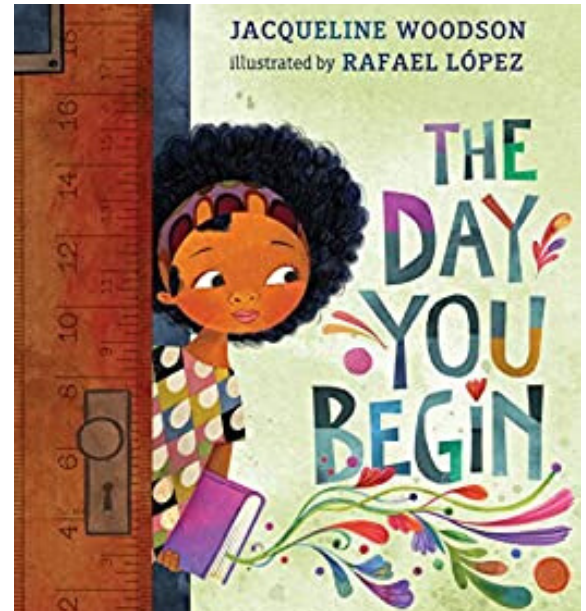




THE DAY YOU BEGIN

JACQUELINE WOODSON

At times we all feel like we are alone in the crowd, like everyone else is the same and we are different, on the outside, excluded. This book explores that feelings and all the many reasons it might happen- looking different, speaking a different language, having different interests, and having different experiences. So what can you do when you feel so excluded? How do you find ways to connect to others?



Questions:

1. Is anyone in the world exactly the same as anyone else or is everyone a little bit different and special?
2. How would it feel to look completely different from everyone else in your class or your neighborhood?
3. What would it feel like if you didn't speak the same language as everyone else? Would it be easy to make friends? How would it feel if everyone laughed when you spoke?
4. Have you ever felt boring when other people talk about cool things they've done? Are more average experiences worth less because they aren't fancy?
5. Are there any foods you like to eat that other people might think are weird? How would it feel if people looked at your favorite foods like they were gross or strange without even trying them? If you only eat "normal" things, should you try new foods?
6. At recess or playtime have you ever been picked last or left out? How did it feel? If you see someone who is on their own with no one to play with, what should you do? What do you wish someone had done when it was you?
7. Have you ever read a book that made you feel like you were in another place or another world? Is that a good feeling? Can you learn about other places and people from books? Can you find similarities and differences to your life?
8. When she didn't tell anyone her stories, could she find things in common? What happened when she told her story? Did she find commonalities with someone? What did they make out of those commonalities?
9. Is it easy to be friends with someone once you find something you have in common? Does it have to be lots of things in common, or is one thing enough to become friends? What's more important in being friends with someone- the things we have in common or the things that are different?
10. In general as human beings are our differences or our similarities more important?