



2018

The Day You Begin

Karen Abbott

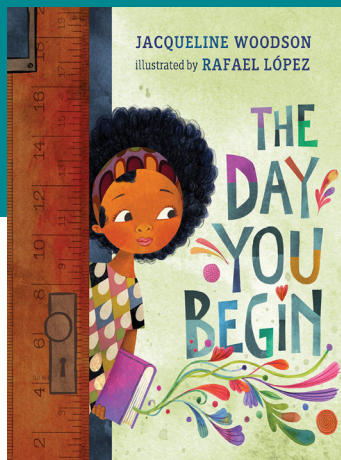
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Book Review

The Day You Begin

Author

Jacqueline Woodson

Illustrator

Rafael López

Reviewer

Karen Abbott

Rating

Outstanding

Level

Preschool, Primary

A little girl feels trepidation on her first day of school. She desires to fit in and make friends and get everything right. Her first assignment is to share her summer with the class. She feels inadequate because while everyone else traveled to different places, she stayed at home and watched her little sister. She read a lot of books, however. So when it is her turn she turns her reading into travel. She is soon making friends and finding that she is right where she belongs, as long as she is not afraid to be herself!

This is a wonderful multicultural book about fear and new beginnings told from a little girl's perspective. The voice of the story is not the little girl's, but the voice of someone wise who is repeating over and over that sometimes things are new, but that is normal, it's expected, it's okay. There is room for everyone, and all of us are a little afraid when new things come our way. The book also shows, in combination with the colorful illustrations, that we often worry for no reason. The scary things often work themselves out with no effort required other than the need to face them. The book is beautifully illustrated with a subtle glow seeming to come from every page and child's face.

Pages

32

Year

2018

Publisher

Nancy Paulsen Books

ISBN

9780399246531