



The Day You Begin Discussion Guide

By Jacqueline Woodson

Book Summary

*There will be times when you walk into a room
and no one there is quite like you.*

There are many reasons to feel different. Maybe it's how you look or talk, or where you're from; maybe it's what you eat, or something just as random. It's not easy to take those first steps into a place where nobody really knows you yet, but somehow you do it.

The Day You Begin reminds us that we all feel like outsiders sometimes—and how brave it is to go forth anyway. And that sometimes, when we reach out and begin to share our stories, others will be happy to meet us halfway.

Themes

Diversity, Imagery, Self-Esteem

Reader Discussion Questions

1. What is the book about?
2. Why does Angelina feel like no one is like her? Have you ever felt that way?
3. At first, why do you think Angelina didn't want to tell the other children about her summer? What made her change her mind?
4. How does the girl with the lunchbox feel when the children stare at her? Has something like that ever happened to you or someone you know?
5. Have you ever walked into a room full of people who seemed different than you? How did you feel? What made you feel that way?
6. Why do you think the book is called *The Day You Begin*?
7. What do you think is the message of the book?
8. What is something that makes you unique? Think about your friends and family – what makes *them* unique?

9. Why is it good to have friends who are not exactly like you?
10. How do the children feel at the end of the book?

More Rogue Reads *The Day You Begin* Programs

These programs delve deeper into certain themes or topics in *The Day You Begin*.

Take & Make: Let Your Light Shine Ashland Library | Starting Saturday, December 12

Take & Make: *The Day You Begin* Time Capsule Ashland Library | Starting Saturday, January 2

We Are All Unique Ashland Library | January 2-31

Take & Make: The “Me” I Want to Be Ashland Library | Starting Saturday, January 23

Take & Make: The Day You Begin Valentines Program

Ashland Library | Starting Saturday, February 6

Eagle Point Library | Starting Saturday, February 6

Gold Hill Library | Starting Saturday, February 6

Author Talk with Jacqueline Woodson Online | Sunday, February 21 at 4 PM