

***The Day You Begin* by Jaqueline Woodson**

Joshua 1:9

“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”

Psalm 118:1, 24

“Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.” (vs 1)

“This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad.” (vs 24)

Proverbs 31:8-9 (New Living Translation)

“Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves. Ensure justice for those being crushed. Yes, speak up for the poor and helpless and see that they get justice.”

Matthew 6:25-27

“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?”

I wonder...

- I wonder if you have ever been nervous about starting something new?
- I wonder what worries you about beginning a new school year?
- I wonder if you have ever felt different than everybody else? What did you do?
- I wonder how you show strength and courage?
- I wonder if it's hard to give your worries to God?
- I wonder how you will rejoice today?
- I wonder how you can give thanks to God?
- I wonder how you will serve others this year?
- I wonder how you will speak up? With your words? With your actions?

Worry Birds

Draw a simple outline of a bird on a piece of construction paper. Read Matthew 6:25-27 and write or draw your worries on the bird. (For early or non-readers, let them dictate to you.)

After you are finished, say a prayer giving all those worries to God. Put the picture where you can see it as a reminder that God is bigger than all our worries. God sees us, God knows us, God is always with us, and God loves us with an everlasting love.

This is the Day Art Collage

Make an art collage with different materials and textures that illustrates Psalm 118:1

“Give thanks to the Lord for he is good. His love endures forever.”