The Day You Begin
Reader's Guide

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Grade Levels: K-5th Grades

Objective: Students will understand how people may feel or be made to feel nervous or excluded because of their differences.

EBR Core Action Support - Text, Task, Talk
- 1 - High Quality Text & Supports Foundational Skills
- 2 - Employ questions and tasks that are text dependent and text specific.
- 3 - Provide all students with the opportunity to engage in the work of the lesson.

Before Reading:
- Preview the front cover of the book.
- Ask students what they think this book will be about, explain that is called making predictions.
- **Student Spark**: Think of a first time to a new place (school, club, church). How did you feel? How did you feel after you had gone many times?

While Reading:
- Every time there is bullying or unkindness, stop, point it out. Name it as bullying or being unkind. Ask the students as well to find instances of bullying or unkindness so that you can stop and name it.
- Practice what can be said and done to be kind in those situations.

After Reading:
1. **Reactions**
   - What did you think about the book, do you have a favorite part?
   - How do you think the art was made?
   - Go back through the book and discuss what happened at the beginning, middle, and end.

2. **Question/Discussion**
   - What does it feel like to be somewhere where no one is like you? Have you experienced this?
   - When the other students talk about what they did during the summer, how does the girl feel? Why does she feel this way?
   - How does she feel after she tells them about her summer with her sister? Do other students respond in a kind way?
   - If someone is eating or offers you food that you are not familiar with, what could you say that would be kind?
   - It is never kind to say, “I don’t want him on our team.” What could they do instead?

3. **Draw or Write**:
   - At the end of the book it says, “every new friend has something a little like you - and something else so fabulously not quite like you at all.” Draw a picture of you and a friend (real or imaginary) playing and write a list of ways they are like you (similarities) and another list of ways they aren’t like you (differences).

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