The Day You Begin by Jacqueline Woodson

LEARNING STANDARD QUESTION:
What is the main problem and the solution in the story?
Responses → feeling different and then connecting with peers when feeling confident to tell them about yourself, this leads to learning about your similarities as well as your differences.

ACTIVITY:
Students are asked to use Play-Doh to create a sculpture of themselves, as well as one of their friends. Then they are asked to write out one thing that they have in common with their friend and one thing that makes them different from their friend.

MATERIALS NEEDED:
Art/Play-Doh in different colors
(You can also make salt dough fairly easily, at home – which can then be painted.)

SHARE YOUR CREATION!
theREP would love students to share photos of their sculptures with us! They can be emailed to Associate Artistic Director, Margaret E. Hall, at mhall@capitalrep.org
A SALT DOUGH RECIPE
*If you are using salt dough, you will want to add paint to your “materials needed” so that students can paint their sculptures once they have been created and baked.

**Ingredients:**
- 2 cups flour
- 1 cup salt
- 1 cup cold water

**Directions:**
Mix flour and salt together in a bowl. Slowly mix in the water, a few tablespoons at a time, until the dough is smooth and easy to handle. Then knead the dough for about 10-minutes and let it rest for 20-minutes after that.

Once the dough is ready, students should use it just like Play-Doh, to create a sculpture of themselves and their friend.

Bake their sculptures in a 250 degree (preheated) oven until they are nice and dry – and firm. It takes around 2 hours.

Allow them to cool completely before handling.

Once they have cooled down, they can be painted.