ArtsBooks

Writer At Work

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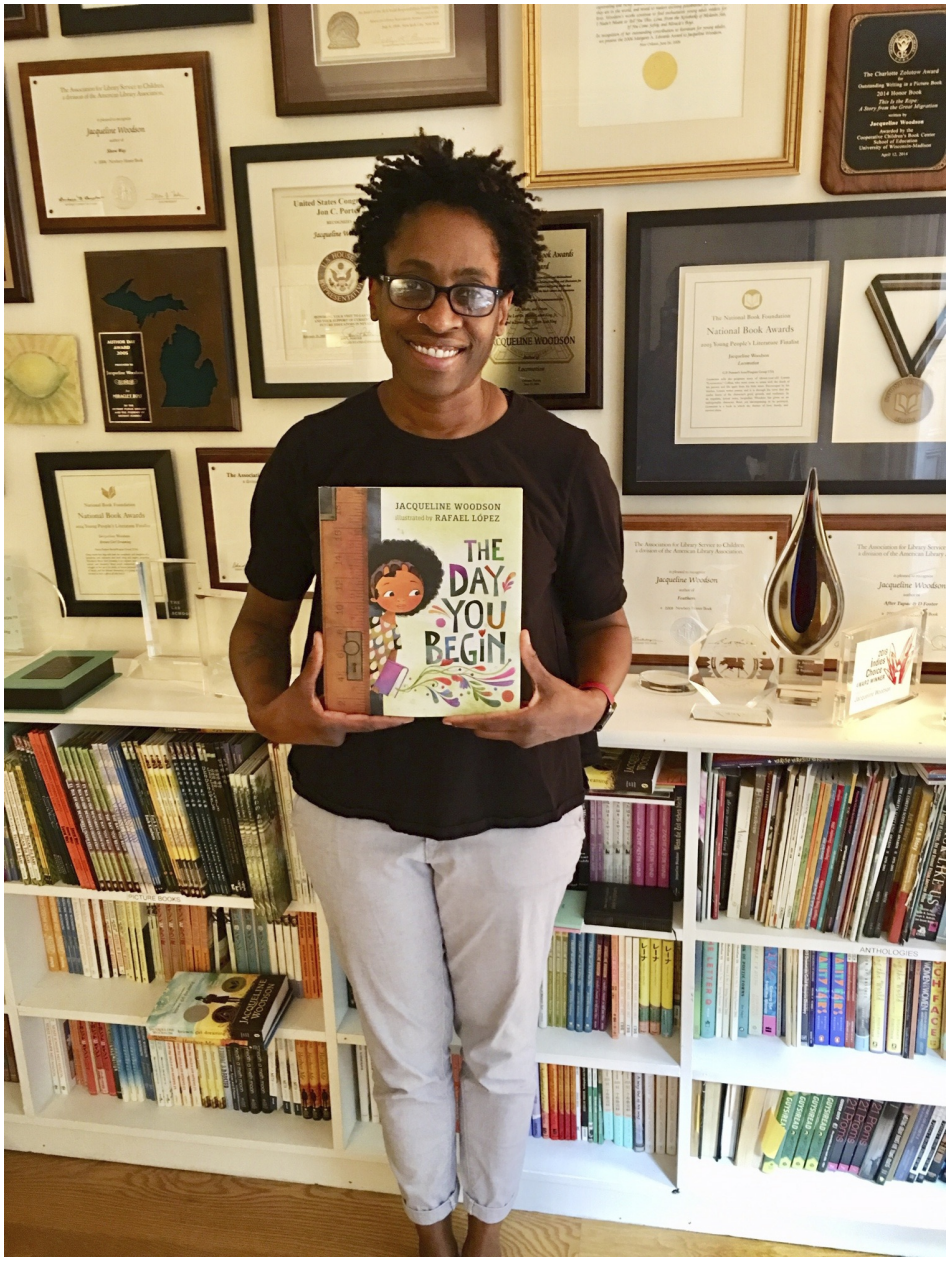
Jacqueline Woodson's latest picture book is *The Day You Begin*. *TIME for Kids* talked with her about her work.

COURTESY JACQUELINE WOODSON

Question: When did you become a writer?

Answer: I started writing when I was 7 years old. My first book was a collection of poems about butterflies.



COURTESY JACQUELINE WOODSON

Q: Where did you get the idea for *The Day You Begin*?

A: The story was based on my great-great-grandfather. He was the only black student in his classroom. It is about the way we can walk into a room and feel like we don't belong there.

AMERICAN WRITERS MUSEUM

Q: Where do you write down your ideas?

A: I used to write on my hand! But now there is always a notebook nearby.

COURTESY JACQUELINE WOODSON

Q: Why do you like writing books for children?

A: I have always written for children because I think kids are important, thoughtful, and smart.

SHAWN MILLER

Did You Know?

Woodson is the National Ambassador for Young People's Literature. She received the honor in 2018 from Carla Hayden, Librarian of Congress.