



## WAYS TO MAKE SUNSHINE

BY RENÉE WATSON

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. In *Ways to Make Sunshine*, Ryan experiences many changes. How does Ryan respond to these changes? If you were in Ryan's position, how would you respond?
2. Who are the people Ryan goes to for support and encouragement? Who are the people in your life who support and encourage you?
3. What does the phrase "ways to make sunshine" mean? How does Ryan *make sunshine* and why is it important?

### WRITING ACTIVITY

In *Ways to Make Sunshine*, Ryan is excited about the arrival of spring. Write a poem about your favorite season and share it with someone.

You can use Nikki Giovanni's "Knoxville, Tennessee" as a model text:

<https://poets.org/poem/knoxville-tennessee>

### ART ACTIVITY

CREATE A KEEPSAKE BOX THAT HOLDS SPECIAL MEMORIES.

In *Ways to Make Sunshine*, Ryan moves to a new house with her family. In her bedroom, she finds a canister that was left behind. In it, she discovers two seashells, a postcard addressed to no one, a handkerchief, dried rose petals, and three gold hairpins.

If you were to leave behind a collection of keepsakes, what would you include? Create your own keepsake box using the guidelines below for inspiration.

IDEAS FOR MAKING YOUR KEEPSAKE:

- Use a shoe box, bag, or another container to collect your items.
- Consider including a photo, something from nature (a rock or leaf), a simple item you use often, or a gift from someone.
- Be creative and decorate your container to represent who you are.

### #MAKESUNSHINE CHALLENGE

1. Cook a meal for a loved one.
2. Write a kind note to a friend.
3. Call a family member or friend.
4. Give someone a compliment.
5. Share a favorite toy.
6. Do an extra chore around the house.
7. Decorate a room to make it feel special.
8. Volunteer to help someone in need.
9. Teach a family member or friend something you're good at.
10. Memorize a poem or song and recite it for a loved one.

