



WHAT WAS I MADE FOR?

TEACHER'S GUIDE + CLASSROOM RESOURCE

THEMES IN THE STORY

- Purpose
- Trust
- Perseverance
- Identity
- Hope
- Emotional resilience
- Faith and encouragement
- Creativity and self-expression
- Compassion for others



ABOUT THE BOOK

What Was I Made For? is a faith-centered children's picture book about a little mockingbird whose journey takes an unexpected turn after an injury changes her ability to fly. As she wrestles with disappointment, uncertainty, and questions about purpose, she discovers that her Creator still has a beautiful plan for her life.

This story gently encourages children to:

- Process difficult emotions
- Explore identity and purpose
- Practice resilience and trust
- Reflect on truth, hope, and kindness
- Understand that value is not based on performance

Perfect for classrooms, homeschool settings, church groups, counseling offices, and family read-aloud time.

Recommended Ages: 4-9

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Comprehension Questions

1. What happened to the mockingbird's wing?
2. Why was the mockingbird feeling sad?
3. What questions did the mockingbird ask?
4. Who spoke to the mockingbird in the garden?
5. What did the mockingbird learn about purpose?

BEFORE YOU READ

Discussion Starters

Use these questions before reading the story:

- What are some things you enjoy doing?
- Have you ever had plans change unexpectedly?
- What do you do when you feel discouraged?
- What makes someone special or important?
- What do you think it means to have purpose?

READ-ALoud TIPS

As you read:

- Pause to let children observe the illustrations
- Invite students to notice how the mockingbird's emotions change
- Ask predictive questions:
 - "What do you think will happen next?"
 - "How do you think the mockingbird feels right now?"
- Allow moments of quiet reflection after emotional pages

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever felt disappointed when something didn't go as planned?
2. What helps you when you feel worried or discouraged?
3. What are some ways we can encourage others?
4. What gifts or talents do you think you have?
5. What does it mean to trust even when things are hard?

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

1. "What Song Is In My Heart Today?" Activity

Invite students to reflect on encouraging truths.

Students can:

- Draw a musical note
- Write or circle positive reminders
- Share something encouraging

Suggested prompts:

- God loves me
- I am brave
- I am learning and growing
- I can encourage others
- I was made with purpose

2. Mockingbird Nature Walk

Take students on a short outdoor walk.

Encourage them to:

- Listen carefully to sounds
- Observe nature
- Draw or write what they notice
- Practice gratitude

Extension: Create a classroom "Wonder Wall" with student observations.

3. Wings of Encouragement Craft

Materials:

- Paper bird template
- Crayons or markers
- Scissors
- String or tape

Students write encouraging truths or kind words on each wing feather.

Examples:

- You are loved
- Keep going
- You are brave
- God is with you

Display birds around the classroom.

4. My Purpose Garden

Give each student a flower template.

Inside the flower, students can write:

- Something they enjoy
- A way they help others
- A gift or talent they have
- Someone they love

Create a collaborative classroom garden display.

WRITING PROMPTS

1. If I could talk to the mockingbird, I would say...
2. One thing that makes me unique is...
3. A time I had to be brave was...
4. Someone who encourages me is...
5. What do you think the Creator wanted the mockingbird to learn?

SCRIPTURE CONNECTIONS

- **Ephesians 2:10** - "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works."
- **Psalms 139:14** - "I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made."
- **Isaiah 41:10** - "Do not fear, for I am with you."
- **Romans 8:28** - "In all things God works for the good of those who love Him."

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING CONNECTIONS

This story supports conversations about:

- Emotional awareness
- Coping with disappointment
- Self-worth
- Empathy
- Healthy reflection
- Perseverance

Suggested SEL focus words:

- Courage
- Trust
- Hope
- Patience
- Kindness
- Resilience

EXTENSION IDEAS

Classroom Display

Create a bulletin board titled: "What Were We Made For?" Students can add:

- drawings, kind words, prayers, goals, encouraging reminders

MUSIC CONNECTION

Listen to calming instrumental music while students color or reflect. Invite students to think about:

- "What song is in my heart today?"

COMPANION ACTIVITY BOOK

Pair this guide with the:

My Mockingbird Color & Activity Book for additional:

- coloring pages
- reflection prompts
- scripture memory
- creative activities

CONNECT ÷ RESOURCES

- **Website:** www.mockingbirdartiststudio.com
- **Instagram:** @Mockingbirdartist
- **Etsy Shop:** www.etsy.com/shop/MockingbirdArtist
- **Visit the Kids Corner on the website for:**
 - printable activities
 - videos
 - coloring pages
 - companion resources
 - classroom ideas

ALSO AVAILABLE



My Little Mockingbird

- A gentle bedtime book celebrating the bond between a parent and child. ***My Little Mockingbird*** is perfect for baby showers, birthdays, and bedtime routines. Available wherever ***What Was I Made For?*** is sold.



My Mockingbird Color & Activity Book

- Bring the story of “What Was I Made For?” + “My Little Mockingbird” to life with a fun, faith-filled printable activity book/pages designed especially for young readers.

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MEET THE AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR

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Rebekah Firmin is an author, illustrator, and founder of MockingbirdArtist. Through storytelling and art, she creates faith-filled resources that encourage children and families with themes of hope, creativity, and purpose.

“What Was I Made For?” is the companion story to her first children’s book, “My Little Mockingbird.”

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