



Autumn Dreams

A time of gathering back together
Eager minds, young hearts, fresh voices
Warm and slightly weary from summer
Yet full of unexpressed hopes and dreams
And bright expectations of what lies ahead
School is back in session!



YOU ARE A TEACHER!

Have you ever had one of those end-of-summer, before-school-starts nightmares in which buckets of purple paint spill from the ceiling and three-headed “children” speak to you in foreign tongues? But suddenly you wake up and remember that you are a teacher and school is about to start! Although there may be challenges in the classroom, thankfully, they will be nothing like your before-school-starts nightmare. And because *you are a teacher*, you’re up for the challenge.

But as the first day of school grows closer, a sense of hope and anticipation begins to sweep over you. You wonder how many children will be in your class this year. Will there be a couple of geniuses amid the bunch? A class clown? A child with wide eyes who’s too shy to speak? You think about the children who will soon become your new little friends, who will look up to you with love and admiration ... and with great expectation—simply because *you are a teacher!*

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It's a time of hopeful wonder, mixed with the realization that there will also be trials and struggles ahead. Perhaps you'll encounter a parent who's difficult, a child who's suffered abuse, or one with behavioral problems. You know what to expect because it's all just part of the teaching life.

And yet you look forward to it, because *you are a teacher!* You are ready to take on these challenges and transform them into bright successes. You have a sharp mind and a caring heart—not to mention a witty sense of humor. For *you are a teacher!*

You appreciate the value of the young lives that have been entrusted to you. And you realize the investment you are making in the future. You don't take these responsibilities lightly, yet you know how to laugh and have fun. When the going gets tough, you know how to pray.

FOR YOU ARE A TEACHER!

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BEGINNINGS

The beginning is the most
important part of the work.

—Plato

All glory comes from daring to begin.

—Eugene F. Ware

A journey of a thousand miles must
begin with a single step.

—Lao Tzu

He who chooses the beginning of a road chooses
the place it leads to. It is
the means that determine the end.

—Harry Emerson Fosdick

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