Tips for Getting Started with a Theme Challenge

1. Get a folder, notebook or sketchbook to use during the creative process. Work in pen or marker-DO NOT ERASE ANYTHING-everything could spark an idea.
2. Brainstorm variations of WATER-use the thesaurus, Google the word, add words to create a phrase with WATER.
3. Write all the things that come to mind when you think of WATER.
4. Sketch symbols, pictures, shapes that come to mind when you think of WATER.
5. Gather pictures/photos that you associate with WATER.
6. Visit websites for sayings that contain the word WATER or are about WATER. Search for “water quotes”. Write down your favorite and don’t forget to include the author or credit the source in your notes.
7. Decide how you might translate your ideas/inspiration into a quilt:

* Art Quilt- Use applique, thread painting, embellishment, and paint techniques
* Use traditional blocks to represent your vision of “WATER”-
  + The design represents the symbols you associate with the theme (pool, river, sea, underwater, etc.)
  + The block name represents your idea (states, places, events)
* Abstract- use color, words, blocks, and art quilt techniques to represent an abstract portrayal of “water”
* Crazy quilt-fabric, color, embellishment, blocks that together represent your idea of “water”
* Quilt pattern-search books, catalogs for a quilt pattern that represents your image of ‘water’. For exampl , Storm at Sea.

1. Give yourself time to allow the ideas to develop and come together.
2. Don’t rush the process.
3. Don’t fret, if at first, you seem to be at a loss for ideas.
4. Don’ give up if frustrated-let your ideas rest or call for support.
5. If life gets in the way and you can’t finish, don’t berate yourself-it happens to all of use at some time.