



"The Starfish Story"

Based on the writings of Loren Eiseley

A small boy was running along a beach after a great storm which had washed up thousands upon thousands of starfish. He picked up as many as he could, one by one, throwing them back into the sea to save their lives.

An old man, watching this, waited until the boy was close enough and then asked:

"What are you doing?"

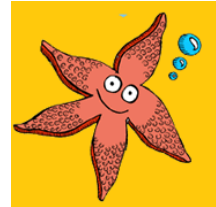
"I'm putting the starfish back," replied the boy, "or they will die."

"Why bother?" said the man, "the few you manage to save out of so many cannot possibly make much difference."

The boy looked at the man as only a child can, stooped down and picked up another starfish and threw it purposefully into the sea. "It will make a difference to that one," he said.

Personal Reflections:

- ★ Why do you think the boy stopped to help the starfish?
- ★ What will you do if you see your friends needing help, just like the starfish on the beach needing help?
- ★ When the boy saw hundreds of stranded starfish, he could have been discouraged and given up. Do you think it was easy for him to keep trying?
- ★ Are there problems in your life? What are they?
- ★ Think of a time when you felt that you had a sibling/friend to help or a problem to face, but did not. What happened?
- ★ So what is the moral of this story?



622 Upper Bukit Timah Road Singapore 678117
Tel: 6769 1618 Website: www.boystown.org.sg

Boys' Town
Blue Ribbon
Project