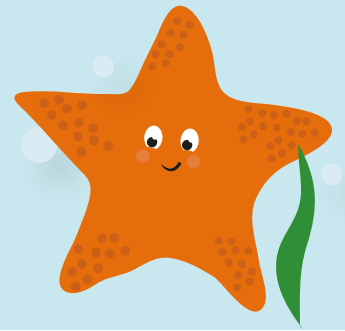




Starfish Story

(You can make a difference)



While walking along the beach an elderly gentleman saw someone in the distance leaning down, picking up something and throwing it into the ocean.

As he got closer, he noticed that the figure was that of a boy, picking up starfish one by one and tossing each one gently back into the water.

He came closer and called out, "Good morning! May I ask what it is that you are doing?"

The boy paused, looked up, and replied "Throwing starfish into the ocean."

The old man smiled, and said, "I must ask, then, why are you throwing starfish into the ocean?"

To this the boy replied, "The sun is up and the tide is going out. If I don't throw them in, they'll die."

Upon hearing this, the elderly man commented, "But, do you not realise that there are miles and miles of beach and there are starfish all along every mile? You can't possibly make a difference!"

The boy listened politely. Then he bent down, picked up another starfish, threw it back into the ocean, past the breaking waves and said,

"It made a difference for that one."

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