

The Starfish Story

Original Story by: Loren Eiseley (1907-1977)

One day a man was walking along the beach when he noticed a child picking up something and gently throwing it into the ocean.

Approaching the child, he asked,

"What are you doing?" The youth replied, "Throwing starfish back into the ocean. The surf is up, and the tide is going out. If I don't throw them back, they'll die"

The man replied, "Don't you realize there are miles and miles of beach and there are starfish all along every mile? You can't make a difference!"

At this, the child bent down, picked up yet another starfish, and threw it into the ocean. As it met the water, he said,

"It made a difference for that one."