

## The Starfish Thrower

based on the story by Loren Eiseley

One day a man was walking along the beach when he saw a girl. He watched as the girl reached down, picked up a starfish from the sand, and threw it into the ocean. 'What are you doing?' asked the man.

'I am throwing starfishes into the ocean,' said the girl. 'The sea has washed them up onto the beach. If I don't throw them back before the sun comes up, they will dry up and die.'



'But the beach goes on for miles and there are thousands of starfishes,' said the man. 'You'll never throw them all back. There are too many. You can't possibly make a difference.'

The girl listened politely, then picked up another starfish, threw it back into the sea, and said, 'I made a difference to that one.'

- 1) What do you think is the meaning of the story?
  - a) We should be kind to starfish. They are very important.
  - b) We should ignore what grownups tell us. They are always wrong.
  - c) We should each do what we can to help. Even small actions can make a difference.
- 2) What do you think might have happened next in the story?

Humanists believe it is up to human beings to make the world a better place. They don't believe that help will come from anywhere else. If we want things to get better, we need to do something ourselves in the here and now. This is called **human responsibility**. We need to work together and help each other. Each of us can make a difference, even if it is only in a small way.

Many humanists believe we should not just be observers of the world. We should be actors. We should not just hope or wish for things to be different. We need to take action. Our actions can also influence others and how they choose to live.



'It doesn't matter if you can't make a difference on a global level. Most of us won't find the cure to a disease or discover clean energy. But even on the smallest scale, you can make the people around you feel happier because you're there.'

Natalie Haynes, author