

The Starfish

Last summer I took a trip to an **island**. I had a lot of fun. I sat and watched the **waves** and listened to the **ocean**. I learned to **identify** birds. I **discovered** pretty things and enjoyed the **taste** of new foods. It was a very nice time.

One evening I took a **pleasant** walk by the ocean. When the waves came in, many starfish* fell on the **beach**. Some starfish went back into the water, and they were safe. But other starfish were **still** on the sand. They would die if they did not get into the water. There were many starfish on the beach that night. It made me sad, but I knew I could not **fix** the problem. I **stepped** very carefully so I did not **damage** them.

Then I saw a little girl. She was also sad about the starfish. She wanted to **prevent** all of them from dying. She asked me if I could **perhaps** help her.

"To be **frank**, I don't think we can do anything," I said.

The little girl started to cry. She sat back **against** a **rock** and thought for a while. Finally, the **emotion** was gone. She stopped crying and stood up. Then she picked up a starfish and **threw** it into the water.

"What are you doing?" I asked her. But she did not answer me. She just threw as many starfish as she could. "You cannot **save** all of them!" I said.

She stopped to look at me. "No, I cannot save them all," she replied. Then she picked up a very big starfish and said, "But I can save this one." And then she smiled and threw the starfish as far as she could into the ocean.

*starfish – an animal shaped like a star that lives in the water

