



## Starfish

### New Orleans, LA

#### Values

- Optimism
- Persistence
- Tenacity
- Commitment
- Social Emotional Learning

#### Reflection Questions

How would you feel if you were faced with this tough situation?

Have you ever faced impossible odds? What did you decide to do?

What would you do if someone doubted your ability to make a difference?

Have you ever felt like giving up? What happens when you do? What happens when you stick with it? How does that make you feel?

#### Lessons Learned

Small actions can make a big difference. You can accomplish great things - one-step at a time.

One person's faith is stronger than another person's doubts.

Even when someone tries to discourage you, do not give up!

Create goals about how you want to make a difference and Stick with them.

In this modern parable, a young girl saves hundreds of starfish that washed up in a storm. Tossing them back into the sea, one at a time, she refuses to give up or be discouraged by someone else's doubts at the "impossibility" of the task. Instead, she responds, "I made a difference with that one."

#### Language Arts: SEL & Diversity

Engage students in writing their own stories: Imagine you are one of the starfish. *It is a sunny day at the ocean, just after a big storm. Samuel Starfish awakes to find himself on a hot, sandy beach. He is very thirsty and worried that he will never find his way back home to the sea. Can anyone help him at a time like this? Also from the girl's perspective...*

#### Environmental Awareness

Encourage children to care for living things. Plant seeds, water plants, create an aquarium. Study the natural habitats of fish and how changes in the environment are affecting them. Create posters from newspapers/ magazines showing how people are helping the oceans. Write a report on starfish: what they eat, where they live, why they are star shaped.

#### Community Service : Service Learning

Go for walks; invite students to clean up the environment by picking up (5) pieces of litter. Schedule a beach or playground clean-up with students and volunteers and have them recycle the cans and plastic bottles they find on the beach. Interview Boys/ Girls Scouts, 4H, others to discover what projects they need help with. Arrange ongoing volunteer projects like leaf raking or snow shoveling to help seniors.

