



INSPIRATIONAL STORIES FROM ENGLISH LANGUAGE CLASSROOMS

Edited by

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TEFLIN Teacher Development Series

TEFLIN TEACHER DEVELOPMENT SERIES

Series Editors: Willy A Renandya & Nur Hayati

TEFLIN Teacher Development Series contains short practical resource booklets for English language teachers in Asia published by TEFLIN (The Association for the Teaching of English as a Foreign Language in Indonesia) through its Publication Division. Titles in the series (2020) include:

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CHAPTER 11

I CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

(inspired by Starfish story)

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A young female English teacher, Ms. Hana Lee, was walking by a classroom and saw a more senior teacher, Mrs. Kyung-Ja Kim, tutoring a student.

Ms. Lee knew the student, Young-Hee, who was also in her class and was known to be falling behind. She had tried to help him and then gave up because he did not seem to make any progress. So she thought that she'd better pay more attention to the brighter students in her class. She said to herself, "It is a waste of my time. There is no way I could make a difference to this student; and there were many students like Young-Hee in the school".

The next day, she ran into Mrs. Kim in the corridor and said to her, "Mrs. Kim, I hope you don't mind me saying this, but I think you are wasting your time. I know the student you are tutoring. He is hopeless and you're just wasting your time. Also there are so many students like Young-Hee in the school. You cannot possibly make a difference."

The senior teacher listened patiently and then said calmly, "I know I cannot possibly make a difference to every student. But I can make a difference to Young-Hee, Ms. Hana Lee."

Reflection:

In today's world, it is easy to be discouraged and to question the extent to which we can make a difference in the life of another especially if we feel that we are not rich or smart enough to act. The story *I can Make a Difference* is actually a reminder of the important role we play in our lives. It is a reminder that we should help each other whenever we can even in small ways.

The classroom discussions encourage the students to take their time to remember that they have made and they can keep making small changes in their own context. The activity of making an animated video aims to offer the students opportunities to practice writing a short story that might inspire their classmates, teachers and people outside their classroom.



The TEFLIN Teacher Development Series is a series of short practical resource booklets for English language teachers in Asia presented by TEFLIN (The Association for the Teaching of English as a Foreign Language in Indonesia) through its Publication Division. The booklets (or modules) are intended to be used by teachers (both pre-service and in-service) and teacher educators as a learning resource and as a basis for organizing workshops, in-service courses and various other purposes of teaching and learning and teacher professional development.



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