

I Can Do That



Ms. Griffin was teaching a lesson on International Volunteer Day. She told her students about some of the volunteer campaigns that had been conducted around the world in previous years – programs that helped with things like hunger awareness, medical care, protecting the environment, and recycling. Then she shared with them about similar projects closer to home at the national, state, and community levels. Ms. Griffin shared her view that it is important for people to give freely of themselves for the benefit of others.

Her students listened attentively and expressed an interest in developing their own ideas for volunteering. Some thought there might be worthwhile things they could do to make a difference right there in their own school. One young lady hadn't really participated much in the conversation. Ms. Griffin noticed her troubled expression.

"What's on your mind, Lori?" she asked.

"I just don't know what a kid like me can do for anybody," Lori replied.

Ms. Griffin asked Lori about her neighbors and made suggestions of simple ways she might help them. When she mentioned the idea of cooking a meal for someone disabled or elderly, Lori perked up. Lori loved to help her mom cook, and they did have a neighbor who was sickly and couldn't get out much anymore. Ms. Griffin encouraged Lori to make a delicious meal for her neighbor sometime soon and to visit with her for a while when she delivered it.

Lori's expression suddenly changed. "I can do that," she said.

Directions: Based on the story, decide whether the statements below are true or false. Then fill in the circle for the correct answer.

1. In the story, Ms. Griffin did not think volunteering was a good thing.

- True False

2. The students were studying International Volunteer Day.

- True False

3. At first, Lori didn't see how a kid like her could be of any help to anyone.

- True False

4. Ms. Griffin gave Lori some good suggestions for volunteering.

- True False