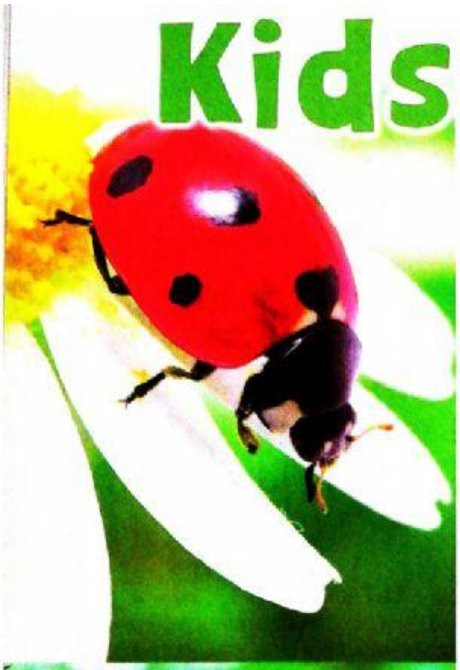




Kids with a conscience

What do you do in your spare time? Have you ever considered using it to improve the lives of others? These children did. Read their stories and perhaps you too can be inspired to lend a hand.

When five-year-old Canadian Hannah Taylor saw a homeless man eating out of a rubbish bin, she was shocked and saddened. As a young child from a loving and comfortable home, she was unaware that homelessness existed. She never forgot the image of that man and so, a few years later, Hannah founded The Ladybug Foundation, a charity for the homeless. She chose the ladybug* because the insect represents good luck, which is something she believes the homeless need. She began by painting empty baby-food jars like ladybugs and asking businesses in her town to put small change in them. By the age of ten, she had raised more than half a million dollars.

no 1

Now a young adult, Hannah has spoken out for the homeless across Canada to hundreds of schools and organisations. Through these and other efforts, over two million dollars has been raised to provide not only shelter, but food – two basic human rights – for the homeless.

Janine Licare and Aislin Livingstone were just nine years old in 1999 when they saw the rainforest disappearing from their beloved home in Manuel Antonio, Costa Rica, due to the development of roads and buildings in the area. They witnessed the negative impact of this on the animals, particularly the Mono Titi, or squirrel monkeys. The main cause of death for these monkeys is electrocution from electrical cables, or being hit by cars while crossing these new roads. This put the species in danger and inspired the girls to establish Kids Saving The Rainforest (KSTR), a non-profit organisation to save the local rainforests and endangered wildlife.

no2

KSTR has grown steadily. One of its objectives has been to create 'monkey bridges' throughout the area. These are thick ropes that help the monkeys cross areas where there are now roads or electrical and phone cables, or where there aren't enough trees for the monkeys to pass through. There are currently 130 such bridges, which, in combination with other measures, have saved the lives of many monkeys.

* American English for 'ladybird'

LIVEWORKSHEETS

no 3

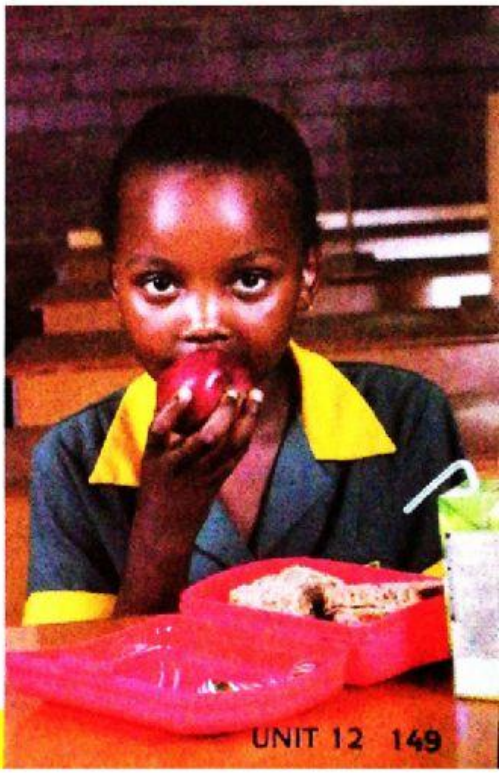
Mary's Meals is an extraordinary charity that has introduced school meal programmes for hungry children in countries across Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Eastern Europe and South America. There, many children do not attend school. To encourage them to get an education, the charity provides free healthy daily meals at school. Education is important because it can lift them out of poverty by helping them to get good jobs, which benefits the whole community.

no 4

Nine-year-old Martha Payne from the UK had a blog about her own school dinners and whether they were healthy or not. Some people pointed out on her blog that she was fortunate to get a meal of any kind at school when so many children were starving. Realising the truth of this, Martha got involved by raising money for Mary's Meals and encouraged her blog readers to donate. She has raised over £130,000 for the charity, visited Mary's Meals in Malawi and herself became the subject of a BBC documentary.

The charity now feeds more than 750,000 children every school day and it costs only £10.70 to feed a child for a year.

There are kids making a difference in the world. If you are lucky enough as a teenager to have money and time, then why not use them to do something constructive?



LIVEWORKSHEETS

4 **Read the article again and choose the best answer A, B, C or D.**

1 How did Hannah Taylor initially help the homeless?
- **A** by raising more than two million dollars
- **B** by making other children aware of the problem
- **C** by getting help from people in her local area
- **D** by telling people about basic human rights

2 According to the article, the monkey bridges
- **A** have saved parts of the monkeys' habitat.
- **B** are cut when there is danger in the area.
- **C** are built next to roads in Costa Rica.
- **D** protect the monkeys from modern hazards.

3 What is the long-term benefit of a free daily meal?
- **A** It can lead to economic development.
- **B** It stops hunger in the whole community.
- **C** It creates more jobs for poor people.
- **D** It means more schools are opened.

4 According to the article, Martha Payne
- **A** learnt about Mary's Meals on a documentary.
- **B** has seen the work that Mary's Meals does.
- **C** had a blog about the charity Mary's Meals.
- **D** started Mary's Meals when she was nine.

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Sometimes one of the questions in a multiple-choice task requires that you understand the text as a whole. For such questions, you could be asked about the purpose of the text, why certain topics are discussed, or why certain examples are provided. Which of the questions in 4 is an example of this?

5 Which statement is true?
- **A** Martha is the only one who deals with issues of hunger.
- **B** Janine and Aislin are the only ones protecting a habitat.
- **C** Only Hannah was inspired to act by a sad sight.
- **D** Martha has raised the most money for her charity.

6 What is the writer's intention?
- **A** to ask people for donations to the charities
- **B** to describe what the different charities do
- **C** to explain why it's a good idea to start a charity
- **D** to encourage others to get involved with charities

5 **Complete the sentences with the correct form of these words.**

aware day homeless object organise sad

1 The Ladybug Foundation makes a difference to many people's _____ lives.
2 I'm so sorry; I was _____ of the problems you were facing.
3 Surely we can use empty buildings in the area and end _____.
4 The organisation's _____ is to help families that are in financial trouble.
5 Everyone was _____ by the news that the animal shelter had to close.
6 A charity is a(n) _____ that is set up to raise money and help those in need.

LIVEWORKSHEETS