



Making a Difference

Part 1

Teacher Reads Jane Addams always had great compassion for how others felt. In particular, she always tried to understand those who had far less than she had. That compassion would influence the course of her life, a life of service to others.

Even as a little girl, Jane Addams could not understand
10 why some people had so much and others had so little. Jane
22 was lucky. Her father was a rich man, so her family made
34 their home in a nice, large house. When Jane and her father
46 went down the street in the 1860s, she would see children
57 playing in the road. These children did not have a yard or
69 lawn where they could play, like she did.

77 Seeing these children, who did not have as much as she
88 did, upset Jane. She made up her mind that she would try
100 to change things and make people's lives better. When Jane
110 grew up, she did just that!

Part 2

Teacher Reads Although Jane was born into a wealthy family, there were other hardships that she had to overcome.

116 Jane's mother had passed away when Jane was just two.
126 Six years later, her father wed another woman and Jane got
137 a new stepmother and two stepbrothers all at the same time.
148 She became close to one of her stepbrothers who was about
159 the same age as she was.

165 Later on, Jane went to college, something that few
174 women did in those days. She wanted to become a doctor.
185 It would be a good way to help people. Jane did get a college
199 education. But she did not become a doctor. Why? She had
210 very bad problems with her back and had to stay in bed for a
224 long time. That prevented her from getting more schooling.
233 However, even if her dream of being a doctor was out of
245 reach, Jane still had the urge to help people. She only had to
258 decide how.



Part 3

Teacher Reads Read on to discover how a trip to London, England, helped Addams decide what to do.

260 When Addams was feeling better, she made a trip to
270 London with Ellen Starr, a college friend. While the two
280 women were there, they went to visit Toynbee Hall, a
290 **settlement house** where homeless or hungry people could go
299 for help. Addams saw many good things going on at Toynbee
310 Hall. At last, she saw how she could help people who had
322 hard lives.

324 Addams wanted to start her own settlement house
332 in the U.S. Starr said she would like to help. So when the
345 two women returned home, they began to plan their own
355 settlement house, a place for people who needed a helping
365 hand. Addams wanted to help change lives. [Learn More](#)
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