

There is nothing more beautiful than someone who goes out of their way to make life beautiful for others.

— Mandy Hale



A STORY TO WARM YOUR HEART

Compassion

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*“People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.”*

*-Maya Angelou*

## MRS. AMATULI

Nanci Stroupe

*M*rs. Amatuli was my teacher in the fourth grade. One day at lunchtime, I was getting ready to eat my same old tuna fish sandwich when Mrs. Amatuli approached me and asked if she could buy my sandwich. She explained that I could use the money to buy a hot lunch from the cafeteria.

I was thrilled. I never bought my lunch from the cafeteria. It was too expensive for my family, and we always carried our lunch and brought the bag back home folded up neatly to use again the next day. My sandwiches were either bologna or tuna fish. It rarely varied beyond that.

You can understand my delight when I had the opportunity to buy a hot lunch. Kids always complained about cafeteria food, but I was very envious of them. It sure looked and smelled good to me.

When we finished lunch that day, Mrs. Amatuli took me aside and said she wanted to explain why she had bought my sandwich. I really didn't care why, but it gave me a few minutes of her precious attention, so I was very quiet as she explained. You see, she was Catholic and she told me that Catholics didn't eat red meat on Fridays—they ate fish on Fridays.

Oh, I couldn't wait to get home and tell my mama that from now on I wanted tuna fish on Fridays. After my mama understood why, she gladly fixed tuna fish for me on Friday. She even fixed it on brown bread because she knew Mrs. Amatuli liked brown bread.

From then on, every Friday I could get in the line with the rest of the kids for a hot lunch. I didn't care how many of the kids complained about cafeteria food. It tasted divine to me!

I realize now that Mrs. Amatuli could have fixed herself a tuna sandwich on Friday. But she bought my sandwich because she saw a little girl who was thrilled over the simple act of having a hot lunch. I will never forget her for her compassion and generosity.

***“What sunshine is to flowers, smiles are to humanity. They are but trifles, to be sure, but scattered along life's pathway, the good they do is inconceivable.”***

*-Joseph Addison*