

Read the short story. Then answer each question.

## Hats in Harvard

*Whoosh!* The cold wind roared through the trees and between buildings. Winter was on its way. Amaya was warm in her house, thinking about an article she'd read at school. The article had been about kids who helped out their communities, and she thought it would be really cool to help her own town, Harvard.



The only problem was that she wasn't sure how to help. What did her town need that a kid could do? In the article, the kids had grown food for people who needed food, but it was winter. She couldn't start a garden. Amaya was still deep in thought when her mom said it was time to go grocery shopping.

As they drove along the road, Amaya saw a family walking on the sidewalk, wearing only light jackets. *How cold they must be*, Amaya thought. That gave her an idea! She could help her town, she could collect winter coats, hats, and gloves for people in Harvard who needed them.

She shared her idea with her mom, who thought it was a great idea. But how would they spread the word so that they could get a lot of winter clothing? Amaya decided to talk to her teacher, because then she could share her idea with her classmates at least.

Mrs. Monroe was very supportive when Amaya talked about her idea. She even said she could help Amaya talk to the principal about it, so they could get the whole school involved! They decided to call the project “Hats in Harvard,” and they wrote up a letter explaining the idea to the families. Mrs. Monroe said they could even have the third graders take a field trip to parks around Harvard where families in need gathered to drop off the coats, hats, and gloves. Amaya was excited, and really hoped the principal, Mrs. Brown, would let the school participate!



Amaya and Mrs. Monroe met with the principal one day during lunch time. Mrs. Brown was thrilled with the idea, and said she would make sure copies of the letter went home with all the students! They collected the winter clothing for a few weeks, then were able to take their field trip to two parks in the area to leave the clothes where families who needed them could get them.

Three days after their field trip, Amaya and her mom were once again driving together. She saw the same family walking together that had given her the idea for Hats in Harvard. This time, though, the family looked nice and warm in some new coats, hats, and gloves. Amaya felt a warm glow in her heart, and was very glad she could help her community.



**Questions:**

1. Recount the story in your own words.

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2. What is the central lesson of the story?

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3. Which helpful project would be more helpful in your community? Why do you think so?

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4. What does “*supportive*” mean in the 5th paragraph?  
How do you know?

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5. Amaya got the support of her school to make more of an impact. What else could Amaya do to let more people know about her Hats in Harvard project?

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**Answers:**

1. Recount the story in your own words.  
Answers will vary.
2. What is the central lesson of the story?  
The central lesson of the story is to help out in your community.
3. Which helpful project would be more helpful in your community? Why do you think so?  
Answers will vary.
4. What does “supportive” mean in the 5th paragraph? How do you know?  
Supportive means to give help or encouragement to someone. In the story Mrs. Monroe said she could talk to the principal about Amaya's idea. She is helping Amaya with her project.
5. Amaya got the support of her school to make more of an impact. What else could Amaya do to let more people know about her Hats in Harvard project?  
Answer will vary, but could include ideas such as putting up posters in libraries, community centers and shops.