I pushed open the door and asked him what was wrong as he walked towards the parking lot.

"I think those guys are going to try and beat up another kid," he said.

I watched him walk over and step into the middle of the fray. I couldn't hear what was being said but the crowd started to disperse.

Later, he would tell me it was the second time that night he had stepped in.

I then saw him take a smaller boy under his wing and walk him back to the front door. He made sure the boy was getting a ride home and then told him to stay by the front, where the adults were standing.

When my son finally got back in the car, he told me that the boy is often the target of bullies, and just as often, my son comes to his defence.

I knew none of this until the other night. It was one of the most satisfying signposts that has passed by us on our journey.

In the overall scheme of things, it may not have been much. It won't feed hungry kids or bring world peace.

But he did a good and decent thing. He did the right thing. I learned that he's making the right choices. And I couldn't be prouder. He needs to know that.

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1. **Responding to the Anecdote**
   a. The author begins the anecdote with a description of a teenager. To what extent do you think this characterization is true? Explain.
   b. The father relating the anecdote suggests that his son’s actions served as a “signpost on the highway of life that tells a parent how the journey is progressing.” What other “signposts” are there? Explain fully.

2. **Language Conventions** *Simple Sentences*
   A simple sentence uses a noun and a verb, and not much else. Simple sentences contain no clauses. For example, each of the following are simple sentences:

   - The black dog sneezed.
   - The plane crashed.
   - I love you.

Reread the selection. Which sentences do you think are the author’s most powerful and effective sentences? Are any of these “simple sentences”? Why are these sentences effective?

Reread some of the stories you’ve written. How could you use simple sentences to improve a piece of your writing?