

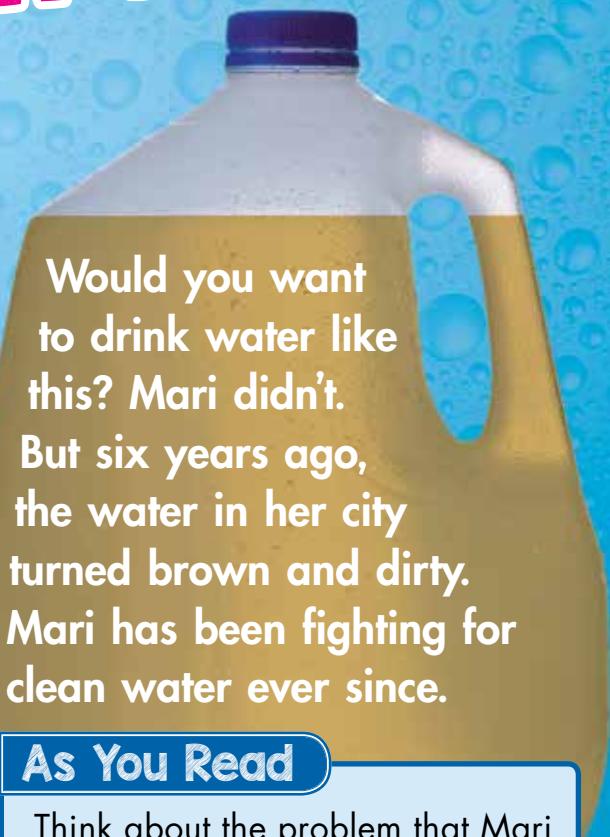
News[®]

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The Clean Water Warrior



Mari
Copeny



Would you want to drink water like this? Mari didn't. But six years ago, the water in her city turned brown and dirty. Mari has been fighting for clean water ever since.

As You Read

Think about the problem that Mari saw and how she tried to fix it.

My name _____

Watch our video about
changemakers at
www.scholastic.com/sn2.



Kids Can Change the World!

Mari Copeny is a kid, just like you are. She is working hard to make her city a better place to live.

Mari lives in Flint, Michigan. In 2014, a dangerous metal called **lead** (led) got into the water in Flint. The water smelled horrible and it looked cloudy and brown, not clear and clean.

It wasn't safe for people to drink the water from their faucets because it gave people headaches and stomachaches. It gave Mari's little

sister a terrible rash. People couldn't cook with the water, use it to brush their teeth, or take a bath in it.

The adults in Flint were working hard to make the water clean again. Mari was only 8 years old, but she wanted to help. She had an idea.

A Letter to the President

Mari wrote a letter to the president at the time, Barack Obama, telling him about Flint. Mari wasn't sure anything would happen. After all, she was just a kid, and he was the president!



Dirty water from Flint

But the president did something that surprised Mari. He came to Flint to learn about their water problem.

The TV news came too, and newspapers started writing stories about the water. Now the whole country knew about the problem in Flint.

The president said he would try to help fix it. But Flint needed more help.

Mari Raises Money

Mari thought she could help so she asked people to **donate** money to help fix the problem in Flint. To donate means to give. People gave a lot of money!

She used the money to buy thousands of bottles of clean water for her **community**.

Mari Keeps Working

Mari still works hard to help Flint.

She gives **speeches** in front of big crowds, makes videos, and writes stories online. She asks people around the world to help. People call her “Little Miss Flint.”

She has raised more than 500,000! She uses the money to buy bottles of clean water and

water filters that people can put on their faucets to make the water clean. She says she won’t stop working until everyone in Flint feels safe drinking the water again.

Mari has big dreams. She wants to run for president in 2044! She believes that kids like you have a lot of power. She says, “You don’t have to be an adult to change the world. It starts with helping out in your own community. Don’t let anyone stop you.” —by Blair Rainsford

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Mari bought thousands of bottles of clean water.