

- 12 Read the tale *The Selfish Giant*<sup>1</sup> and say how the Giant treated the children at the beginning of the story and how different he was at the end of the story.

### **The Selfish Giant**

(after Oscar Wilde)

Every afternoon, as they were coming from school, the children went to play in the Giant's garden. It was a large lovely garden, with soft green grass. Here and there over the grass stood beautiful flowers like stars, and there were twelve fruit trees that in the spring-time began to blossom<sup>2</sup>, and in the autumn gave rich fruit. The birds sat on the trees and sang so sweetly that the children stopped their games and listened to them. "How happy we are here!" they cried to each other.

One day the Giant came back. He had visited his friend and had stayed with him for seven years. After the seven years were over, he returned to his house and saw the children playing in the garden.

"What are you doing here?" he cried in a very angry voice, and the children ran away.

"My own garden is my own garden," said the Giant. "Anyone can understand that, and I will allow<sup>3</sup> nobody to play in it but myself." So he built a high wall round his garden.

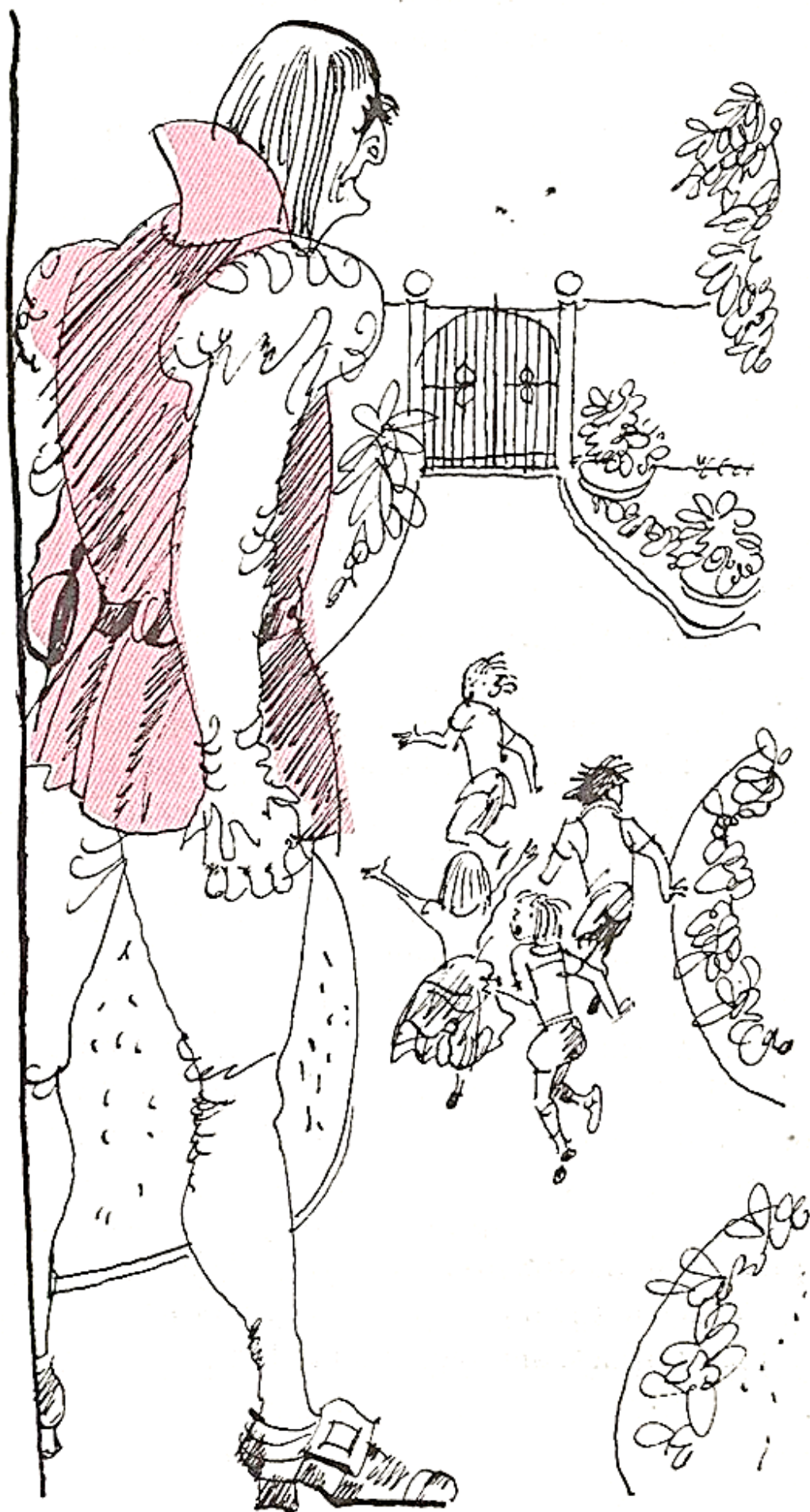
He was a very selfish Giant.

The poor children did not know where to play. They tried to play on the road, but the road was very dusty and full of hard stones, and they did not like it. They often

<sup>1</sup> **giant** ['dʒaɪənt] — великан, гигант

<sup>2</sup> **to blossom** ['blɒsəm] — расцветать

<sup>3</sup> **to allow** [ə'laʊ] — позволять, разрешать



walked round the high walls and talked about the beautiful garden inside. "How happy we were there!" they said to each other.

Then the Spring came, and all over the country there were flowers and little birds. Only in the garden of the Selfish Giant it was still winter. The birds did not sing in it as there were no children, and the trees forgot to blossom. But the Snow and the Frost were pleased. "Spring has forgotten this garden," they cried, "so we shall live here all the year round." Then they invited the North Wind to stay with them, and he came.

"I cannot understand why the Spring is so late," said the Selfish Giant, as he sat at the window and looked out at his cold, white garden.

But the Spring never came, and the Summer never came. The Autumn gave golden fruit to every garden, but to the Giant's garden she gave nothing. "He is too selfish," she said. So it was always Winter there, and the North Wind, and the Frost, and the Snow danced about through the trees.

One morning the Giant was lying in bed when he heard some lovely music. A little bird was singing outside his window. The Selfish Giant thought it was the most beautiful music in the world. "The Spring has come at last," said the Giant; and he jumped out of bed and looked out.

What did he see?

He saw a wonderful sight<sup>1</sup>. There were children in his garden. They were sitting in the branches of the trees. In every tree that he could see there was a little child. And the trees were glad that the children were back again. The

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<sup>1</sup> sight [saɪt] — вид

birds were flying about and singing, and the flowers were looking up through the green grass and laughing. Only in one corner it was still winter. A little boy was standing there. He was so small that he could not reach up<sup>1</sup> to the branches of the tree. And he was crying.

“Climb up, little boy,” said the Tree, but the boy was too small.

And the Giant’s heart melted<sup>2</sup> as he looked out.

“How selfish I have been!” he said. “Now I know why the Spring did not want to come here. I will put that poor little boy on the top of the tree, and then I will knock down the wall, and my garden will be the children’s playground.”

He opened the door, and went out into the garden. But when the children saw him they were so frightened<sup>3</sup> that they all ran away, and the garden became winter again. Only the little boy did not run because his eyes were full of tears<sup>4</sup> and he did not see the Giant. And the Giant stopped behind him, took him in his hand, and put him up into the tree. And the tree began to blossom, and the birds came and sang on it, and the little boy kissed the Giant. And the other children saw that the Giant was not wicked<sup>5</sup> any longer, they came back, and with them came the Spring.

“It is your garden, little children,” said the Giant.

Every afternoon, as they were coming from school, the children went to play in the Giant’s garden. “How happy we are here!” they cried to each other.

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<sup>1</sup> to reach [ri:tʃ] up — доставать, дотягиваться

<sup>2</sup> to melt — таять

<sup>3</sup> be frightened [ˈfraɪtənd] — быть испуганным

<sup>4</sup> tear [tiə] — слеза

<sup>5</sup> wicked [ˈwɪkɪd] — злой, нехороший

## Do You Understand The Story?

**13** Choose and read the correct ending to each sentence.

- 1 The Giant built a high wall round his garden because:
  - he did not want anyone to play in his garden.
  - he did not want anybody to see the beautiful trees in his garden.
  - he wanted to enjoy his beautiful garden himself.
- 2 The children were very sad and unhappy because:
  - they did not know where to play.
  - they could not make friends with the Giant.
  - there was always Winter in the Giant's garden.
- 3 One morning the Giant jumped out of bed and looked out of the window because:
  - he heard some lovely music.
  - he heard children's happy voices in his garden.
  - he heard some strange noise in his garden.
- 4 The Giant's heart melted when :
  - he saw the Frost and the Snow dancing about through the trees.
  - he saw children sitting in the branches of the trees in his garden.
  - he saw tears in the little boy's eyes.

**14** *Agree or disagree.*

- 1 The Giant allowed the children to play in his garden.
- 2 The children tried to play on the road, and they liked it.
- 3 The Autumn gave a lot of fruit to the Giant's garden.
- 4 The Giant was pleased that there was always winter in his garden.
- 5 The children were happy to be back in the Giant's garden.
- 6 The Giant did not understand how selfish and wicked he was.

**15** *Answer the questions.*

- 1 Why did the children like to play in the Giant's garden?
- 2 Why couldn't the children go to play in the garden when the Giant came back?
- 3 Where did the children try to play?
- 4 What did the garden look like without children in it?
- 5 What was it wonderful for the Giant to see one morning?
- 6 When did the flowers and trees in the Giant's garden begin to blossom again?
- 7 What did the Giant do to make the children happy?

**16** *Describe the Giant's garden. Say why the children liked to play in it.*

**How Good Is Your English? (see pp 20 –21)** ● ● ● ●

**What Do You Think?**

**17** *Say what you think of the Giant.*

**18** *Think and say why the Giant's heart melted one day and he became kind to the children.*





## How Good Is Your English?



19 Use the proper word from the box.

- 1 ..... people think only about themselves and not about other people.
- 2 This is a very busy ....., there are always a lot of cars, buses and bicycles on it.
- 3 We never ..... those wonderful days which we spent with our friends and family.
- 4 If you are ..... with yourself, you are happy about something that you have done.
- 5 He's got a very kind ....., hasn't he?
- 6 The kids like to ..... trees.

pleased
selfish
road
climb
forget
heart

20 *What were they doing?* Use the correct form of the verb.

- 1 One morning the Giant .....(lie) in bed when he heard some lovely music.
- 2 A little bird ..... (sing) outside the Giant's window.
- 3 It was a wonderful sight. The children ..... (sit) in the branches of the trees.
- 4 The little boy could not reach up to the branches of the tree, and he ..... (cry).

21 Match the words in column A with the words in column B.

A	B
lovely	roads
sweet	flowers
dusty	songs
hard	stones
high	music
beautiful	walls

22 Use the correct preposition.

- 1 The Giant always cried ..... an angry voice.
- 2 There was a high wall ..... the garden.
- 3 The road was dusty and full ..... hard stones.
- 4 "How happy we were there," the children said ..... each other.
- 5 He looked ..... his window and saw children in his garden.

out of  
round  
of  
in  
to

23 *Past Indefinite? Present Perfect? Choose the proper form of the verb (✓).*

- 1 When the giant returned to his house, he ( built, has built) a high wall round his garden.
- 2 "I can't understand why Spring ( forgot, has forgotten) my garden," the Giant said. "There is always Winter in it."
- 3 The Giant's heart ( melted, has melted) when he saw a little boy crying.
- 4 "The Spring ( came, has come) at last," said the Giant. "My garden is beautiful again."

24 *Past Indefinite? Past Continuous? Choose the proper form of the verb (✓).*

- 1 It was a wonderful sight. The children (sat, were sitting) in the branches of the trees, and the birds (flew, were flying) about.
- 2 The children often (walked, were walking) round the high walls and (talked, were talking) about the beautiful garden inside.
- 3 One morning the Giant (lay, was lying) in bed when he heard some lovely music.
- 4 When the children saw the Giant, they were so frightened that they (ran, were running) away.