

The Selfish Giant

Every afternoon, as they were coming from school, the children used to go and play in the Giant's garden.

One day the Giant came back. He had been to visit his friend the Cornish Ogre, and had stayed with him for seven years. After the seven years were over he returned to his own castle. When he arrived, he saw the children playing in the garden.

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

"My own garden is my own garden," said the Giant. "Everyone has to understand that, and I will allow nobody to play in it but myself." So he built a high wall all round it, and put up a message on the board :

Trespassers Will Be Prosecuted

He was a very selfish Giant. The poor children had now no place 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 used to talk about the beautiful garden inside. "How happy we were there!" they said to each other.

Then Spring came, and all over the country there were little *blossoms* and little birds. Only in the garden of the Selfish Giant it was still winter. The birds did not care to sing in it as there were no children, and the trees forgot to blossom. Once a beautiful flower put its head out from the grass, but when it saw the board it was so sorry for the children that it slipped back into the ground again, and went off to sleep.



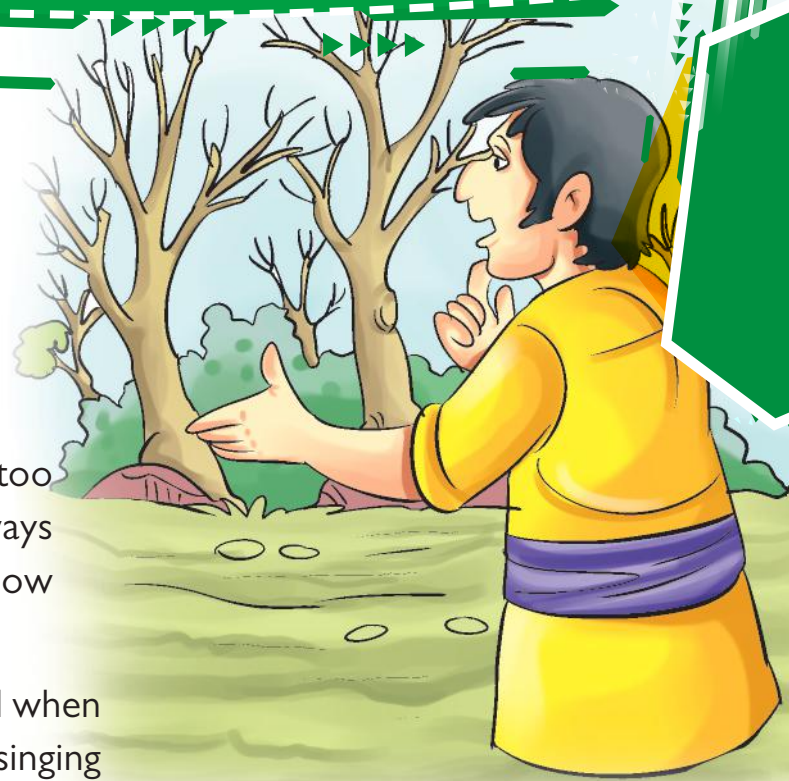
“I cannot understand why Spring is so late in coming,” said the Selfish Giant, as he sat at the window and looked out at his cold white garden. “I hope there will be a change in the weather.”

But Spring never came, nor did Summer. Autumn gave golden fruit to every garden, but the Giant’s garden had none. “He is too selfish,” Autumn said. So Winter was always there, and the North Wind, Hail, Frost, Snow danced about through the trees.

One morning the Giant was lying awake in bed when he heard lovely music. It was a little bird singing outside his window, but it was so long since he had heard a bird sing in his garden that it seemed to him to be the most beautiful music in the world. Suddenly the Hail stopped dancing over his head, and the North Wind **ceased** roaring, and a sweet **perfume** came to him through the open **casement**. “I believe Spring has come at last,” said the Giant; and he jumped out of bed and looked out. What did he see ?

He saw the most wonderful sight. Through a little hole in the wall the children had **crept** in, and 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 so glad to have the children back again that they had covered themselves with blossoms, and were waving their arms gently above

the children’s heads. The birds were flying about and **twittering** with delight, and the flowers were looking up through the green grass and laughing. It was a lovely scene. Only in one corner it was still winter. It was the farthest corner of the garden, and



in it was standing a little boy. He was so small that he could not reach up to the branches of the tree, and he was wandering all round it, crying bitterly. The poor tree was still quite covered with frost and snow, and the North Wind was blowing and roaring above it. "Climb up, little boy!" said the tree, and it bent its branches down as low as it could; but the boy was too tiny.

And the Giant's heart melted as he looked out. "How selfish I have been!" he said. "Now I know why the Spring did not 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 shall be the children's playground for ever and ever."

So he crept downstairs and opened the front door softly, and went out into the garden. But when the children saw him, they were so frightened that they all ran away, and the garden became Winter again.

Only the little boy did not run, for his eyes were so full of tears that he did not see the Giant coming. And the Giant stole up behind him and took him gently in his hand, and put him up on the tree. The tree broke at once into blossom, and the birds came and sang on it, and the little boy stretched out his two arms and flung them round the Giant's neck, and kissed him. When the other children saw that the Giant was not wicked any longer, they came running back, and with them came Spring. "It is your garden now, little children," said the Giant, and he took a big axe and knocked down the wall. When the people were going to market at twelve o'clock, they found the Giant playing with the children in the most beautiful garden they had ever seen.

Word Treasure

blossoms : growing flowers

casement : window

twittering : singing

ceased : stopped

crept : slipped; crawled

perfume : fragrane



EXERCISE TIME

Comprehension Skills

A. Tick (✓) the correct option :

1. One day the _____ came back.

a. giant

b. elephant

c. robber

2. What are you _____ here ?
 a. doing b. writing c. digging
3. He was a very _____ giant.
 a. cruel b. selfish c. handsome
4. He saw the most _____ sight.
 a. wonderful b. beautiful c. horrible
5. The gaint built a high _____ all round it.
 a. mountain b. wall c. tree

B. Fill in the blanks with the correct option :

twittering, selfish, understood, garden, melted, seven

1. All the children used to go play in the Giant's _____.
2. After the _____ years were over the giant returned.
3. He was a very _____ giant.
4. The birds were flying about and _____ with delight.
5. The giant heart _____ as he looked out all scene.
6. In the end the giant _____ that how he was selfish.

C. Answer the following questions :

1. What did the children do every afternoon?
2. After how many years did the Giant come back ? What did he see ?
3. Who sang the lovely song in the morning ?
4. Why did the giant cry in a very gruff voice ? What did he say ?
5. What did the Giant say to the children ?
6. What did he do with the big axe ?

Fun with Words

D. Your teacher will speak correct sentences. Underline the correct word while you listen :

1. The brain is situated in our heart/skull.
2. The brain can learn/recall the things that we learned in the past.
3. The brain is made up of special type of cells called neurons/nerves.
4. Neurons transmit and receive impulses made of tiny events/currents.
5. The sense of sight is concentrated at the back of cerebrum/cerebellum.

Essential Grammar

E. Fill in the blanks with the past continuous tense of the verbs in the brackets.

1. Somebody _____ (cough) in the next room.
2. The tailor _____ (stitch) clothes.
3. Mrs. Sharma _____ (read) a newspaper when the doorbell rang.
4. David _____ (write) a letter to his friend.
5. They _____ (laugh) at the clown.

F. Read each sentence carefully. Write down what kind of sentence it is. Make another sentence of the same kind.

1. Where are you going ? _____

2. Hurry ! We have won the match. _____

3. I like to go for swimming. _____

4. Please come in. _____

Essential Speaking

G. Let's have a talk about many people. Here is Kapil. He thinks to be an astronaut. He tells us.



If I were an astronaut.....!



H. Look at these pictures. Choose from the following situations and talk about each situation :



Essential Writing

I. Make a list of all the good things about being a giant. Then make a list of all the bad things :

Good things		Bad things	
1.	_____	1.	_____
2.	_____	2.	_____
3.	_____	3.	_____
4.	_____	4.	_____
5.	_____	5.	_____

Fun to Do

J. What do you want to do in the afternoon in your summer vacation. Make a list here :

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 2. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 4. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 7. _____ | 8. _____ |