

The Selfish Giant by Oscar Wilde

Once upon a time, in a little village, there was a Giant's castle. It had a very big garden. There were pretty flowers, tall fruit trees and happy birds.

Every day, the children from the village played in the Giant's garden, but they did not see the Giant.

One day the children were in the garden, when they heard a big noise...Boom, boom, boom.

They turned and saw a very big pair of boots. They looked up and they saw the Giant's big red face. He was not happy. 'This is my garden!' he said. 'These are my trees and my flowers,' he said, 'and this is my castle! It's all mine!'

'This is a very big garden,' a boy said. He pointed to a small corner of the garden. 'Please can we play here? We are very quiet children.'

'NO!' the Giant answered.

The Giant built a big wall around his garden. 'Now the children cannot play in my garden!' he smiled. He made the wall higher and higher.

'Ha!' he laughed, 'now the children cannot see my garden!'

The children sadly watched the giant build the wall.

'Oh, he's a selfish Giant! the children said. 'He has a big and beautiful garden... and we have nothing!'

They watched the Giant build the wall higher and higher. Next, the Giant wrote on the wall. He wrote? NO CHILDREN' in very big letters.

Then it was summer. The children remembered the giant's garden.

'We were happy there,' they said.

But summer did not come to the Giant's garden. Every day he looked from his window, and every day it grew colder and cloudier. The garden was very quiet.

The wind came and blew the leaves of the trees. The snow came, quickly and quietly and all the flowers went to sleep.

When the thunder and lightning came, the birds and butterflies were gone. 'My garden is not beautiful,' the Giant said, 'it's a sad place.'

One day the giant put on his big coat and his boots and went into the garden. The wind blew in his face when he walked to the high wall. The snow hurt his cheeks. The Giant looked over the wall. He was very sad. 'It's sunny over the wall in the village.' he said.

There were leaves on the trees and flowers in the little gardens. It was summer in the village.

'Why did the summer not come to my garden?' he asked. 'It's very cold and wintery here.'

The children were very sad. They tried to look over the wall around the Giant's garden. But the wall was too high. 'I know...' one boy said, 'we can make a hole in the wall!' 'Brilliant!' the children laughed, and they quickly started to work.

The next morning the giant heard a little bird singing near his window. He jumped up and looked at the garden.

It was winter in the garden. But in one small corner, near the wall, the Giant could see some flowers and some sun...and the children.

The children ran from the garden when they saw the Giant. Winter came again.

'Come back!' the Giant said, 'I'm sorry. It's a sad, cold place when there are no friends.'

One boy came back into the garden. He was a very small boy.

'Hello, little friend,' the Giant said.

The Giant smiled and slowly gave his hand. The boy climbed on the Giant's big hand and the Giant put him in the tree. The flowers started to grow and the sun started to smile. The children saw them and they ran happily into the garden.

The children played there every day, but the little boy did not come back.

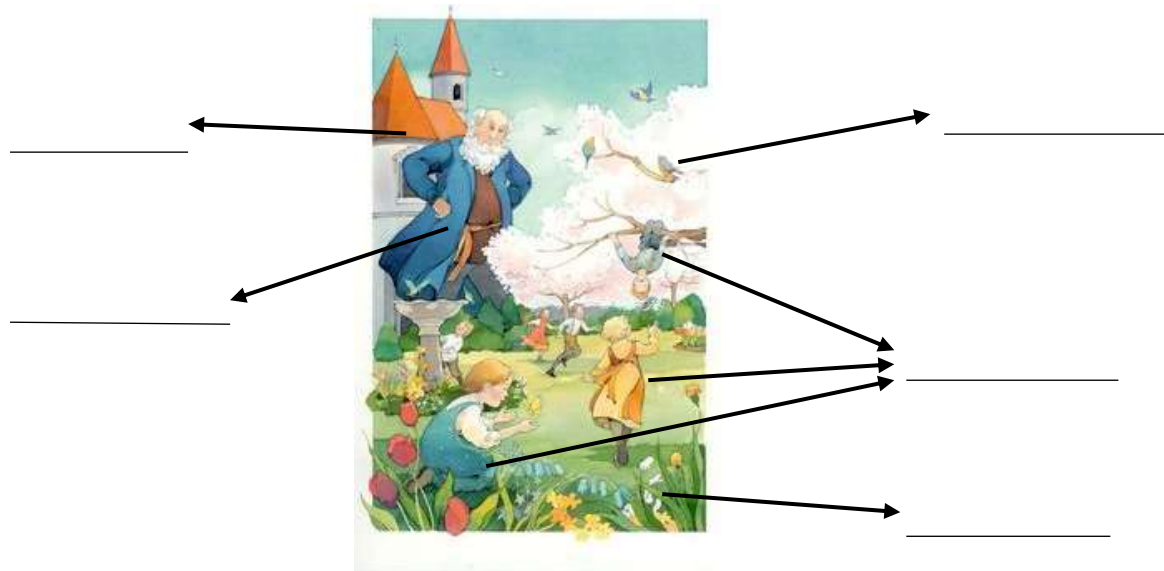
Years later, when the Giant was old and ill, the little boy came once again.

'You came,' the Giant said.

'Yes,' the little boy answered, 'to say goodbye.'

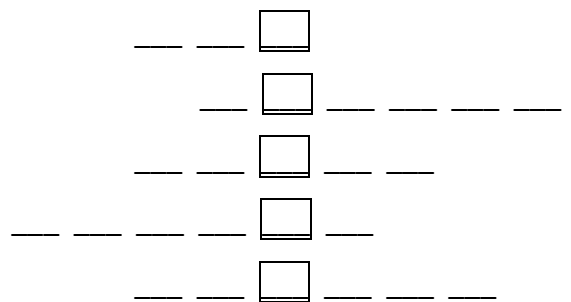
'Thank you, little friend,' the happy Giant said.

1. Label the picture with these words: castle Giant flowers children bird



2. Find the missing words and write them into the crossword.

- The Giant had a ___ and beautiful garden.
- He built a wall _____ and _____.
- One very _____ boy came into the garden.
- 'Hello, little _____,' the Giant said.
- The children lived in a _____ village.



3. Find the words and copy them under the pictures:

rain cloud summer thunder wind snow winter

W	I	N	T	E	R
I	R	H	H	C	A
N	A	K	U	L	S
D	I	S	N	O	W
O	N	A	D	U	O
U	R	F	E	D	R
I	E	N	R	D	S
S	U	M	M	E	R



4. True or false?

- The village children played in the Giant's garden once a week. _____
- The Giant build a small wall around the garden. _____
- The Giant wrote 'No Children' on the wall. _____
- The children climbed over the wall into the garden. _____
- The Giant asked the children to come back into the garden. _____