

The selfish giant

In a far country, there was a giant who had a beautiful garden full of trees, flowers and green grass. Every day he walked in his garden. One day he decided to go on a long visit to another giant, his friend. For a long time nobody walked in the giant's garden.

Then the children came. Every day, after school, they played in the giant's garden. It was a splendid garden. The birds sang in the trees, and their songs were so beautiful that the children stopped their games to listen to them.

"How happy we are here!" they cried to each other.

One day the giant came back home and saw the children in the garden.

"What are you doing here?" he cried angrily, and the children ran away.

"My own garden is my own garden", said the giant, "and nobody will play in it." So he built a high wall all round it. He was a very selfish giant.

The poor children tried to play on the road, but it was full of stones, and they did not like it. They walked round the high wall when their lessons were over and talked about the beautiful garden. "How happy we were there!" they said to each other.

Then the spring came. In all the gardens, there were beautiful flowers and little birds. Only in the garden of the selfish giant it was still winter. The birds did not like to sing in it because there were no children there, and the trees did not want to blossom.

"I cannot understand why the spring is so late in coming," said the selfish giant, as he sat at the window and looked on his cold, white garden. I hope there will be a change in the weather." But the spring and the summer never came. "He is too selfish," they said. So it was always winter there, and the north wind and the snow danced in the garden.

One day the giant heard some music. It was a little bird singing outside his window. "I believe the spring has come at last," said the giant. He looked out.

He saw a wonderful sight. In every tree, he could see there was a little child. The trees had covered themselves with blossoms. The birds were flying about and singing in the trees, and the flowers were laughing in the green grass. It was a beautiful picture, only in the corner it was still winter. A little boy was standing there. He was so small that he could not climb up the tree. He was crying. The poor tree was still covered with snow.

"How selfish I have been!" said the giant; "now I know why the spring did not want to come here." He was really sorry for what he had done.

He went out into the garden. But when the children saw him, they all ran away, and the garden became winter again. Only the little boy did not run. He did not see the giant coming. The giant came up to him, took him in his great hand, and put him up into the tree. The tree began to blossom at once. The birds came and sang on it, and the little boy kissed the giant. And the other children, when they saw that the giant was not angry any longer, came running back. And with the children came the spring.

"It is your garden now, little children," said the giant and he destroyed the wall.

Everybody could see the giant playing with the children in the most beautiful garden they had ever seen.

"I have many beautiful flowers," the giant said, "but the children are the most beautiful flowers of all."

Answer the questions

1. What did the giant have?
2. How often did the giant walk in his garden?
3. What did the giant decide to do one day?
4. Who came in the garden then?
5. What did the giant build round the garden?
6. Did the children like to play on the road? Why?
7. Did the spring come in the giant's garden? Why?
8. What did the giant see in his garden?
9. Why was it winter in the corner of the giant's garden?
10. Was the giant sorry for what had done?
11. Did the children come back?
12. What are the most beautiful flowers of all?

Read and write True(T)/ False(F)

1. The giant had no garden.
2. The garden was not beautiful.
3. The children liked to play on the road.
4. The children were happy in the giant's garden.
5. The giant was very kind.
6. The spring didn't come in the garden of the giant.
7. The children brought the spring in the giant's garden.
8. The giant wasn't sorry for what he had done.
9. The giant played in the garden with the children.
10. The children are the most beautiful flowers of all.

Read and draw lines

1. A giant had a beautiful garden with	so late in come.
2. Every day, after school children play in	what he had done.
3. One day the giant came back home and	still covered with snow.
4. I cannot understand why the spring is	flowers and trees.
5. The poor trees were	the giant's garden.
6. He was really sorry for	saw the children in the garden.

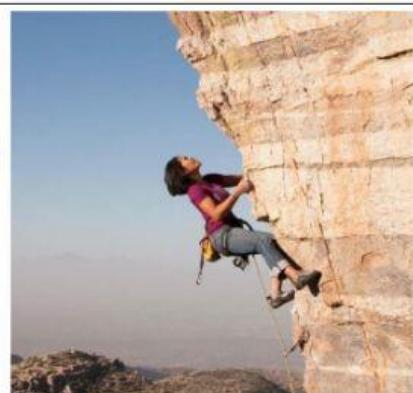
Complete the sentences with the word

didn't began walked played built danced

1. The giant _____ a high wall around his garden.
2. Every day he _____ in his garden.
3. The birds _____ sing in his garden.
4. The snow _____ in his garden.
5. The children _____ in the garden.
6. The tree _____ to blossom again.

Match words with pictures

wind road selfish blossom giant stones climb up splendid destroy weather



Complete the sentences with the word

weather selfish blossom road giant climb up
destroy stones splendid wind

1. The most popular exhibit in the museum was a _____ animatronic dinosaur.
2. This bridge is made of _____.
3. In Japan, we drive on the left side of the _____.
4. I wish we had sunny _____ all year round.
5. Earthquakes _____ buildings.
6. I have a _____ house.
7. Children like to _____ the trees.
8. The _____ blew all day.
9. My father was never angry or rude or _____.
10. The cherry tree was covered in _____.

Match the words with their definitions

1. Someone who is taller or larger than usual	road
2. Excellent or beautiful	weather
3. A wide way leading from one place to another	blossom
4. It is a piece of hard material than is often used for buildings.	giant
5. The flowers that appear on a tree before the fruit.	stone
6. The state of the atmosphere with respect to heat or cold	splendid
7. To go to the top of and over	destroy
8. Ruin or damage something means not to exist anymore	wind
9. Someone who thinks of their own advantages	climb up
10. A natural movement of air (from an area of high pressure to an area of low pressure)	selfish

Put the sentences in order

- a) He destroyed the wall.
- b) One day the giant came back from his friend and saw children in his garden.
- c) Every day he walked in his garden.
- d) He built a high wall around his garden.
- e) The giant was really sorry for what he had done.
- f) A giant had a beautiful garden with flowers and trees.
- g) Every day, after school, children played in the giant's garden.
- h) The birds didn't sing because there were no children there and the trees didn't want to blossom.
- i) Children could play in the giant's garden again.
- j) One day he went to visit his friend.
- k) In all the gardens there were beautiful flowers and little birds, only in the garden of the selfish giant, it was still winter.

