

Teacher: Diana Vides	Subject: English Reading Comprehension.
Student name:	Proficiency level: B1 preliminary.
Topic: The green giants: protectors of the planet.	

- **Directions:** Read the story, reflect on it, and then answer the questions below.

The benefit of plants.



Sometimes, people have to cut down trees because they are in the way of building a road, a railway line, or dedicating the land to other crops.

One day, a man wanted to cut down a very tall and strong tree.

-“I am tired of you!” said the man to the tree.

-“Why?” - asked the tree. -“What harm do I do to you?”

-“You see, you are blocking my path, and I have to bother cutting you down.”

-“You are being unfair to me,”- replied the tree. - “It’s true that sometimes my branches and trunk may obstruct you, but that is insignificant compared to the many benefits you receive from me.”

-“And what are those benefits? I don’t see them!”

-“There are many, even if you can’t see them. I am so necessary that without me, you could not live.”

-“Are you saying I cannot live without you?” -asked the man.

-“Of course not! Because... let’s see: who would feed you?”

-“Well, animals do. I can eat a chicken, a fish, or a calf; you have nothing to do with that.”

-“And if there were no animals, what would you eat?”

-“But there are animals!”

-“Thanks to me,”- said the tree. - “If there were no plants, they would have nothing to eat and would die. And if all the plants died, life would be impossible.”

-“You should know,” - continued the tree, - “that I appeared in the world before humans, and all animals had to eat to survive, and their food was me.”

-“That’s true; you’re absolutely right,”- said the man, convinced by the tree’s words.

-“But tell me,”- he asked with interest, -“what do you feed on?”

-“I feed on non-living substances: air, water, and soil. That’s why I told you I was here first. Initially, there were only inanimate things on Earth, such as air, salt, and water. The only living being that can feed on these things is me. Animals came later, as they need



us to survive. Do you now realize how important plants are for the life of humans and animals?"

-From that day on, the man became the best friend of plants, convinced of the many benefits they provide.

Alvero Fránces, F., López Fernández, D. J. (1980). El Sembrador Escolar. Libro de lectura de sexto año. Editorial: Panamá: La escuela nueva.

- **Read the questions carefully and answer them based on what you understood from the story:**

1.¿How did you feel when the man first decided to cut down the tree?

2.Do you think the man's feelings changed by the end? Why?

3.What do you think the tree felt by being threatened by the man? How would you feel if you were in the tree's place?

4.Do you agree with the tree when it says that without plants, animals and humans wouldn't survive? Why or why not?

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5.The man calls the three ‘in the way’. What do you think this story says about how people view nature when it becomes inconvenient?

6.What benefits do you think trees provide to your community or environment? Can you name examples around where you live?

7.Do you think we are taking good care of trees and plants nowadays? What could we do better to protect them?

8.What would you say to convince others of the importance of plants?