

The Selfish Giant

by Oscar Wilde

Every day after school, the Giant's garden is full of¹ happy children. The Giant isn't there. He is away² for a long time. The Giant's garden is beautiful. There is green grass and flowers like³ stars. There are twelve peach trees: 5 pink and white in the spring and heavy with⁴ fruit in the autumn, and the air is full of the music of birds⁵.

One day the Giant is back⁶ and he is angry⁷ about the invasion of his garden. "My garden is my garden! Out!"

The next day,⁸ there is a wall around the garden and a sign 10 - TRESPASSERS WILL BE PROSECUTED*. Oh, selfish⁹ Giant.

Now, the children haven't got a playground and it is always winter in the Giant's garden. There isn't any music in the air, only the cold North Wind. The selfish Giant is alone¹⁰ and sad.

One day, the North Wind is silent and the music of children is in the 15 garden again. The grass is green and the flowers are happy. There is a child in every tree. It's spring again, but in a small part of the garden it is still winter.

A little boy is under a tree white with frost. He has got tears¹¹ in his eyes. He is very small and the tree is very big. The Giant's heart is sad. 20 "I am a selfish giant. Here, little boy, this tree is for you and this garden is for all the children". The Giant and the boy are friends.

Every day now, there are children in the garden and the Giant is happy, but the little boy is never¹² there. But one day, after many years, the little boy is there again. He is back for his friend and 25 the Giant is happy. Now the Giant is dead, but at peace under a beautiful tree.

* I trasgressori saranno perseguiti a norma di legge.

Glossary

¹ full of: pieno di

² away: via

³ like: come

⁴ heavy with: carichi di

⁵ birds: uccelli

⁶ is back: è di ritorno

⁷ angry: arrabbiato

⁸ the next day: il giorno dopo

⁹ selfish: egoista

¹⁰ alone: solo

¹¹ tears: lacrime

¹² never: mai



Bookmark

Oscar Wilde (1854-1900)
- Parigi 1900)
per i suoi racconti
commedie spi
società vittorian

2 Where are the giant and the boy?

Vocabulary **Outside**

2  2-30 Read and listen to the text. Then find the words (1-6) match them to their translations (a-f).

- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| 1 ☐ grass | a alberi di pesco |
| 2 ☐ flowers | b brina |
| 3 ☐ peach trees | c vento |
| 4 ☐ playground | d fiori |
| 5 ☐ wind | e area giochi |
| 6 ☐ frost | f erba |

Comprehension

3 **I** Put the events (a-g) in the correct order (1-7).

- a ☐ One day, the children are back and it is spring again, but winter in a part of the garden.
- b ☒ 1 Every day the children are in the Giant's garden.
- c ☐ The Giant is at peace.
- d ☐ The Giant is not happy with the children and says 'Out!'
- e ☐ The Giant is sorry for the little boy under the tree.
- f ☐ The Giant is sad because he is alone and the garden is empty.
- g ☐ One day, the little boy is in the garden again for the first time.

LIFE SKILLS **KNOW YOURSELF**

4 Complete the map for the Giant, the boy and you with the words. In pairs. Compare your answers. Use the **Useful language**.
angry • selfish • sad • happy • alone • generous • a good friend

The Giant