



# The SELFISH GIANT

Oscar Wilde

retold by Virginia Evans - Jenny Dooley



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### *The Selfish Giant*

... is very scary and unkind at first. He is selfish and he doesn't like sharing his garden with other people. The giant doesn't like children at the beginning of the story, but luckily, he learns an important lesson and decides that he wants the children to be his friends. The giant becomes kind and generous in the end, and all the children love him.

### *The children*

... are cheerful and playful at the beginning of the story, but they become sad when the giant stops them from playing in his garden. They need a place to play, but when they can't find one, they are very unhappy.



### *The little boy*

... is the giant's favourite child. He is smaller than the other children, so he can't climb the trees in the giant's garden. The giant helps the little boy and they become friends. The giant loves the little boy because he is sweet and gentle.



*Hail*

*Spring*

*Summer*

*Frost*

*Autumn*

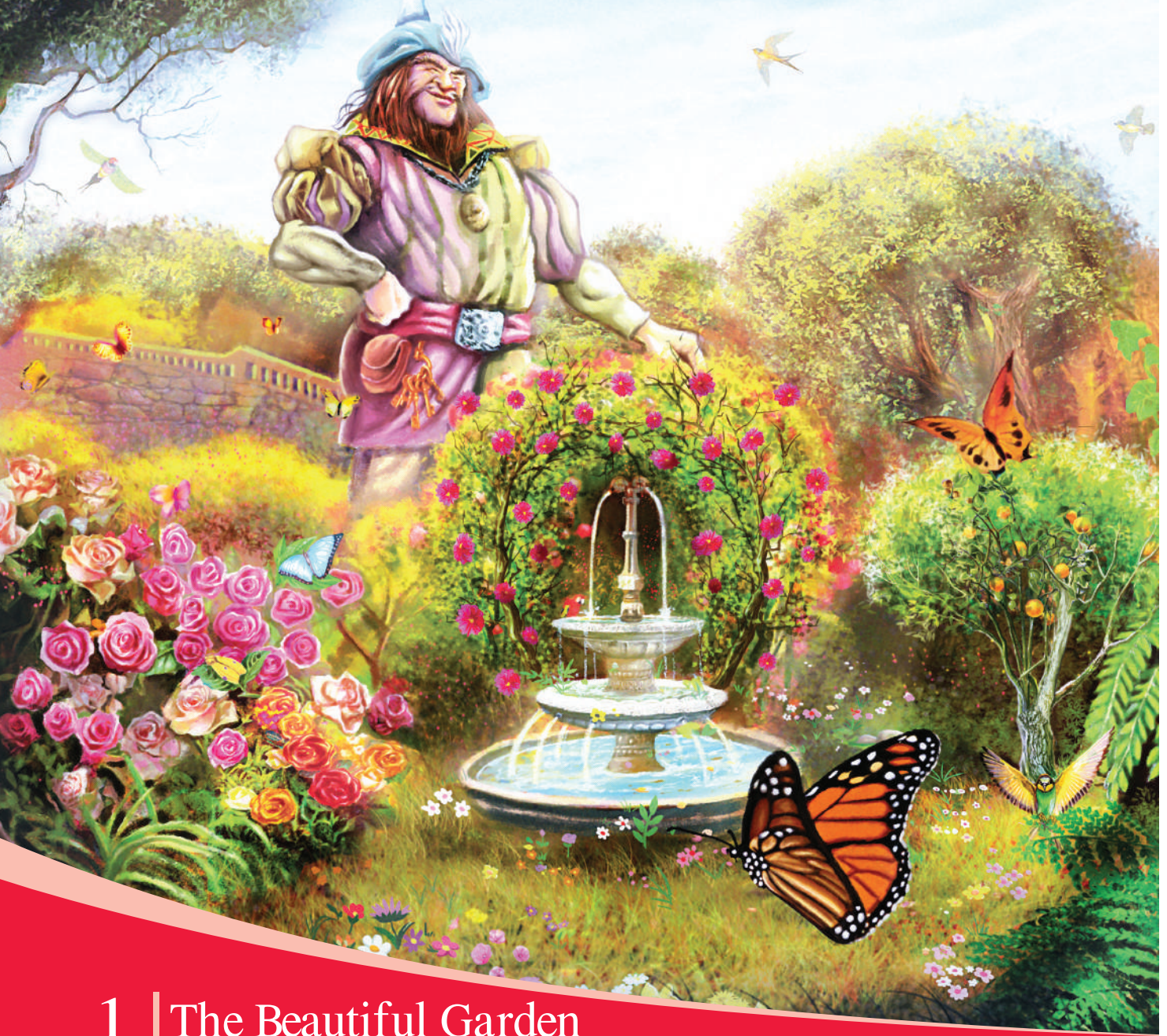
*Winter*

*North Wind*

*Snow*

**The seasons & the weather**

... decide to punish the giant for being so selfish. Winter stays in the giant's garden all year round. He brings the Snow, the Frost, the North Wind and the Hail. They play in the giant's garden and won't leave. Spring, Summer and Autumn refuse to visit the giant's garden because the giant doesn't deserve to have pretty flowers, warm sunshine or delicious fruit. But when the giant is kind to the children, the seasons take turns to visit the giant's garden, just as they take turns to visit the rest of the world.



## 1 | The Beautiful Garden

A long time ago, a giant lived in an old stone castle near a pretty little village. The giant's garden was very beautiful. It was a large garden, with soft green grass. There were beautiful flowers in the grass, like colourful stars. There were peach trees all around the garden. In the spring, there were pretty little pink and white blossoms on the trees. In the autumn, there was delicious juicy fruit on the trees for the giant to eat. Pretty birds sat on the branches of the trees and sang sweet songs, so the garden was always full of music. It was a wonderful place.

The giant was very proud of his beautiful garden, but he was also very selfish. He didn't want to share it with anyone. The children in the village wanted to play in the garden, but the giant didn't let them. He shouted when he saw them draw near. The children were scared of the giant, so they stayed away. The giant didn't have any friends in the village, but he didn't care. He had his beautiful garden and he didn't have to share it with anyone.



One day, the giant went to visit his friend, the Cornish Ogre, who lived far away in another country. The giant was away for a very long time. When the children saw that the giant was not at home, they were very happy. At last, they could go inside his garden. So, every afternoon, on their way home from school, the children played in the beautiful garden. They ran around on the soft green grass, they stopped to smell the beautiful flowers and they sat under the fruit trees to eat the delicious, juicy fruit and listen to the birds singing their sweet songs. They couldn't believe they had that beautiful place all to themselves.

“We are so happy here. We hope the giant never comes home.”

# The Most Beautiful Flowers

## Before Reading

**1** Read the chapter title and look at the pictures on pages 24-25. Then answer the questions. Listen, read and check.

- 1 What does the giant look like in the second picture? Why is he not in the garden playing with the children?
- 2 How do you think the giant spends his time with the children now that he is very old?

## While Reading

**2** Read or listen to Chapter 9 and correct the mistakes.

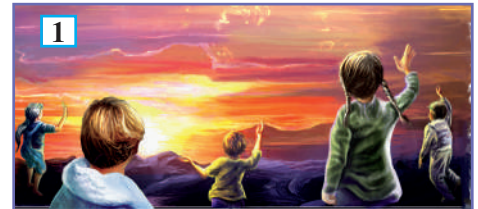
- 1 The children knew where the little boy was. ....
- 2 The giant felt glad that the little boy wasn't there. ....
- 3 The little boy always came to play with the giant. ....
- 4 The children asked the giant lots of questions. ....
- 5 The giant forgot the little boy. ....
- 6 The giant was very young and strong. ....
- 7 Sometimes the children sat on the giant's shoulder and listened to his stories. ....
- 8 The giant had behaved very nicely to the children. ....

## After Reading

**3** Read and circle the correct words.

- 1 The children came to say **goodbye** / **hello** to the giant.
- 2 The giant asked the children lots of **jokes** / **questions** about the little boy.
- 3 In the evening, the sky grew **brighter** / **darker**.
- 4 The giant was always **angry** / **pleased** to see the children.
- 5 The children could not give the giant any **answers** / **stories**.
- 6 The years went by and the giant became old and **strong** / **weak**.
- 7 In the evening, the sun began to **shine** / **set**.
- 8 The giant felt he was such a **fool** / **favourite** to treat the children badly.

**4** Below are five pictures which help tell the story of the chapter. Look at them and give a summary of the chapter.



**5 Think** Answer the questions.

- 1 Why do you think the little boy is the giant's special friend?
- 2 Do you think the giant will see the little boy again? Why (not)?
- 3 What do you think the giant means when he says that the children are the most beautiful flowers of all?



# The SELFISH GIANT

The Selfish Giant has a heart full of pride but empty of love. He lets none of the children near his beautiful garden, making the whole village an unhappy place. Until one day, the garden becomes as dark and cold as the giant's heart. Will Spring come back again or will Winter stay in the garden and in the giant's heart forever?

## COMPONENTS

- Reader
- Audio CD



Level A



Level B



Level C



Level D

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