

The Selfish Giant

Those who care only about themselves rather than about other people generally regret their actions in the end.



Every afternoon, as they were coming from school the children used to go and play in the Giant's garden.

It was a large lovely garden, with soft green grass. Here and there over the grass stood beautiful flowers like stars, and there were twelve peach-trees that in the spring-time broke out into delicate blossoms¹ of pink and pearl and in the autumn bore rich fruit. The birds sat on the trees and sang so sweetly that the children used to stop their games in order to listen to them. "How happy we are here!" they cried to each other.

One day the Giant came back. He had been to visit his friend the Cornish ogre², and had stayed with him for seven years. After the seven years were over he had said all that he had to say, for his conversation was limited, and he determined to return to his own castle. When he arrived he saw the

1. flowers 2- a monster from a place called Cornwall in England.

children playing in the garden.

“What are you doing here?” he cried in a very gruff³ voice, and the children ran away.

“My own garden is my own garden,” said the Giant, “anyone can understand that, and I will allow nobody to play in it but myself.” So he built a high wall all round it, and put up a notice-board:

TRESPASSERS⁴ WILL BE PROSECUTED⁵

He was a very selfish Giant.

The poor children had now nowhere to play. They tried to play on the road, but the road was very dusty and full of hard stones, and they did not like it. They used to wander round the high wall when their lessons were over, and talk about the beautiful garden inside. “How happy we were there,” they said to each other.

Then the spring came, and all over the country there were little blossoms and little birds. Only in the garden of the Selfish Giant it was still winter. The birds did not care to sing in it as there were no children, and the trees forgot to blossom. Once a beautiful flower put its head out from the grass, but when it saw the notice-board it was so sorry for the children that it slipped back into the ground again, and went off to sleep. The only people who were pleased were the Snow and the Frost⁶. “Spring has forgotten this garden,” they cried, “so we will live here all the year round.” The Snow covered up the grass with her great white cloak, and the Frost painted all the trees silver. Then they invited the North Wind to stay with them, and he came. He was wrapped in furs, and he roared all day about the garden, and blew the chimney pots down. “This is a delightful spot,” he said, “we must ask the Hail⁷ on a visit.” So the Hail⁷ came. Every day for three hours he rattled⁸ on the roof of the castle till he broke most of the slates⁹, and then he ran round and round the garden as fast as he could go. He was dressed in gray, and his breath was like ice.

“I cannot understand why the Spring is so late in coming,” said the Selfish Giant, as he sat at the window and looked out at his cold white garden, “I hope there will be a change in the weather.”

But the Spring never came, nor the Summer. The Autumn gave golden fruit to every garden, but to the Giant’s garden she gave none. “He is too selfish,” she said. So it was always Winter there, and the North Wind, and the Hail, and the Frost, and the Snow danced about through the trees.

One morning the Giant was lying awake in bed when he heard some lovely music. It sounded so sweet to his ears that he thought it must be the King’s musicians passing by. It was really only a little linnet¹⁰ singing outside his window, but it was so long since he had heard a bird sing in his garden that it seemed to him to be the most beautiful music in the world. Then the Hail stopped dancing over his head, and the North Wind ceased roaring, and a delicious perfume came to him through the open casement. “I believe the Spring has come at last,” said the Giant, and he jumped out of bed and looked out.

What did he see?

He saw a most wonderful sight. Through a little hole in the wall the children had crept in, and they

3- rough-sounding voice 4- intruder. 5- take legal action 6- white, powdery, ice-like substance formed when the temperature is very cold 7- frozen rain falling as little balls of ice 8- to make a series of short but loud sounds 9- tiles 10- a type of bird with reddish-brown feathers

were sitting in the branches of the trees. In every tree that he could see there was a little child. And the trees were so glad to have the children back again that they had covered themselves with blossoms, and were waving their arms gently above the children's heads. The birds were flying about and twittering¹¹ with delight, and the flowers were looking up through the green grass and laughing. It was a lovely scene, only in one corner it was still winter. It was the farthest corner of the garden, and in it was standing a little boy. He was so small that he could not reach up to the branches of the tree, and he was wandering all round it, crying bitterly. The poor tree was still quite covered with frost and snow, and the North Wind was blowing and roaring above it. "Climb up! Little boy," said the Tree, and it bent its branches down as low as it could; but the boy was too tiny.

And the Giant's heart melted as he looked out. "How selfish I have been!" he said, "now I know why the Spring would not come here. I will put that poor little boy on the top of the tree, and then I will knock down the wall, and my garden shall be the children's playground for ever and ever." He was really very sorry for what he had done.

So he crept downstairs and opened the front door quite softly, and went out into the garden. But when the children saw him they were so frightened that they all ran away, and the garden became winter again. Only the little boy did not run, for his eyes were so full of tears that he did not see the Giant coming. And the Giant stole up behind him and took him gently in his hand, and put him up into the tree. And the tree broke at once into blossom, and the birds came and sang on it, and the little boy stretched¹² out his two arms and flung them round the Giant's neck, and kissed him. And the other children when they saw that the Giant was not wicked any longer, came running back, and with them came the Spring. "It is your garden now, little children", said the Giant, and he took a great axe and knocked down the wall. And when the people were going to market at twelve o'clock they found the Giant playing with the children in the most beautiful garden they had ever seen.

All day long they played, and in the evening they came to the Giant to bid him good-bye.

"But where is your little companion?" he said, "the boy I put into the tree." The Giant loved him the best because he had kissed him.

"We don't know," answered the children, "he has gone away."

"You must tell him to be sure and come here tomorrow," said the Giant. But the children said that they did not know where he lived, and had never seen him before; and the Giant felt very sad.

Every afternoon, when school was over, the children came and played with the Giant. But the little boy whom the Giant loved was never seen again. The Giant was very kind to all the children, yet he longed for his first little friend, and often spoke of him. "How I would like to see him!" he used to say.

Years went over, and the Giant grew very old and feeble. He could not play about and more, so he sat in a huge armchair, and watched the children at their games, and admired his garden. "I have many beautiful flowers," he said, "but the children are the most beautiful flowers of all."

One winter morning he looked out of his window as he was dressing. He did not hate the winter now, for he knew that it was merely the Spring asleep, and that the flowers were resting.

Suddenly he rubbed his eyes in wonder, and looked and looked. It certainly was a marvelous sight. In the farthest corner of the garden was a tree quite covered with lovely white blossoms. Its

11- making short, high-pitched sounds 12 - extended his hands trying to reach something



branches were all golden, and silver fruit hung down from them, and underneath it stood the little boy he had loved.

Downstairs ran the Giant in great joy, and out into the garden.

He hastened¹³ across the grass, and came near to the child. And when he came quite close his face grew red with anger, and he said, “Who hath¹⁴ dared to wound thee¹⁵?” For on the palms of the child’s hands were the prints of two nails, and the prints of two nails were on the little feet.

“Who hath dared to wound thee?” cried the Giant, “tell me that I may take my big sword and slay¹⁶ him.”

“Nay!” answered the child, “but these are wounds of Love.”

“Who art thou?” said the Giant, and a strange awe¹⁷ fell on him, and he knelt before the little child.

And the child smiled on the Giant, and said to him, “You let me play once in your garden, today you shall come with me to my garden, which is paradise¹⁸.”

And when the children ran in that afternoon, they found the Giant lying dead under the tree, all covered with white blossoms.

-William Blake

13- walked quickly 14- an old English word for ‘has’ 15- thou-old words for ‘you’ 16-kill 17-an unusual feeling of respect and wonder 18 - heaven.

Word Power

A. Match the words in column 'A' with their meanings in column 'B'.

| Column 'A' | Column 'B' |
|------------|----------------------|
| prosecute | kill |
| trespasser | balls of ice |
| hasten | to take legal action |
| hail | intruder |
| slay | walk quickly |

B. Write down the opposites of the underlined words.

- (i) Everyone longs for *heaven* but no one longs for.....
- (ii) I *found* the ring which my mother had.....
- (iii) Dont *walk slowly* you mustto catch the train.
- (iv) The Giant felt very *sad* while the children were very.....

Comprehension

A. Answer the following questions in one or two sentences each:

1. When did the children play in the Giant's garden?
2. Why did the Giant build a high wall round his garden?
3. Why was the little boy crying?
4. Why was the Giant angry when he came near the child the final time?

B. Answer the following questions in two to four sentences each:

1. Why is the Giant in the story called selfish?
2. Why did Spring not come to the Giant's garden?
3. The Giant saw 'a most wonderful sight'. Describe what he saw.
4. Why did the Giant feel sad even when the children came regularly to play in his garden?
5. Who was the little boy? Where did he take the Giant? Why?

C. Explain what does the story teller mean by Spring, has forgotten this garden, the Snow and the Frost cried, "so we will live here all the year round."

Tenses

There are three types of tense:

- Present tense
- Past tense
- Future tense

These three tenses are divided into four parts.

| Tense | Indefinite | Continuous | Perfect | Perfect Continuous |
|---------|---------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Present | He plays. | He is playing. | He has played. | He has been playing+time |
| Past | He played. | He was playing. | He had played. playing+time | He had been |
| Future | He will play. | He will be playing. | He will have played. | He will have been playing+time |

(A) You have already read the following sentences in the text:

Why is the spring so late in coming?

Where is your little companion?

We can answer these questions only in the simple present/present indefinite tense. This tense is used in the following situations.

Present Indefinite tense

- To express habitual actions-
e.g. He goes out for a walk daily.
- To express general truths-
e.g. Water boils at 100° C.
- To express a situation or a fact that is permanent-
e.g. Agra stands on the bank of the Yamuna.
- To express a planned future action-
e.g. I leave for Delhi tomorrow.
- To begin imperative sentences-
e.g. Obey your teacher.

Check Yourself

A. Apply the correct form of the verbs given in brackets:

1. She usually Hindi.(speak)
2. Mother always.....food in the kitchen.(cook)
3. Bad students never.....hard.(work)
4. We.....to the hills for a month every summer (go)
5. An honest man alwaysthe truth.(tell)
6. She often.....us in the evening.(visit)
7. He rarely.....out for a walk on Sundays.(go)
8. There are some birds thatevery year.(migrate)
9. He sometime.....late to the office.(come)
10. I usually.....up at six o'clock every morning(get)

B. Frame questions using the words given in brackets.

Example - Toni plays tennis. (How often?)

- How often does Toni play tennis?
I get up in the morning (What time/usually?)
 - What time do you usually get up?
1. Anita watches television. (How often?)
 2. I write to my parents (How often?)
 3. I have dinner in the evening? (What time/usually?)
 4. This car breaks down. (How often?)

Present Continuous Tense

To describe an action at the present moment and its continuity.

e.g. The ladies are singing a chorus.

To express an action, definitely planned for future

e.g. We are going to play a match tomorrow.

Check yourself

Fill in the blanks with the indefinite or continuous form of the present tense of the verbs given in brackets:

1. It rains in July, It is raining now.(rain)
2. He generally.....Hindi but today he.....English.(speak)
3. Do not make a noise; the child.....now(sleep)
4. The baby isbecause it is hungry now.(cry)

5. He cannot come out to play just now, as hehis homework.(do)
6. Look at the old man, he.....after his umbrella.(run)
7. The workman.....the road near our house.(repair)
8. The teacher.....at the blackboard when he.....to explain something.(point, want)
9. I usuallyup at six and.....my breakfast at eight.(wake, have)
10. Mother.....some food in the kitchen at present.(cook)

Present Perfect Tense

- **To express an action that has been recently completed.**
e.g. They *have won* the match.
- **To describe a past experience.**
e.g. I *have read* this novel several times.
- **To express an action that began in the past**
e.g. He *has worked* in this office for ten years.

Check Yourself

Rearrange the words to make meaningful sentences.

1. Have left they for Indore.

2. She come has.

3. Have they seen in garden a parrot.

4. He passed in has examination.

5. insulted have me you.

Present Perfect Continuous Tense

- **for an action over a period of time leading up to the present**
e.g. We have been waiting here for twenty minutes.
- **To talk about repeated actions up to now.**
e.g. Asha has been playing the piano since four o'clock.
- **To talk about an action which ends just before the present.**
e.g. I have been running that's why I am out of breath.

Check yourself

(A) Change the following sentences according to the instructions given in brackets.

1. He has been sleeping for five hours. (negative present perfect simple)
2. They have been building the bridge for several month. (negative present perfect simple).
3. They have been playing since 4 o'clock. (Interrogative)
4. I have not been doing my job for three years. (Affirmative)

(B) Rewrite the following putting the verbs into the present perfect continuous form:

1. I (live) here since 1948

2. I'm afraid you(look) at the wrong one. .

3. You (wait)long for me?

4. He(work) in the post office for twenty years.

5. Nobody has come to see us since we(live) in our new house.

Listening Time

Mrs. Verma

Teacher will read the description of Mrs. Verma and then he/she will ask the students to do the task given below :-

Mrs. Verma is 68. She lives alone with 14 cats. She lives in a tiny village in Indore district. She was born there and she has lived there all her life.

Before she was married, she was a nurse. After she was married, she became the village post-mistress. she does not work now, but sometimes she helps in the garden behind the Ashram. She was married to a doctor called. Dr. Yogesh Verma He died when he fell off a ladder last year.

She has a son called Jitendra. He lives in Chandigarh where he works as a Doctor. Mrs. Verma has two hobbies : cooking and gardening.

Say if these statements are :

- | | | |
|------------------|----|----------------|
| Definitely true | or | Probably true |
| Definitely false | or | Probably false |

1. She cannot read or write.
2. She is nervous about meeting people .
3. She has two grand children.
4. She likes animals.
5. She know a lot about firstaid.
6. She is always ill.
7. She lives in a very big house.
8. She does not believe in God.
9. She has been a widow for 10 yrs.
10. Her house is near a cinema.



Speaking Time

Telephonic Conversation – Asking for Information.

- Sunil : Hello, Is that 2760538
- Secretary : Yes, Centre for English Studies. May I help you?
- Sunil : I'd like to speak to the Director.
- Secretary : May I know who's calling?
- Sunil : This is Sunil Sharma.
- Secretary : Please hold on.....
- Director : Hello. This is Mr. Malik. Director of English Studies.
- Sunil : Good morning sir! My name is Sunil Sharma. I'm a student. I've seen your advertisement about a new course in Spoken English.
- Director : You're right .It's English language Speaking course.
- Sunil : What's special about it, sir?
- Director : We've designed it in such a way that the learner gets a lot of practice in speaking fluently.
- Sunil : I see. What's the duration of the course?
- Director : It's an eight week summer course.
- Sunil : Right. How much do you charge for the course?
- Director : We charge one thousand, which can be paid in two installments.
- Sunil : When are you starting it, sir?
- Director : On 2nd May.
- Sunil : How can I enroll myself?
- Director : You can come before 25th April for enrollment.
- Sunil : Thank you very much for all the information.
- Director : You're most welcome.

Pair work : Practise the above dialogue with your partner and learn to ask for information over telephone, substitute Centre for English Studies with coaching , painting, computer institutes. Make other necessary changes.



Writing Time

Essay writing :

The word essay is defined as ‘a literary composition on any subject’. We can say it is a written composition giving expression to one’s own personal ideas or opinions on some topic. Some characteristics of a good essay,

1. Unity
2. Order
3. Brevity
4. Style
5. The personal touch

We can classify the essays generally into five groups,

1. Reflective Essays
2. Narrative Essays
3. Descriptive Essays
4. Expository Essays
5. Imaginative Essays

We may divide an essay into three parts -

1. The introduction (beginning)
2. The body (middle)
3. The conclusion (end)

A. Write an essay on a historical place /place of interest recently visited by you.

B. Read the descriptive words given below carefully.

Curly, plump, pimpled, funny, handsome, lazy, friendly, attractive, skinny, helpful, wrinkled, blonde, wary, pretty, brave, dark, straight, good looking, hardworking, beautiful.

Now put these words into the right category. Some words may go more than one category-

| Face | Appearance | Hair | Character | Build |
|------|------------|------|-----------|-------|
| | | | | |



Things to Do

A short, well known sentence that states a general truth about life or gives some advice is called a **proverb**; as

- God helps those who help themselves.
- A little knowledge is a dangerous thing.

Find out at least ten proverbs and write them down in your notebook.

