

# Unit 3



**Reading A** : The Selfish Giant (Part I)

**Reading B** : The Selfish Giant (Part II)

**Reading C** : The Garden Within (Poem)

## Humanity



# Humanity

Look at the picture given below and answer the questions that follow.



1. What do you notice in the picture?
2. What would be the feelings of the man in the picture?
3. Have you ever seen such incidents? What's your opinion on them?

**Oral Discourse:** Narrate an incident you have witnessed where people helped others.

# The Selfish Giant

## Part I

(Old Giant and The Giant refer to the same character. ‘The Giant’ is a selfish character whereas ‘Old Giant’ is a changed and kind character.)

An Old Giant addresses the audience directly. The action plays out behind him as he describes it.

**Old Giant** : I once owned 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 springtime broke out into delicate blossoms 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...

Every afternoon, as they were coming from school, the children used to go and play in MY garden... but one day I came back.

I had been to visit my friend the Cornish ogre, and had stayed with him for seven years. After the seven years were over, I had said all that I had to say, and I determined to return to my own castle. When I arrived, I saw children playing in MY garden.

**The Giant** : What are you doing here?  
(The children run away.)

**The Giant** : My own garden is my own garden; any one can understand that, and I will allow nobody to play in it but myself.  
(The old giant points out the younger giant working on a wall, putting up a sign and then listening at the wall.)

**Old Giant** : So I built a high wall all round and put up a notice-board:  
TRESPASSERS WILL BE PROSECUTED

I heard the children whispering outside the wall on their way to school.



**Tall Girl** : Now we have nowhere to play.

**Short Boy** : We can play on the road.

**Square Girl** : But the road is very dusty.

**Graceful Girl** : And full of hard stones.

**Round Boy** : I don't like it.

**Graceful Girl** : Let's walk around the wall when our lessons are over. At least we can talk about the beautiful garden inside.

**Tall Girl** : How happy we were there!

**Round Boy** : He is a very selfish Giant.

(The Giant opens a door in the wall and shouts at the children.)

- The Giant** : AAAGH! My own garden is my own garden; any one can understand that, and I will allow nobody to play in it but myself.
- (The children scatter.)
- Old Giant** : Then the Spring came, and all over the country there were little blossoms and little birds. Only in my garden it was still Winter. The birds did not come to sing, and the trees forgot to blossom. The people who were pleased best were the Snow and the Frost.
- Snow and Frost** : Spring has forgotten this garden; so now we can live here all the year round!
- Old Giant** : 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. When he came, he was wrapped in heavy furs. He roared all day about the garden and rejoiced in blowing the chimney-pots over.
- North Wind** : This is a delightful spot; we must ask the Hail to come on a visit.
- Old Giant** : So the old Hail came. Every day for three hours he rattled on the roof of the castle till he broke most of the slates, and then he ran round and round the garden as fast as he could go. He was dressed in grey, and his breath was like ice. I sat at the window and looked out at my cold white garden.
- The Giant** : I cannot understand why the Spring is so late in coming. I hope there will be a change in the weather.
- Old Giant** : But the Spring never came, nor the Summer. The Autumn gave golden fruit to every garden, but to my garden she gave none.
- Autumn** : He is too selfish.
- Old Giant** : So it was always winter here, and the North Wind, and the Hail, and the Frost, and the Snow danced about through the trees.



## Glossary

peach trees ( <i>n</i> )	:	trees bearing round fruit with soft red and yellow skin.
springtime ( <i>n</i> )	:	the season between winter and summer when plants begin to grow
delicate blossoms ( <i>n.phr</i> ):		tender flowers
castle ( <i>n</i> )	:	large, strong building with strong and thick walls
trespassers ( <i>n</i> )	:	persons who go into land without permission
whispering ( <i>v</i> )	:	speaking quietly
scatter ( <i>v</i> )	:	disperse, spread over
cloak ( <i>n</i> )	:	a type of coat that has no sleeves
wrapped ( <i>v</i> )	:	covered or dressed
rejoiced ( <i>v</i> )	:	expressed great happiness
chimney-pot ( <i>n</i> )	:	a short, wide pipe placed on top of a chimney
delightful ( <i>adj</i> )	:	very pleasant, charming



## Comprehension

**Answer the following questions.**

1. What are the major characters in the play?
2. Why do you think children have been named as 'tall girl', 'round boy', 'square girl' etc.?
3. How can you say that The Giant is selfish?
4. Who were with the Giant? What did their names suggest?

# The Selfish Giant

## Part II

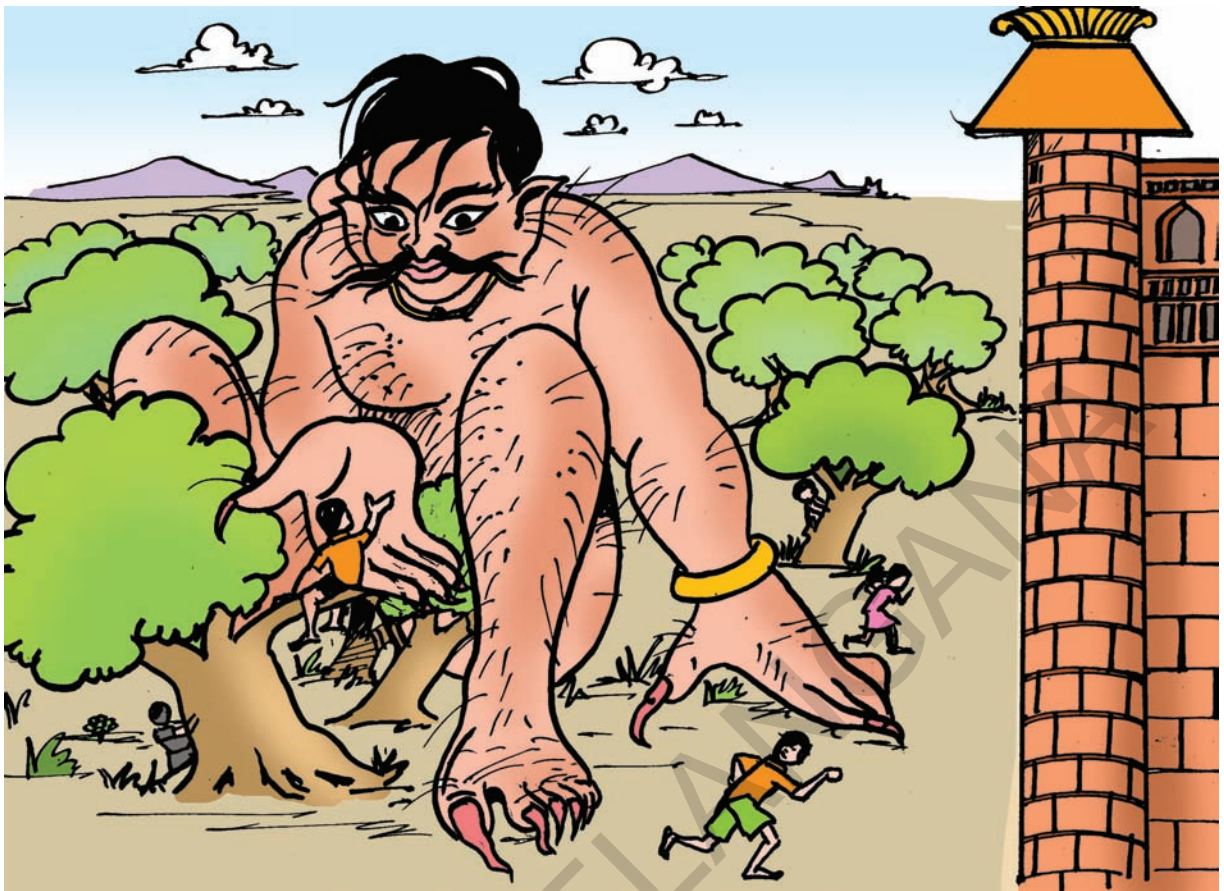
**Old Giant:** One morning I was lying awake in bed when I heard some lovely music. It sounded so sweet that I thought it must be the King's musicians passing by, but it was really only a little linnet bird singing outside my window.

It was so long since I had heard a bird sing in my garden that it seemed to me to be the most beautiful music in the world.

**The Giant :** The Hail has stopped dancing over my head, and the North Wind has ceased his roaring. A delicious smell is coming from the window. I believe the SPRING has come at last!

(The Giant jumps out of bed and looks out. Through a little hole in the wall the children have crept in, and are sitting in the branches of the trees.)

**Old Giant :** In every tree I could see a little child. 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 twittering 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 little boy was too tiny. It was then that my heart melted.



**The Giant** : How selfish I have been! 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.

**Old Giant** : I was really very sorry for what I had done. So I crept downstairs and opened the front door quite softly, and went out into the garden. But when the children saw me, 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 me coming. So I stole up behind him and took him gently in my 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 stretched out his two arms and flung them round my neck, and kissed me. When the other children saw that they came running back, and with them came the Spring.

**The Giant** : It is your garden now, little children.

**Old Giant** : I took a great axe and knocked down the wall. And when the people were going to market at Twelve O' clock they found me, yes me, playing with the children in the most beautiful garden they had ever seen. All day long we played, and in the evening the children came to bid me good-bye.

**Tall Girl** : Now we have somewhere to play.

**Short Boy** : This is much better than the road.

**Square Girl** : Yes, the road is so dusty, and the dust makes me sneeze.

**Graceful Girl** : And the grass is so much nicer than all those hard stones.

**Round Boy** : I like all the flowers.

**Graceful Girl** : And the trees.

**Tall Girl** : How happy we are all here! Thank you, Mr. Giant.

**Round Boy** : Yes, thank you. You are a very very nice Giant.

**The Giant** : But where is your little companion? The boy I put into the tree.

**Graceful Girl** : I don't know.

**Round Boy** : He has gone away.

**The Giant** : You must tell him to be sure to come here tomorrow.

**Tall Girl** : I don't know where he lives.

**Square Girl** : I have never seen him before.

**The Giant** : But I wanted to thank him. When he kissed me on the cheek I felt as though a great weight had been lifted from my heart.

**Short Boy** : I am sorry, but I don't think he lives around here.

**Old Giant** : Every afternoon, when school was over, the children came and played with me. But I never saw again the little boy who I loved. Oh, I would like to see him again! I've grown old and feeble, waiting. I cannot play about with the children any more, so I sit here in my armchair, and watch the children at their games, and admire my garden. I have many beautiful flowers, but the children are the most beautiful flowers of all.

(Getting up and looking out of the window)

I no longer hate the winter. It is merely the spring asleep. The flowers are resting.

(Suddenly he rubs his eyes in wonder, and looks around).

What a marvellous sight this is! In the farthest corner of the garden... a tree covered with lovely white blossoms. Its branches are all golden, and silver fruit hangs down from them, and what is this? Can it be? Oh! Can it be? He has come back! He has come back!

(The Old Giant leaps down the stairs, into the snowy garden and to the grassy patch where the child is standing. When he draws close to the child and examines him, his face grows red with anger.)

**Old Giant** : Who? Who hath dared to wound thee? Your hands. Your feet. Who hath dared to wound thee? Tell me, that I may take out my big sword and slay him.

**Child** : Nay! But these are the wounds of Love. They are necessary.

**Old Giant** : (Falling to his knees). Little child, who art thou?

**Child** : (Smiling.) You let me play once in your garden, today you shall come with me to live in my garden which is in Paradise.

The Child climbs into the Old Giant's arms. The winter melts away before them as they walk into an ever expanding garden.

- *Oscar Wilde*

(Converted into a play by *M. Ryan Taylor*)

## About the author

**Oscar Wilde** (16 October 1854 – 30 November 1900) was an Irish writer and poet. After writing in different forms throughout the 1880s, he became one of London's most popular playwrights in the early 1890s. Today he is remembered for his epigrams and plays. Oscar Wilde is best known for the novel *The Picture of Dorian Gray* and the play *The Importance of Being Earnest*. *The Happy Prince and Other Tales* is a collection of children's stories.





## Comprehension

1. How is the 'child' different from the other children?
2. How does the narrator explain the idea of spring time? Pick out some expressions.
3. What are the figurative expressions used in the play? List them and mention their significance.
4. What is the central theme of the play?

**II. Complete the following sentences choosing the correct answers from the choices given below.**

- Both ‘over the grass stood beautiful flowers like stars’ and ‘the peach trees broke into blossoms’ refer to \_\_\_\_\_.  
a) autumn                      b) spring                      c) winter
- The Giant observed the children \_\_\_\_\_.  
a) hiding in the garden                      b) playing in the garden  
c) dancing in the garden

3. The Giant knew the spring had arrived from \_\_\_\_\_.  
 a) the song of a linnet bird                      b) the sounds made by the children  
 c) the blossoms in the garden
4. The little boy \_\_\_\_\_.  
 a) called the Giant by gesturing              b) flung hands around the neck  
 c) ran towards the Giant
5. 'What a marvellous sight this is?' is said by \_\_\_\_\_.  
 a) the children                                      b) the little boy                                      c) the Giant



## Vocabulary

### I. Look at the following underlined phrase taken from the text and know the meaning.

1. Peach-trees that in the spring time broke out into delicate blossom.  
 In the above sentence, the phrase '**broke out**' means 'to come out'.
- A) Refer to a dictionary and find out the phrasal verbs beginning with '**break**'. Use them in your own sentences.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

- B) Pick out some more phrasal verbs from the play 'The Selfish Giant'.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

### II. Read the underlined part of the sentence taken from the text.

This is a delightful spot.

In the above sentence '**delightful**' means '**pleasant**' and the opposite (antonym) of it is '**gloomy**'.

**Pick out antonyms of the underlined words from the play and use them in your own sentences.**

1. Nobody likes to be in hell.

Ans: \_\_\_\_\_

2. You should beware of your foe.

A: \_\_\_\_\_

3. It started raining cats and dogs.

A: \_\_\_\_\_

4. She uncovered her head after she came out of the temple.

A: \_\_\_\_\_

5. This is the nearest shop to my house.

A: \_\_\_\_\_

### **III. Look at the following sentence taken from the text.**

**Ex:** I heard the children whispering outside the wall on their way to school.

In the above sentence the underlined word indicates ‘speaking quietly’ outside the wall so that nobody else could hear.

**Now match the words in column A with those in column B with similar meaning.**

#### **Column-A**

1. scream
2. whisper
3. yell
4. roar
5. groan
6. weep
7. shriek
8. babble
9. wail
10. twitter

#### **Column-B**

- A. a continuous loud noise
- B. many people speaking at a time
- C. give a loud cry
- D. a long deep sound
- E. speak quietly
- F. a loud high shout
- G. shout loudly
- H. continuous short sounds
- I. soft quiet voice difficult to hear
- J. cry

**IV. Choose the correct meaning for the underlined word.**

1. The Giant put a notice board, trespassers will be prosecuted [     ]
  - a) persons who enter the premises without permission
  - b) persons who forcibly enter the premises
  - c) persons who officially enter the premises
2. The Giant was wrapped in furs and roared all day about the garden. [     ]
  - a) made a loud noise with anger
  - b) felt frustrated
  - c) looked pleased
3. There are twelve peach-trees that in spring-time broke out into delicate blossoms. [     ]
  - a) leaves
  - b) flowers
  - c) fruits
4. He rattled on the roof the whole day. [     ]
  - a) made a series of sounds
  - b) shouted
  - c) tapped



**Read the following sentences.**

1. He is swimming in a pool.
2. Swimming is good for health.

In the above two sentences you notice that verbs are used with ‘-ing’. Do you notice any difference between them?

In the first sentence the verb + ing is preceded by **is**. The verb is in progressive form.

In the second sentence you don't find **is, are, was** or **were** before verb + ing. Such verbs with '-ing' and without helping verbs are known as 'Gerunds'. They are normally in the subject position or object position.

**I. Identify the gerunds in the following sentences.**

1. The North Wind ceased roaring.
2. The Child did not see the giant coming.

3. I heard the children whispering outside the wall on their way to school.
4. Why is the Spring so late in coming?
5. Walking makes you healthy.



## Writing

**Read the following notice taken from the play.**

TRESPASSERS WILL BE PROSECUTED

Write similar one - line notices that you may find in the following places.

1. Hospitals : \_\_\_\_\_
2. Banks : \_\_\_\_\_
3. Public places : \_\_\_\_\_
4. Schools : \_\_\_\_\_
5. At home : \_\_\_\_\_



## Listening

**Listen to the description and answer the following questions.**

1. Where is the garden located?
2. What is so special about it?



## Oral Activity

**Talk about any garden you have visited.**



## Study Skills

**Read the play 'The Selfish Giant' once again and summarise it.**

**Remember to follow the points given below.**

1. Identify the main and supporting ideas, section wise / part wise.
2. Separate the main idea from the subordinate ideas.
3. Identify the words / phrases which carry ideas.
4. Link your ideas properly with appropriate linkers.
5. Use the words / phrases that express the essence of the text.
6. Present the ideas briefly.

# The Garden Within

There is a garden  
in my heart  
where beauty grows  
in fits and starts.

Where smiles are petals  
from the flowers  
bestowed by others  
from their bowers.

Nutritious hope  
reaps seeds to feed  
my spirit  
for its every need.

With gratitude  
I'll reach my goal  
To touch the island  
of my soul.

- *Celia Berrell*



## Glossary

in fits and starts (phr):	in a sudden and irregular manner
petal (n)	: a delicate coloured part of a flower
bestowed (v)	: gave
bowers (n)	: a pleasant place in the shade of tree
nutritious (adj)	: good
reaps (v)	: gives
spirit (n)	: inner feelings or mood
gratitude (n)	: thankfulness
goal (n)	: something that you hope to achieve



**Answer the following questions.**

1. What is the central idea of the poem?
2. What features of the garden in the poet's heart are mentioned in stanza 1?
3. What is the mood of the poet? Put a tick (✓) mark.  
a. sad                                  b. hopeful                                  c. thankful
4. Explain the word 'gratitude' as used in the poem.

## Simile, Metaphor and Personification

**Observe the following sentences.**

1. Here and there over the grass stood beautiful flowers like stars.

In this sentence **flowers are compared to stars**. Such a comparison using ‘like’ and ‘as’ is called a ‘simile’.

- e.g : a. He roared like a lion.  
b. Her face is as white as snow.

2. Life is a journey. Enjoy the ride.

In the above sentence the word ‘journey’ is used to describe/compare the word ‘life’. Such words are called ‘metaphors’. They are used to show that the two things have the same qualities. They make the description more powerful.

- e.g. : a. Rudramadevi was a lioness in battle.  
b. Her home was a prison.

3. Spring has forgotten his garden.

Here, though 'spring' is a season, it is represented as a human being and given the qualities of forgetting etc. Such usage in literature is called 'personification'.

- e.g : a. The stars danced playfully in the moonlit sky.
- b. The snow covered up the grass with her great white cloak.



## Project Work

### A Garden of Qualities :

The poem 'The Garden Within' talks about our spirit and goals. Our qualities are an important part of who we are. All of us, girls and boys, men and women, have all human qualities. Some are better developed than others. Here is a list of few qualities. Circle the ones you think are more developed in you. Make a similar table in your book. Talk to 5 family members and 5 friends. Ask each one to tick their qualities. If you happen to come across more qualities, add them to the list.

encouraging	hard working	friendly	
generous	careful	punctual	
spiritual	sensitive	strong	
dedicated	committed	confident	
humorous	considerate	brave	
trustworthy	calm	compassionate	



### Self Assessment

How well have I understood this unit?

Read and tick (✓) in the appropriate box.

Indicators	Yes	Somewhat	No
I read and understood the text :			
A. The Selfish Giant Part I			
B. The Selfish Giant Part II			
C. The Garden within			
I was able to do the exercises given under 'Vocabulary'.			
I was able to understand the usage of 'Gerund' given under 'Grammar'.			
I was able to prepare notices in different locations, under 'Writing'			
I was able to describe the garden given under 'Oral Activity'.			
I was able to summarize the story given under 'Study Skills'.			
I listened to and understood 'Lal Bagh' and answered the questions given under 'Listening'.			
I was able to collect the story books and fill the table given under 'Project Work'.			