



মণিপুরৰ শাসনৰত্ন (মাণ)

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (S)

Government of Manipur

Lesson 6

The Selfish Giant

NOTES:

About the author :-

Oscar Wilde (in full Oscar Fingal O'Flahertie Wills Wilde) was an Irish poet and playwright . He was one of the most popular playwrights in London. He was born on 16th Oct. 1854, Dublin, Ireland and died on 30th November, 1900, Paris, France. His notable works include “The Prince of Dorian Gray”, “The Importance of Being Earnest”.

Summary :

The short story “The Selfish Giant” by Oscar Wilde is a short fantasy story suitable for children. A simple story that touches the heart. The symbol used like winter, spring, trees, green grass, snow, etc. are simply superb that gives an imagination of the beautiful scene of Nature. That fills our heart with love and peace.

In the story, there was a beautiful and attractive garden full of green grass, twelve peaches trees and full of flowers which belongs to the selfish Giant .Where the children love to come and play every afternoon. For seven years, as the Giant visited his friend, the Cornish Ogre, in England the children enjoyed playing in the garden. But when the Giant returned, he did not allow the children to come and play, putting up a high wall around his garden.

As a result, spring season except winter refused to grace/ come in the Giant’s garden and so only winter season prevailed throughout the year.

One day, the Giant heard a linnet, bird singing i.e. a sign of spring return. He soon finds that spring has returned because the children have been entering through the hole of the wall. However, there is one small boy crying in the farthest corner of the garden because he cannot climb up the branches of the tree. The Giant helped the boy by putting up on the tree. The little boy hugged and kissed the Giant. And so, spring season prevail again.

The Giant was anxiously looking for the little boy everyday who kissed him. But much to his sadness he could not find him. His whereabouts were not known by other children. The Giant grows old with the passing of time.

One day, the Giant saw the little boy again with wounds on his hands and feet. But the boy tells the giant not to be upset because they are wounds of love. Moreover, the boy has come to take the Giant to the paradise / heaven. Afterwards, the children found the Giant body lying under the tree, covered in white blossoms.

Themes of the story:

“The selfish Giant” by Oscar Wilde gives a message that everyone can change and learn life’s lesson of not to be selfish and that everyone has something to share and to give to others around them. The story is the lovely story of friendship and forgiveness. The children fear the Giant only until they realize that he is not bad. Once, the giant understand that sharing and friendship are pleasant and rewarding, he chooses to share being inspired by the innocent children (the messenger of God) and the Giant died peacefully being selfless.

Word meaning:-

1. delicate – very fine in texture, fragile
2. blossoms – a flower or a mass of flowers
3. Cornish Ogre – a monster from a place called Cornwall in England
4. gruff – not friendly
5. trespasser – those who enter a place without permission
6. prosecuted – brought a criminal charge against somebody in a law court
7. frost – a thin layer of ice on the solid surface
8. castle – a large building , typically of the medieval period
9. crept in – to approach slowly or stealthily
10. wicked – evil or morally wrong
11. linnet – a kind of a songbird
12. awe – fear and wonder



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