

SUMMARY OF THE LESSON

The Giant's garden was very beautiful. Children loved to play in it. Every afternoon, as they were coming from school, they used to enter the large lovely garden with flowers and peach-trees.

But the Giant was selfish. One day when he returned home after seven years of stay with his friend, he saw the children playing in the garden. He shouted at them angrily and they ran away. The Giant decided not to allow anybody else to play there. So he built a high boundary wall around it. He also put up a notice that outsiders entering the garden will be punished.

The poor children had no other place to go. They didn't like to play on the dusty road full of stones.

Then the spring came all over the country. Only in the garden of the selfish Giant it was still winter. No flowers bloomed and no birds sang. The only visitors were the snow and the frost which painted all the trees silver. The north wind roared there all day. It also asked the hailstones to come.

The Giant wondered why the spring passed by his garden. It was always winter there.

One morning he heard some lovely music of a linneta song bird outside his window. He jumped out of bed and looked out. He saw a wonderful sight. The children had crept in through a hole in the wall. They were sitting on the branches of trees which gladly welcomed them with flowers. Only in one corner it was still winter. A small boy was wandering all around the tree and crying. He was too small to climb up.

The Giant's heart melted. He went out in the garden. The children ran away on seeing him. The garden became winter

again. But when he put the small boy up into the tree, it broke into flowers. The boy threw his arms round his neck and kissed him. Other children noticed the change in the Giant's behaviour. So they too came back. The Giant knocked down the wall and started playing with them. He wanted to see the small boy whom he had put up into the tree. But he had gone away.

Years went by and he grew old and weak. He realised that the children were the most beautiful flowers of all.

One winter morning he saw a tree covered with lovely white flowers and silver fruit. Under it stood the little boy. He came running, close to the boy. He noticed two nail wounds each on the boy's arms and on the little feet. He declared angrily that he would kill cruel man who had injured him. At this the child told him that those were the wounds of Love. It further told that he had come to take him to his garden, which was paradise. In the afternoon the Giant was found lying dead under the tree.

TEXTBOOK QUESTIONS SOLVED

COMPREHENSION CHECK

(Page 20)

1. Why is the Giant called selfish?

Ans. The Giant was called selfish because he wanted to keep his garden reserved only for himself. He banned the entry of outsiders there.

2. On one occasion the children said: "How happy we are here!"

Later they said: "How happy we were there!"

What are they referring to in both the cases?

Ans. In both the cases the children are referring to the Giant's garden. In the first sentence they say that they are enjoying in the giant's garden. But in the second sentence it is beyond their reach.

3. (i) When spring came, it was still winter in the garden. What does winter stand for or indicate here?

(ii) Winter has been presented like a story with its own characters and their activities.

Describe the story in your own words.

Ans. (i) Winter indicates that flowers did not bloom in the Giant's garden. The birds didn't sing. There was no sign of joy and greenery.

(ii) Winter has been portrayed as destroyer. It has its own characters. Snow and frost are the most prominent factors. Trees have been covered with white cloak. The trees look lifeless. North wind has come to stay there permanently. Hails settle on the roof.

4. Was the Giant happy or sad over the state of the garden?

Ans. The Giant felt sad to see the state of his garden. Different seasons brought no change in it.

5. What effect did the linnet's song have over Hail and the North Wind?

Ans. As an effect of the linnet's song the Hail stopped dancing over his head. Similarly the North Wind ceased roaring.

COMPREHENSION CHECK

(Page 24)

1. (i) The Giant saw a most wonderful sight. What did he see?

(ii) What did he realise on seeing it?

Ans. (i) The Giant saw that through a little hole in the wall the children had entered into the garden. They were sitting in the branches of the trees. In every tree that he could see there was a little child. And the trees were glad to have the children back again that they had covered themselves with blossoms and were waving their hands gently above the child run's heads. The birds were flying and twittering with delight, and flowers were laughing.

(ii) He realised that he himself was to blame for the year round winter in his garden. He called himself selfish.

2. Why was it still winter in one corner of the garden?

Ans. Only in one corner of the garden there was winter still. The reason was that a little boy could not climb the tree like other boys. He stood under a tree weeping.

3. Describe the first meeting of the little boy and the Giant.

Ans. In the first meeting of the boy and the Giant, the Giant lifted him gently and put him in the branch of that tree. The tree suddenly broke into flowers and the birds began to sing. The child kissed the Giant.

4. Describe their second meeting after a long interval.

Ans. In the second meeting after so many years, the Giant saw wounds on the little boy's palm and feet. He became furious. He wanted to kill the man who had wounded the child. But the boy said that those were wounds of love.

5. The Giant lay dead, all covered with white blossoms. What does this sentence indicate about the once selfish Giant?

Ans. This indicates that the Giant had been blessed by Lord Christ himself. He was neither cruel nor selfish. So Christ forgave him and took him to paradise.

EXERCISE

(Page 24)

Discuss the following topics in groups:

1. The little child's hands and feet had marks of nails. Who does the child remind you of? Give a reason for your answer.

Ans. The nail's marks on the child's hands and feet remind us of Lord Christ. He was put on a cross and nails were hammered into his palms and feet.

2. Is there something like this garden near where you live? Would you like one (without the Giant perhaps) and why? What would you do to keep it in good shape?

Ans. A park is a public place. It is like the lungs in human body. It gives us fresh air. The greenery is soothing to the eyes. A private garden, however, has to be used by the people with care and caution. The children must not spoil the flower beds and the grassy lawns even in a public park. I would never play football in a park nor let other children do so.