

# THE SELFISH GIANT

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# ABOUT THE STORY

- 'The Selfish Giant' is an allegory, a story with an inner moral meaning, in which a selfish giant does not allow the children to play in his garden. This results in the garden getting winter all through the year, when all around it there is spring. There is personification of natural elements like snow, frost hail and the seasons and the technique of personification is used throughout the story. It also has the elements of fantasy and fairy tale.



# THE PROLONGED WINTER AND RETURN OF THE SPRING

- The Giant builds a wall around his beautiful garden to prevent children from entering the garden. The children, however, manage to enter the garden. The spring returns to the garden. At last the giant allows the children to play in his garden and it becomes covered with beautiful blossoms.



# THE SELFISH GIANT BECOMES THE LOVING GIANT

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# THE LITTLE BOY – THE CHRIST



- Among the children is a small boy whom the Giant helps and loves. He is Jesus Christ. The blood on his hands and feet was from where he was nailed to the cross. He loved people so much that he died for everyone. He takes the giant to Paradise after his death. The Giant blessed the little boy and other children by letting them play in his garden. God in turn blessed him by allowing the Giant into His Paradise.
- The ending of the short story is very religious as Wilde uses the presence of Jesus to help end the story and assist the moral. The giant who had sinned had been sent to heaven, purely because he had realised that he was selfish and that he was going to be lonely unless he was more kind.

# THEMES OF THE STORY

- ❑ Selfishness: Selfishness is the main theme with a variety of sub themes. People who are selfish do not want to share their things with others. They want to keep everything for themselves. But when they do that, they quickly find themselves all alone.
- ❑ Friendship: Another theme in the story is the importance of friendship in human life.
- ❑ The story can also be read in the light of theories of Marxism according to which it is unjust for one person to own property for personal use. It should ideally be shared by the community.

