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THE SELFISH GIANT



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Once upon a time, there was a large castle that stood in the middle of a village. It belonged to a **giant**. The castle had a beautiful garden. There were peach trees, lovely flowers and soft green grass in the garden. The trees had a lot of fruits on them. The birds loved singing on the **branches** all day.





One day, the giant left the castle to visit his friend in the neighbouring village, and after that day, nobody saw him for years. In all these years, the castle stayed empty, and the garden became a **playground** for the village children. They went there after school every day. They all played different games. Running after the butterflies was one of their favourites. They also loved climbing trees and picking fruits.








After seven years, the giant decided to return home. When he arrived at the castle, he saw the children playing in his garden.


'What's this? Uninvited guests in my castle? What are you doing here?' he **roared**. The children were scared, and they **ran away**.

'This is my garden! How dare you come and play here without my permission!' cried the giant in a very loud voice. 'Get out immediately! Nobody can play here except me!'





The angry giant **built** a high wall around the garden, and he **put up a notice**: KEEP OUT!
He was a very **selfish** giant.

The illustration shows a castle in the background with a fire on its roof. In the foreground, five children are sitting on the ground, looking sad. The ground is dusty and brown. There are some rocks and a wooden structure on the right. The scene is set in a dusty, outdoor area.

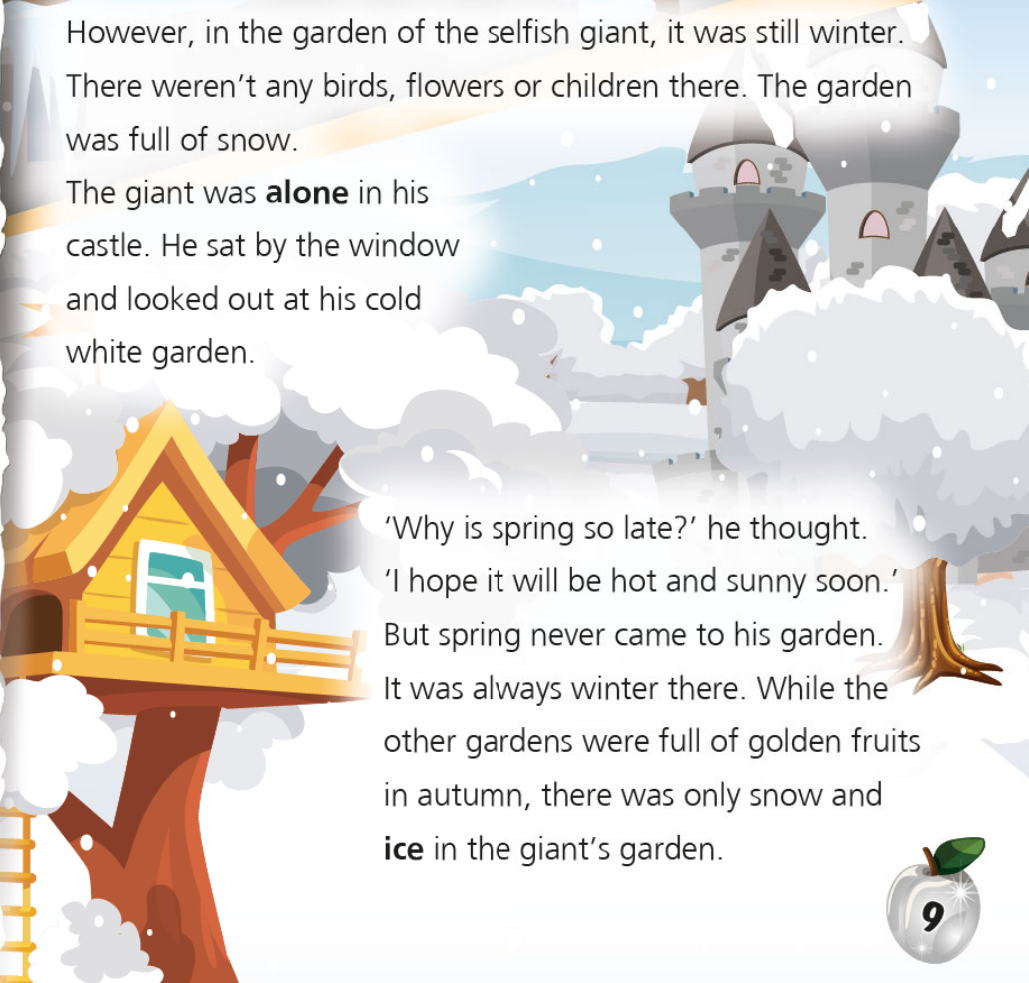
The children didn't have a place to play. They went to the **road**, but it was very **dusty**, and there were hard stones around. They didn't like playing there. When the school was over, they walked around the high walls and talked about the garden. 'We were never bored when we played in the garden of the castle. We were very happy there!' they said.



Spring came. There were colourful flowers and little birds all over the village.

However, in the garden of the selfish giant, it was still winter. There weren't any birds, flowers or children there. The garden was full of snow.

The giant was **alone** in his castle. He sat by the window and looked out at his cold white garden.



'Why is spring so late?' he thought. 'I hope it will be hot and sunny soon.' But spring never came to his garden. It was always winter there. While the other gardens were full of golden fruits in autumn, there was only snow and **ice** in the giant's garden.

One morning, the giant was **awake** in his bed. Suddenly, he heard some beautiful music. There was a little bird singing outside his window. 'It is the most beautiful music in the world!' he said. 'I think spring is here at last!' He jumped out of his bed and looked out.



He saw the little children coming in through a **hole** in the wall. They started playing in the garden. There was a child sitting in each tree. The garden had green grass, colourful flowers and singing birds again.

