



### ABOUT YOU

Answer the questions and talk about your ideas.

- 1 Think of a garden you know. Describe it to a partner.
- 2 What can children do in a garden?
- 3 Why might some people not want to share their garden with others?
- 4 How are gardens different in winter and summer?

When a giant goes on holiday, children play in his garden. When he comes back he is very angry. The children are told they are not allowed to play in the garden.

- 1 Read the text. As you read, think about this question. What happens to the garden when the children are not allowed to play in it?

### 'The Selfish Giant' from *The Happy Prince and Other Tales* (1888)

Oscar Wilde

The poor children had now nowhere to play. They tried to play on the road, but the road was very **dusty** and full of hard stones, and they did not like it. They walked round the high wall when their lessons were over, and

- 5 talked about the beautiful garden inside. 'How happy we were there,' they said to each other. Then the Spring came, and all over the country there were little **blossoms** and little birds. Only in the garden of the **Selfish Giant** it was still winter. The birds did not care to
- 10 sing in it as there were no children, and the trees forgot to blossom. Once a beautiful flower put its head out from under the grass, but when it saw the **noticeboard** it was so sorry for the children that it slipped back into the ground again, and went off to sleep. The only people
- 15 who were pleased were the Snow and the **Frost**. 'Spring has forgotten this garden,' they cried, 'so we will live here all the year round.' 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
- 20 with them, and he came. 'This is a **delightful**



spot,' he said, 'we must ask the **Hail** on a visit.' So the Hail came. He ran round and round the garden as fast as he could go. He was dressed in grey, and his breath was like ice.

### GLOSSARY

<b>dusty</b>	covered with dust (= powder of dirt)
<b>blossoms</b>	small flowers on a tree or plant
<b>selfish</b>	caring only about yourself and not other people
<b>noticeboard</b>	a board on a wall where you put advertisements and announcements
<b>frost</b>	weather that is cold and in which water gets hard and solid, especially at night
<b>cloak</b>	a kind of coat
<b>delightful</b>	very nice, enjoyable
<b>hail</b>	small, hard pieces of rain that fall from the sky

