

The Selfish Giant

Talking Points

These Talking Points are suggestions designed to allow exploration and discussion of the story. You may wish to select from the range at various points in the unit or explore other aspects of the story which interest your class.

Getting the facts

- Who did the Giant go to visit?
- How did the children get into the garden?
- What happened to the trees when they saw the children?
- What happened when the Giant returned? What did he say?
- Why did the winter last so long?
- Why was the little boy crying?
- Where did the boy take the Giant at the end of the story?

Using the imagination

- The Giant lived in a big house. Draw what the kitchen looked like. What might the Giant have for his dinner?
- What did the Giant pack in his luggage when he went to visit the Ogre?
- Draw the Giant. What clothes did he wear? What did his hair look like? What expression did he have on his face?
- If you were one of the children, what would you have in the garden to make it a good place to play?

Using the senses

- If you were walking through the Giant's big house touching the furniture as you crept quietly around, what would you see, hear, feel and smell?
- Imagine you are standing outside the tall walls of the garden when the children are playing there and the birds, insects and flowers have returned. What can you hear? What can you smell?
- Draw the garden as the little boy up the tree would have seen it.
- The little boy held the Giant's hand. How would it have felt?

Using the emotions

- What would the Giant have written on a postcard from his holiday with the Ogre. Was he enjoying his holiday? What sorts of things did he like doing best with the Ogre?
- If you were one of the children who were playing in the garden how would you have felt when the Giant returned and sent you away?
- Describe how the Giant felt when the winter wouldn't end. And how did he feel after he had knocked down the wall?

Philosophical enquiry

- The Giant didn't want to share his garden with anyone. Should he have shared it? Why?
- The Giant didn't have any friends. Why is it important to have friends? Would you have been the Giant's friend?
- When the children got into the garden it became a happy place, but should they have trespassed? Is it ever right to go into someone else's property without permission?