

### **Book title**

The Happy Prince And Other Stories

### **Author**

Oscar Wilde



### **Bibliographic information**

Penguin Books, 1994

### **Links (adaptations, reviews, full texts etc.)**

- <http://www.wilde-online.info/the-selfish-giant.html>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=btNVUWIkq7M>

### **Theme**

Relationships between people, building walls is not a solution, we should destroy them instead

### **Short summary**

The Giant expels kids from his garden and with them all the good things leave. After some time the Giant opens his heart, lets the kids in and he can feel happy again playing with them. When he dies his good deeds take him to the Paradise.

### **Why is the story appropriate for the targeted groups of RSP readers?**

It reflects political, historical and social themes, social diversities, refers to current migrant situation

### **What are the distinguished readers interests reflected by this book/story?**

-

### **Why is this story motivational for the pupils?**

A very popular short story for generations of readers.



### **Is there a historical, political, multi/inter cultural, migrant or similar context recognized in this book/story?**

We could find there the migrant theme - a group of people intervening other people's areas, building walls etc.

### **Is there a principle of inclusion reflected in this book/story and does it promotes understanding of cultural diversities and heritage?**

The story promotes the importance of understanding and helping other people, and also to be a part of community.

---

## **METHODOLOGY**

### **Title of Activity**

The Selfish Giant

### **Description of educational activity**

**Duration:** 90 minutes

**Pupils' age:** 15-19

**Organization of the class of pupils:** individual work

**The aim of the lesson:** The aim of the lesson is to improve the reading literacy of the students. To improve their fantasy and imagination and learn the main features of three genres – horror, sci-fi, love story. Another goal is to learn about problems and their reasons between groups of people in different parts of the world.

**Support materials:** The text of the story. Pictures of different walls.

### **Activities:**

1. Dictogloss (garden description - 1st and 2nd paragraphs).
2. Reading the original description. What kind of story could happen in this garden?
3. Students choose one of the genres and rewrite the paragraphs in order to match the description of the garden to the genre: a) horror / b) sci-fi / c) love story
4. Read the story. What is the main idea of the story? What is the saddest thing about the story? When does one feel like the giant?
5. What could a wall symbolize in our lives?
6. Look at the pictures and try to guess where the walls were/are and why they were built.

### **Evaluation and assessment method:**

- Teacher makes sure that all the students are involved in the discussions and complete all their tasks.
- The students are also asked to write their own description of the garden matching the style of a specific genre.



**Effect of the activity on RSP reading:**

Practices that support students' imagination and fantasy followed by the real historical and current affairs.

**Connection to curriculum**

**Grade:** 1 – 4 grade of secondary studies

**Curriculum:** The study of literature is focused on reading and comprehending literary texts of historical and cultural importance and relevancy either in the world or Czech literature. Students are taught to work with texts and information in different ways, to adopt the processes of analysis, synthesis, induction, deduction, generalization, abstraction, specification, comparison, organization, selection. The students should be able to interpret, summarize and evaluate the texts.

**Knowledge:**

- Develop reading fluency
- Improve reading comprehension
- Rich vocabulary describing a place

**Skills:**

- Use illustrations
- Distinguish reality and fantasy
- Make predictions
- Compare and contrast
- Discuss questions in a bigger group

**Competences:**

- Make connections between fiction and real life or personal experiences
- Be able to visualise material read
- Follow specific instructions and conventions
- Evaluate evidence
- Support and justify an opinion

**Bibliographic reference to be used during the activity**

Oscar Wilde  
The Happy Prince and Other Stories  
Publisher: Penguin Books  
ISBN: 0140621377  
Page count: 224  
Year of issue: 1994



### Digital sources

A short animated adaptation of the story:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=btNVUWIkq7M>

### Results

The expected outcomes of the lesson are:

- The students will be able to create a description of a place.
- To recognize the main features of the basic genres.
- To arouse interest in history and current affairs.

### Recommendations

Both the teaching method and the text can help in increasing students' interest in reading. The text is a classic fairy-tale with imaginative descriptions and a fantastic main character. The teacher monitors the students so as to make sure they cooperate effectively.