



4. The Tree that Never Stopped Giving

What do trees give us? Discuss.

There lived a naughty boy in a village. Each day the boy spent hours playing near the large, old mango tree. He would make a crown of its leaves and then proudly declare, "I am the king of the forest !" The tree loved to have the boy visit it and play in its branches.



Time passed, the boy grew to be a man, but to the tree he would always be a boy. Gradually he stopped coming to the tree. Then one day, to the tree's great delight he saw the boy approaching. The boy said he needed money, for without money he couldn't marry. "Take my mangoes, they are the best variety, sell them and you will have more than enough money" offered the generous tree. The boy didn't wait another minute.

For what did the boy not wait?





The boy stripped the tree of every single mango, sold them and got married. After a lapse of time, the boy came back again, sullen and complaining, "I need a house, can you give me a house?"

"Take my strong branches and build yourself a house and make your furniture too," said the loving tree. So the boy hacked down all the branches leaving the tree with just its trunk. Slowly the tree aged without its branches and leaves. It felt lonely and sad. It missed the boy.

Years went by. The lonely old tree often thought of the boy and then one day the boy came again not quite as young as before. "I need a boat," he said to the tree, "I want to travel, to see something of the world."

"Take my trunk, it's all I have left, but it will make you a sound boat," said the tree.

The thoughtless boy took the trunk made his boat and sailed away without even once thinking about the tree and what he had done to it.

Finally the boy became a tired old man, and now all he could think of was his faithful friend, the tree, "Come, boy", called the tree. "Rest here on my stump, it makes a good seat, we can be happy together." And the boy gratefully, for once sat down in the warm sunshine on the tree stump. And the tree was happy.

Why was the tree happy?

(Adapted from "The Giving tree" by Shel Silverstein)

Word Meanings

declare	to say publicly or to announce
delight	pleasure, a feeling of sheer happiness.
gradually	slowly, over a long period of time
lapse	a period of time between two events that happen.
thoughtless words	stupid, not caring about the possible effects of one's own or actions on other people.
variety	different kinds of the same thing
strip (ped)	to remove by pulling
generous	willing to give freely
sullen	silent and bad tempered
hack down	to cut roughly

Reading Comprehension

A. Tick (✓) the correct answer:

- (i) The boy made a crown
 - (a) of the tree's bark
 - (b) of the tree's leaves
 - (c) of the tree's flowers
 - (d) of the tree's stump
- (ii) Everyday, the boy spent hours
 - (a) near the big and tall mango tree
 - (b) near the large and huge mango tree
 - (c) near the large and old mango tree
 - (d) near the long and huge mango tree
- (iii) The boy stripped the tree of every single mango and sold them to
 - (a) get married
 - (b) make a house
 - (c) traveled
 - (d) buy a car
- (iv) The boy who came back after a lapse of time was
 - (a) very sad and worried
 - (b) injured and defeated
 - (c) very happy and delighted
 - (d) very bad tempered
- (v) The boy came back
 - (a) playing and singing
 - (b) happy and satisfied

- (c) sullen and complaining (d) running and dancing
- (vi) Finally, the boy became
- (a) young and handsome man (b) a thoughtful person
- (c) a tired old man (d) a generous old man
- (vii) The boy sat down in the warm sunshine on
- (a) grassy ground (b) the tree stump
- (c) a bench (d) the branch of the tree

B. Read the lesson again and make a list of the problems of the boy and solutions provided by the tree. An example is done for you:

N.	Problems	Solutions
1.	The boy needed money	The tree gave the boy fruit to sell.
2.	-----	-----
3.	-----	-----
4.	-----	-----

C. Answer the following questions:

- Make a list of the things that help a tree to live.
- List all the things the boy said he needed.
- The boy looked sullen and complaining. Why ?
- What happened at last ?
- How did the boy spend his time ?
- Who was more loving - the boy or the tree? Why?

Vocabulary

A. Find out the correct word with the help of the clues given below. One is done for you:

- People and animals rest under trees.
It is cool during day time.
- It is used in our daily life.
We get wood for furniture from it.
- It is a stage after flowering. People eat it.

s h a d e

t _ _ _

_ _ _ i _



- (iv) The part of the tree that helps it to stand firmly. _ _ _ t
 (v) We can't live without it. It helps plants grow. _ _ _ e _
 (vi) The part of the tree that remains after cutting it down. _ _ u _ _

B. Arrange the letters and make meaningful words. Clues are provided:

- (i) nwroc(the king wears it)
 (ii) tsofer (where wild animals live)
 (iii) lgitedh (very happy)
 (iv) nsilge (one, only)
 (v) mupts (what remains after the trunk is cut of a tree.)

C. Give one word related to the following family of words that occur in the text. First one is done for you:

- (i) leaves fruit branches trunk T R E E
 (ii) crown rule kingdom palace
 (iii) tears worry cry sorrow
 (iv) sailor across river travel
 (v) hour day week month

D. Arrange these words in alphabetic order:

Grow, Great, Generous, Gradually, Crown, Complain, Courage,
 Declare, Delight, Approach, Aged, Stump, Enough, Sullen, Trunk

Activity

(A) Listen to the lines carefully and answer the questions given below:
See Appendix-1, Lesson-4

- I. Encircle the word that you come across by listening to the poem _____.

free see me plant hot
 tea sea we he sun
 key she cross me
 see bee shade

II. What do we plant when we plant a tree

we plant :- (a) _____ (b) _____
(c) _____ (d) _____

III. "A thousand things that we daily see" what does this mean ?

(B) "Three year old Pappu does not like to take anybody's help in doing any work."

Work in pairs:

One person in the pair will be Pappu. The other will be a person who wants to help him. An Example is given-

- A. May I help you with your homework ?
- B. No, thank you. I will do it myself.

Use the situations given in the box to frame your sentences:

has not brought his water bottle.
is not able to open the door.
does not know what time the bus leaves.
has fallen down and hurt himself .
has lost his way in the mela/fair.

Use the following proverb in your sentence. Meaning is given.

Proverb

Early to bed and early to rise,
makes a man healthy, wealthy,
and wise.

Meaning

Always be punctual in
your work.

