

Contents

	The Author, The Plot	4
	The Characters	6
1	<i>The Beautiful Garden</i>	8
2	<i>The Giant Returns</i>	10
3	<i>Nowhere To Play</i>	12
4	<i>Spring Forgets</i>	14
5	<i>Always Winter</i>	16
6	<i>Spring At Last</i>	18
7	<i>The Coldest Corner</i>	20
8	<i>A Garden For Everyone</i>	22
9	<i>The Most Beautiful Flowers</i>	24
10	<i>A Change Of Heart</i>	26
	Do you know?	28
	Activities	29
	Word List	39

Cover Discussion

① *Look at the cover of the book. Answer the following questions.*

- 1 What can you see in the picture?
- 2 What do the giant and the boy look like?
- 3 What are they doing?
- 4 How do you think they feel?
- 5 Where and when do you think the story takes place?

② *Read the blurb on the back cover.*

- a What kind of story do you think you are going to read?
 - Scary • Funny • Interesting
 - Exciting • Sad
- b What kind of stories do you usually like to read? Why?

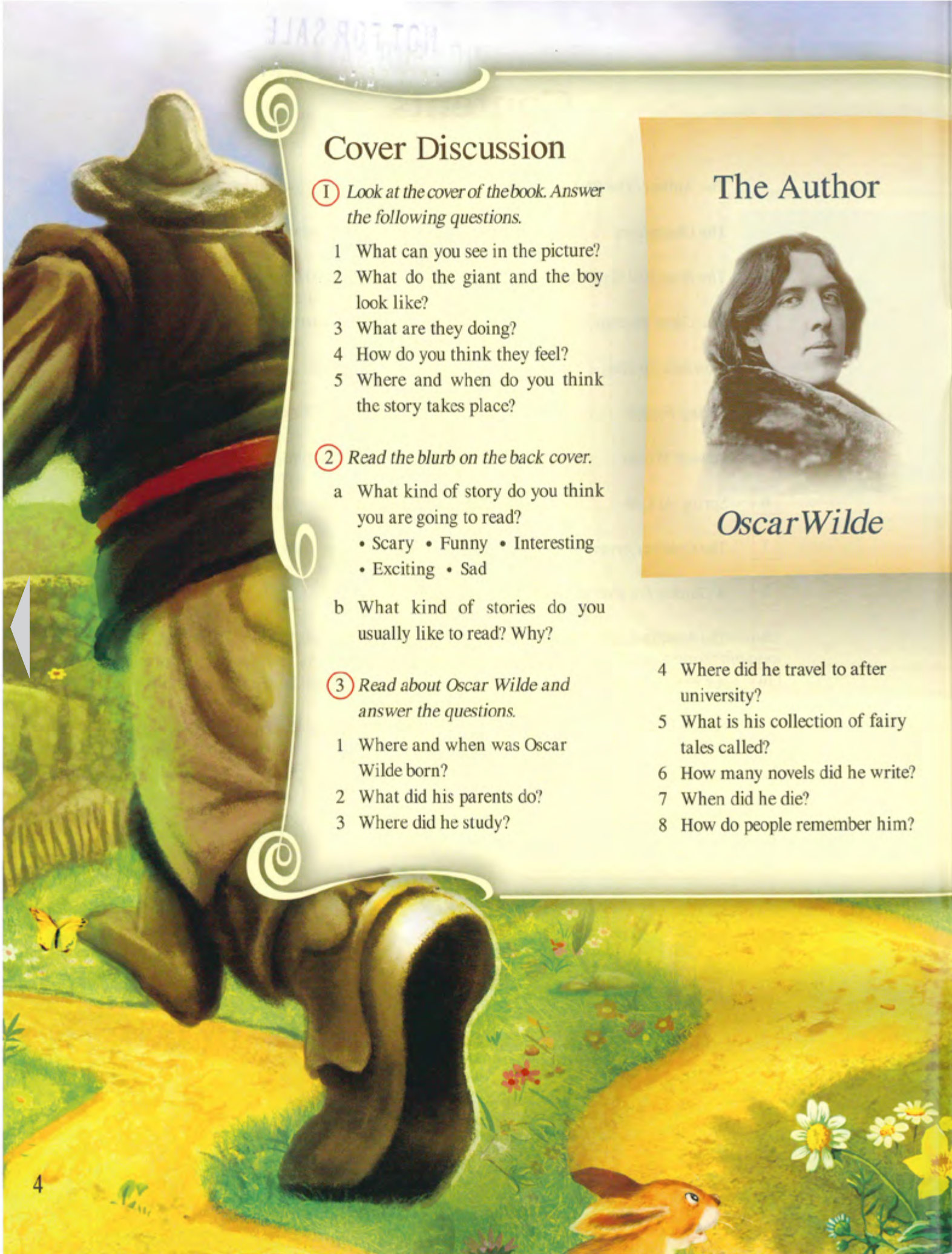
③ *Read about Oscar Wilde and answer the questions.*

- 1 Where and when was Oscar Wilde born?
- 2 What did his parents do?
- 3 Where did he study?
- 4 Where did he travel to after university?
- 5 What is his collection of fairy tales called?
- 6 How many novels did he write?
- 7 When did he die?
- 8 How do people remember him?

The Author



Oscar Wilde



The Author

Oscar Wilde was born in Dublin on October 16th, 1854. His father was a doctor and his mother was a writer. Oscar was a very good student. He was clever, and he enjoyed writing. He studied at Trinity College, Dublin, and at Oxford University in England. When he finished university, Oscar travelled to London, Paris and the USA. While he was in London, he met Constance Lloyd. They married and had two sons. Oscar worked as a teacher and he also wrote reviews for newspapers. He later became the editor of a magazine. In 1881, Oscar published a book of poems. In 1888, he wrote a collection of fairy tales called *The Happy Prince and Other Tales*. One of the stories in this collection was *The Selfish Giant*. Oscar published his only novel, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, in 1891, and in 1892, he wrote his first play, *Lady Windermere's Fan*.

The play was very successful, and Oscar became quite rich. He wrote several other plays, including *An Ideal Husband* and *The Importance of Being Earnest*, and many short stories, including *The Canterville Ghost*.

Oscar Wilde died on November 30th, 1900. People still perform and watch his plays today, and his stories are very popular. People remember him as a very clever, funny writer.

The Plot

The Selfish Giant has got a beautiful garden. The children love to play there, but the giant is selfish. He doesn't want anyone to play in his garden. He builds a wall around it so that the children can't play there. Winter comes to the garden and stays there until one day the children return and bring Spring with them. The giant is sorry for being so selfish and he lets the children play in his garden every day.





The Selfish Giant

... is very scary and unkind at first. He is selfish and he doesn't like sharing his garden with other people. The giant doesn't like children at the beginning of the story, but luckily, he learns an important lesson and decides that he wants the children to be his friends. The giant becomes kind and generous in the end, and all the children love him.

The children

... are cheerful and playful at the beginning of the story, but they become sad when the giant stops them from playing in his garden. They need a place to play, but when they can't find one, they are very unhappy.



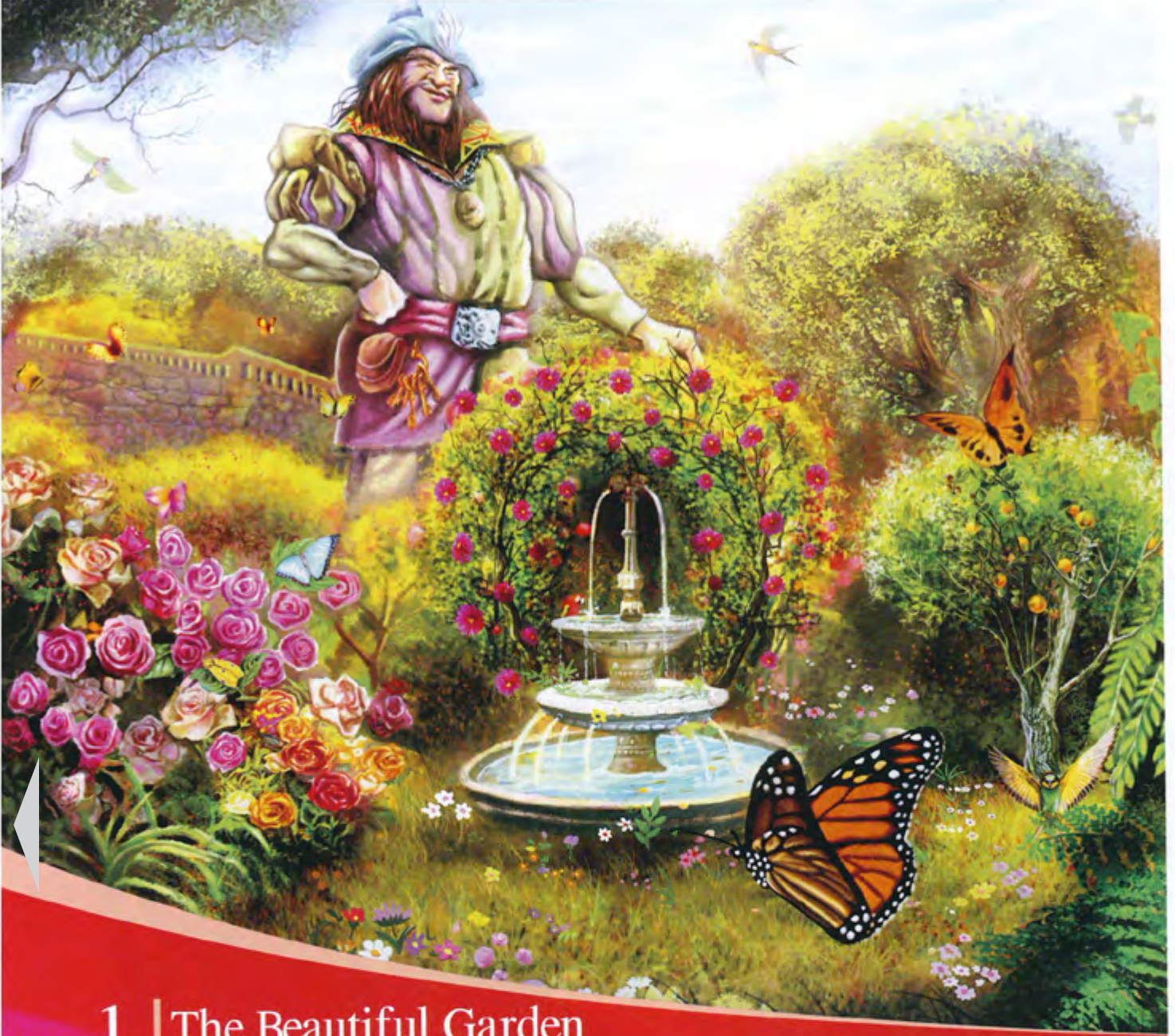
The little boy

... is the giant's favourite child. He is smaller than the other children, so he can't climb the trees in the giant's garden. The giant helps the little boy and they become friends. The giant loves the little boy because he is sweet and gentle.



The seasons & the weather

...decide to punish the giant for being so selfish. Winter stays in the giant's garden all year round. He brings the Snow, the Frost, the North Wind and the Hail. They play in the giant's garden and won't leave. Spring, Summer and Autumn refuse to visit the giant's garden because the giant doesn't deserve to have pretty flowers, warm sunshine or delicious fruit. But when the giant is kind to the children, the seasons take turns to visit the giant's garden, just as they take turns to visit the rest of the world.



1 | The Beautiful Garden

A long time ago, a giant lived in an old stone castle near a pretty little village. The giant's garden was very beautiful. It was a large garden, with soft green grass. There were beautiful flowers in the grass, like colourful stars. There were peach trees all around the garden. In the spring, there were pretty little pink and white blossoms on the trees. In the autumn, there was delicious juicy fruit on the trees for the giant to eat. Pretty birds sat on the branches of the trees and sang sweet songs, so the garden was always full of music. It was a wonderful place.

The giant was very proud of his beautiful garden, but he was also very selfish. He didn't want to share it with anyone. The children in the village wanted to play in the garden, but the giant didn't let them. He shouted when he saw them draw near. The children were scared of the giant, so they stayed away. The giant didn't have any friends in the village, but he didn't care. He had his beautiful garden and he didn't have to share it with anyone.



One day, the giant went to visit his friend, the Cornish Ogre, who lived far away in another country. The giant was away for a very long time. When the children saw that the giant was not at home, they were very happy. At last, they could go inside his garden. So, every afternoon, on their way home from school, the children played in the beautiful garden. They ran around on the soft green grass, they stopped to smell the beautiful flowers and they sat under the fruit trees to eat the delicious, juicy fruit and listen to the birds singing their sweet songs. They couldn't believe they had that beautiful place all to themselves.

"We are so happy here. We hope the giant never comes home."