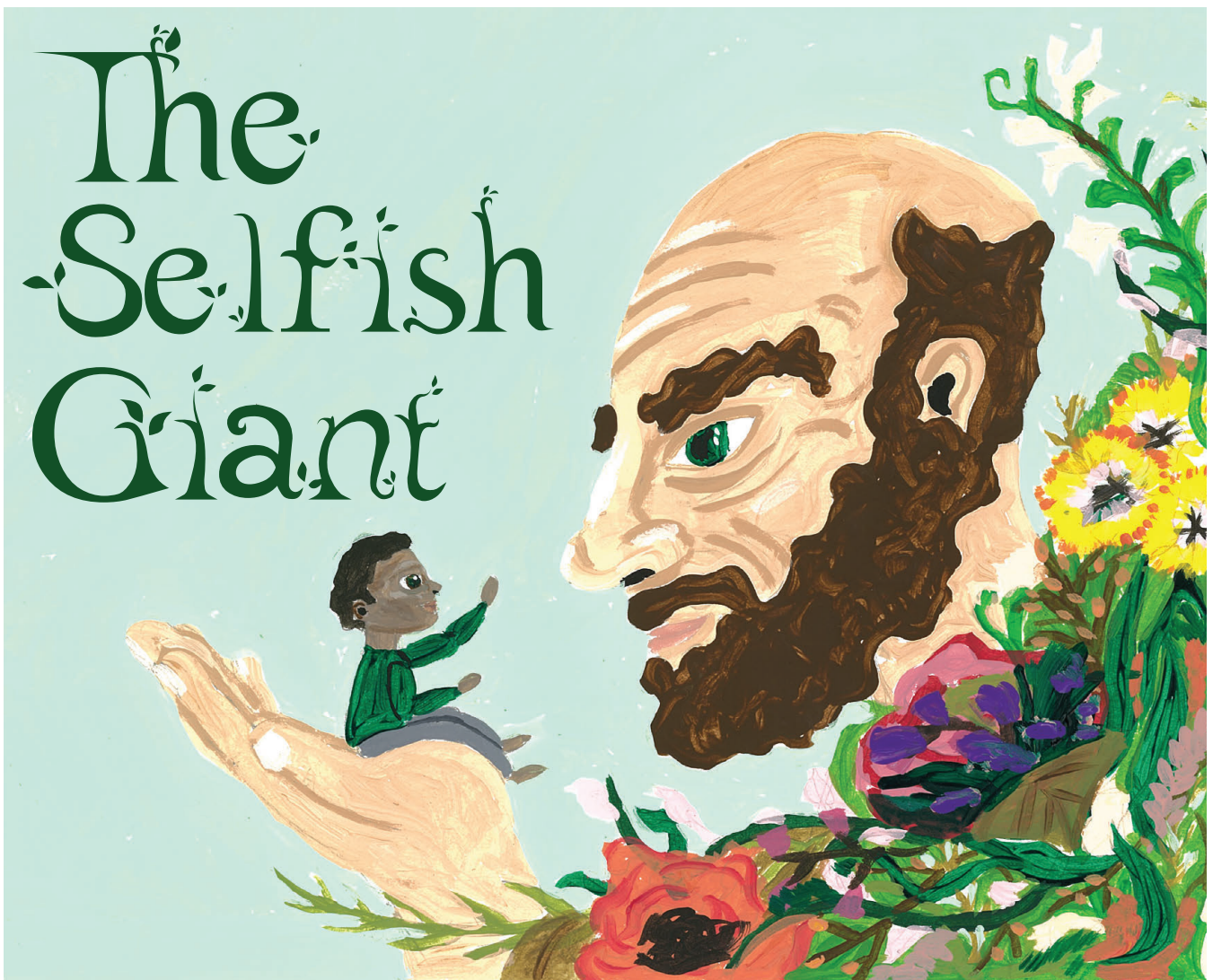


The Selfish Giant



STUDY GUIDE



VIRGINIA
STAGE
COMPANY
EDUCATION
PROGRAMS
2015-2016



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WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FROM VSC EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Our Teaching Philosophy

We've witnessed firsthand what the creative process nurtures in children, teens and all lifelong learners:

- excitement, enthusiasm, and openness to explore their own creativity
- critical-thinking and problem solving skills
- enthusiasm for teamwork
- empathy and support toward peers
- strength in their ability to listen and express themselves effectively
- healthy self-image and awareness

Because it has such positive and far-reaching outcomes for our students, VSC's education model emphasizes process over product. We believe that students will emerge from their time with VSC's educational programs with skills that will serve them well in all areas of life.

Benefits for Students

Students enrolled in VSC's education programs will:

- develop leadership qualities
- enhance communication skills
- develop an appreciation for the creative process
- learn to take ownership of their own ideas and concepts
- increase their knowledge of theatre terms
- develop greater confidence through the creative play experience
- develop a spirit of curiosity
- learn to develop and appreciate the value of kindness
- develop or expand spatial awareness
- use dramatic prompts to create imaginative movement
- cooperate with others in group sessions
- learn how to use their voice safely and effectively
- learn how to use their bodies effectively with character development
- work with peers to write scripts
- explore characters and settings
- rehearse in a positive, supportive environment
- practice respectful critique of others' work
- put it all together to create original theatre for others.

Virginia Stage Company's production of *The Selfish Giant* adheres to the following Virginia's English Standards of Learning requirements for grades K-3:

Kindergarten – English: K.1, K.2, K.3, K.6,K.8, K.9, K.11,K.12; Math: K.2; Visual Art: K.1, K.2, K.3, K.5, K.6, K.7, K.8, K10, K.15, K.16, K.17, K.18

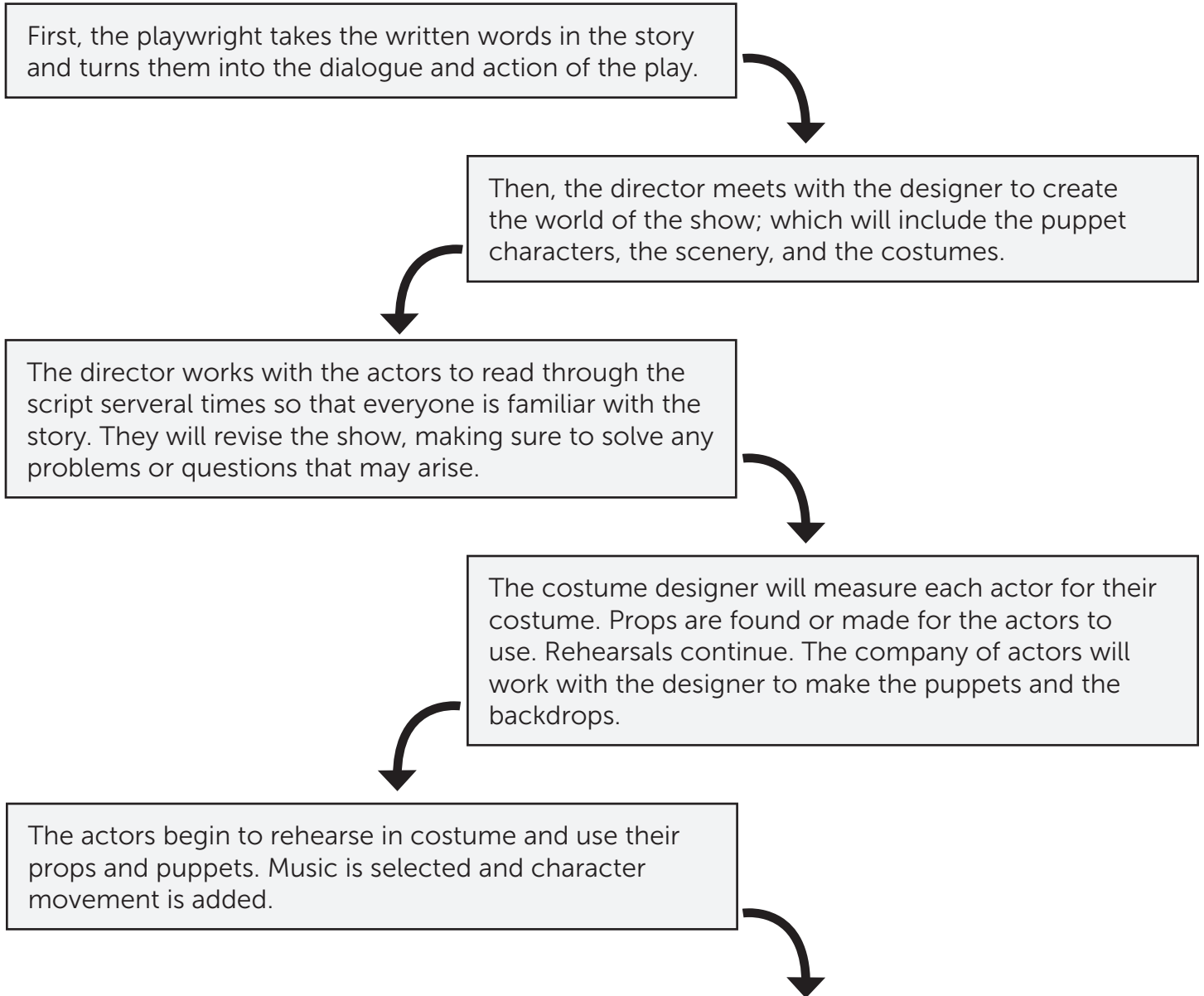
First Grade - English: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.5,1.6, 1.7, 1.8, 1.9, 1.11, 1.12, 1.13; Science: 1.7; Visual Art: 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7, 1.9, 1.11, 1.16, 1.19

Second Grade - English: 2.1, 2.2., 2.3, 2.6, 2.7, 2.8, 2.11, 2.12, 2.13; Science: 2.4; Visual Art: 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.7, 2.9, 2.16, 2.17, 2.20

Third Grade - English: 3.1, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.8,3.9,3.10; Science: 3.8; Visual Art: 3.4, 3.6, 3.7, 3.20

What is an adaptation?

The Selfish Giant is adapted from Oscar Wilde's short story. It took a number of steps to turn the story into a play. Let's take a look at some of the steps.



And finally, the performance!

If you could adapt a book or story, what would you choose to make into a play?

BEFORE THE PLAY

Reading the Show Poster

Look at the poster on the right. Read each question and write your answer.

1. What is the name of the show?

2. Who will present the show?

3. Who wrote the story?

4. What do you think the play will be about?

5. The show poster also reads, "Be Kind, Do Kind." What do you think "Be Kind, Do Kind" means?



KINDNESS FACT

Kindness can be contagious. Your kindness can inspire others. So remember to #BeKindDoKind.

Giant's Word Search Garden

Can you find all of the Giant's words hidden in this word garden?



GARDEN	CHILDREN	GIANT	SPRING	BLOSSOMS
FLOWER	PEACH	PUPPETS	CASTLE	FRIEND
WELCOME	KINDNESS	TREES	HUG	GRASS

AUTHOR FACT
Oscar Wilde was an Irish poet, author, and one of the most successful playwrights of the Victorian Era. He was born on October 16, 1854 in Ireland.

AUTHOR FACT
In 1888, seven years after publishing his first book, he published *The Happy Prince and Other Tales*, fairy-stories written for his two sons. *The Selfish Giant* is included in that book.
He died on November 30, 1900, in Paris, France.

The Giant's Peach Blossom Tree

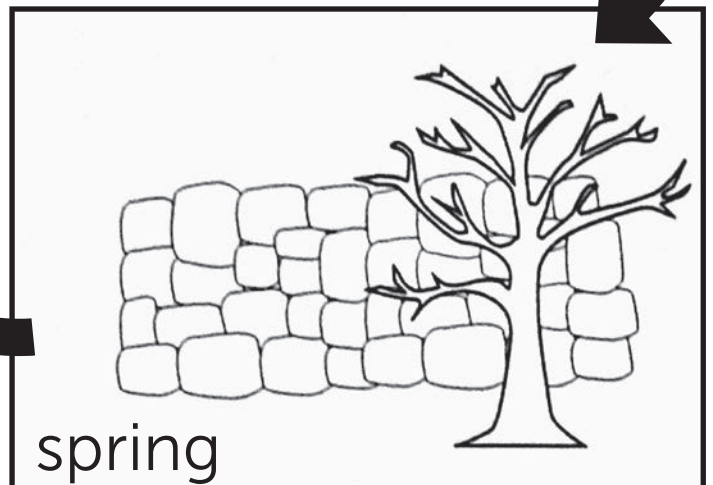
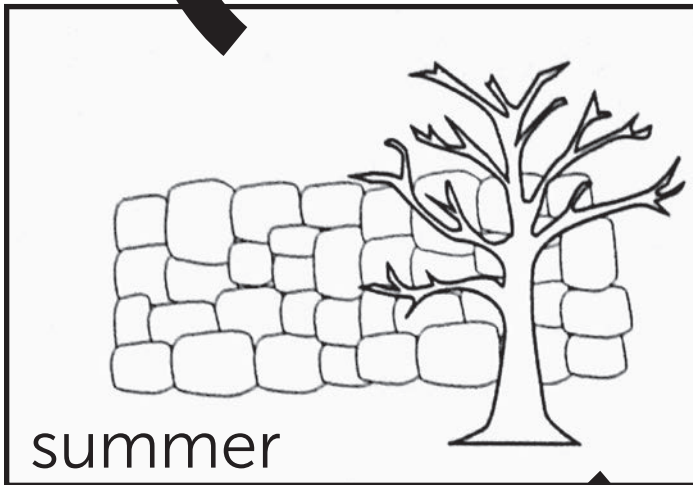
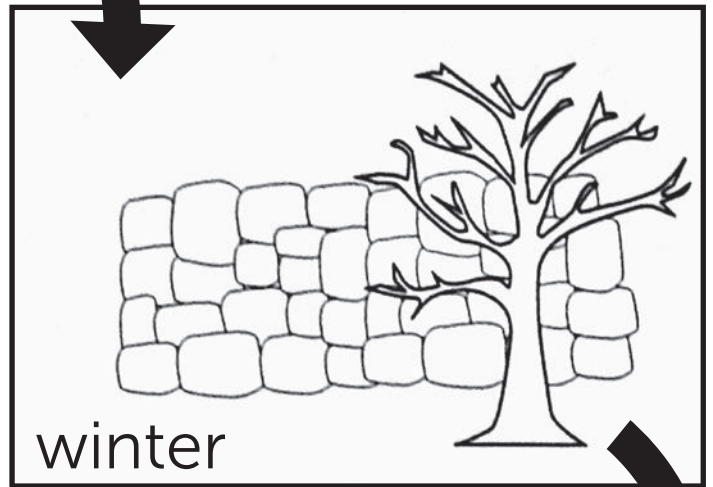
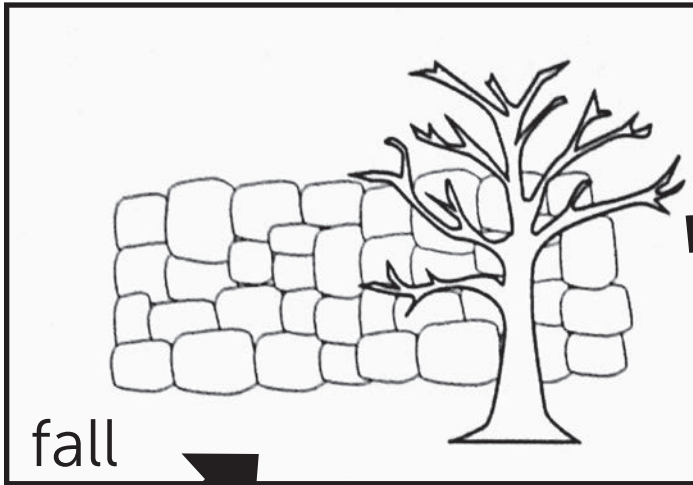
Chase away Winter
and help Spring
return to the Giant's
garden by coloring
the Peach blossoms.



KINDNESS FACT

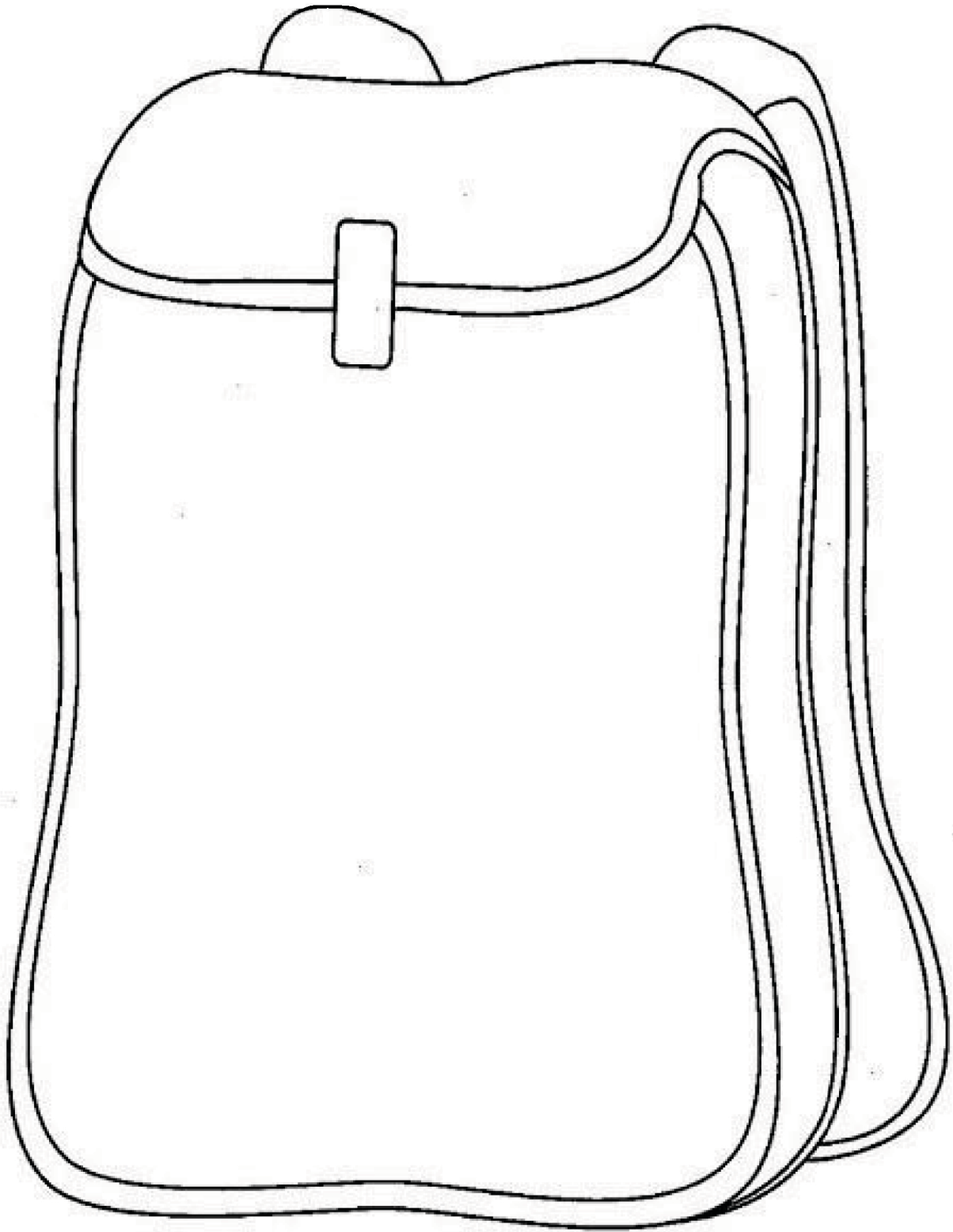
Kindness can make your
community stronger!

We see the Giant's garden in spring and winter during the play. What do you think the fall and summer look like in the Giant's garden. Can you color in the different seasons in the garden?



AUTHOR FACT
Oscar Wilde wrote *The Selfish Giant* in 1888. That's 127 years ago!

In the play the Giant shares his garden with the Little Boy and the other children. What can you share with others? Can you fill this book bag with drawings of what you can share?



No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.

—Aesop

AFTER THE PLAY

Writing About the Play

Read each question about the story of *The Selfish Giant*. Write your answer.

1. At the beginning of the play *The Selfish Giant*, how does the character of the giant behave?

2. Who are some of the other characters in the play?

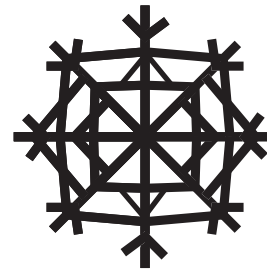
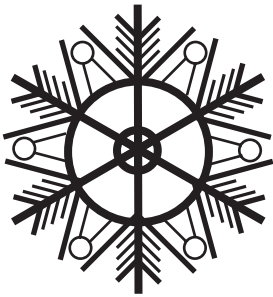
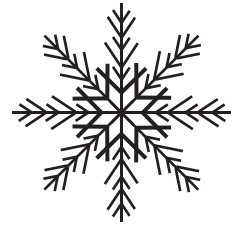
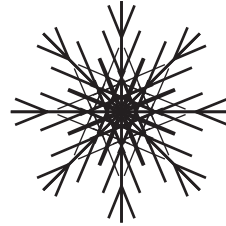
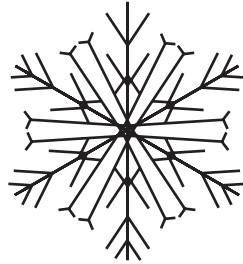
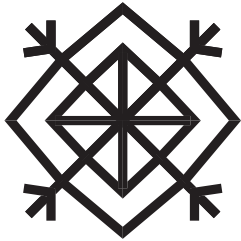
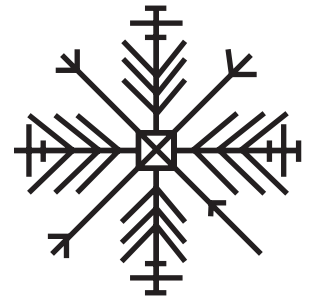
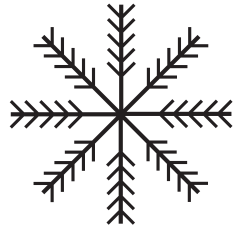
3. At the beginning of the play, what problem does the Giant have?

4. What are three main things that tell what happened in the middle of the story?

5. How was Giant's problem solved at the end of the story?

6. Did the Giant learn a lesson in the story? What was it?

In the play Snow covers the Giant's garden in a blanket of snow.
How many snowflakes can you count?

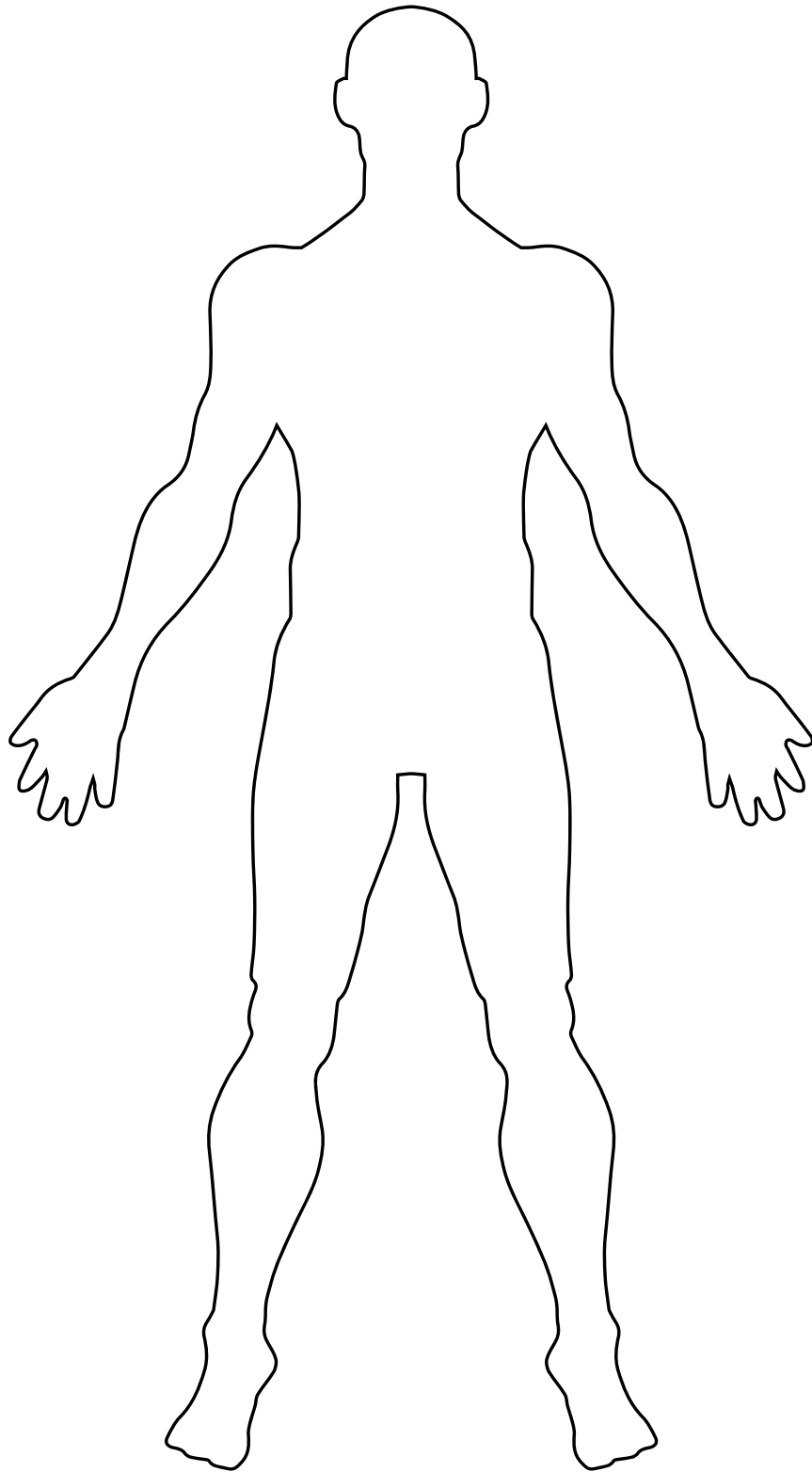


Number of snowflakes: _____

Design your own snowflake...

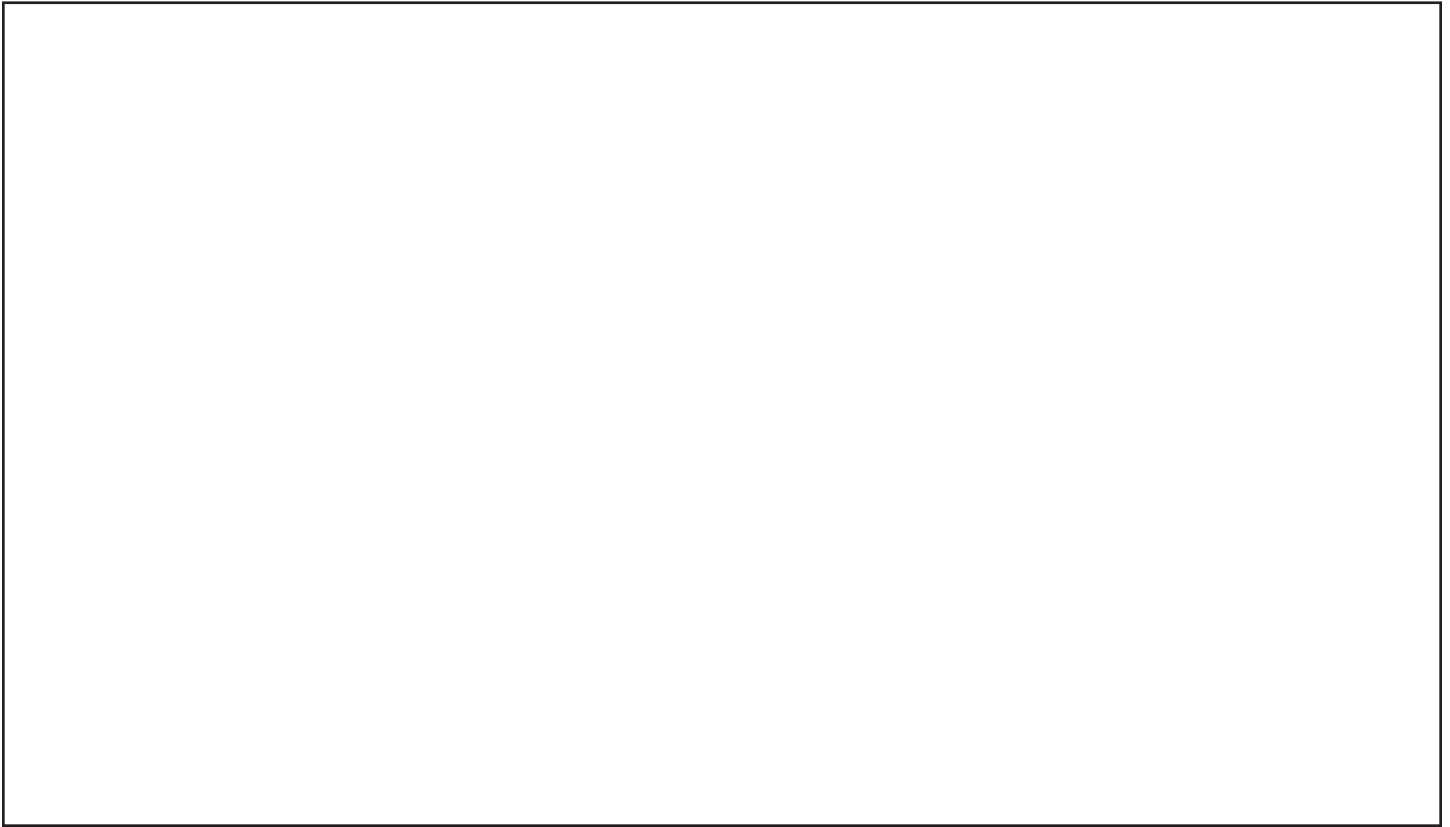
A warm smile is the universal
language of kindness.
—William Arthur Ward

In the play, *The Selfish Giant*, Frost tells the audience that Autumn didn't come to the Giant's garden. What do you think Autumn looks like? Draw your own costume for the character of Autumn.

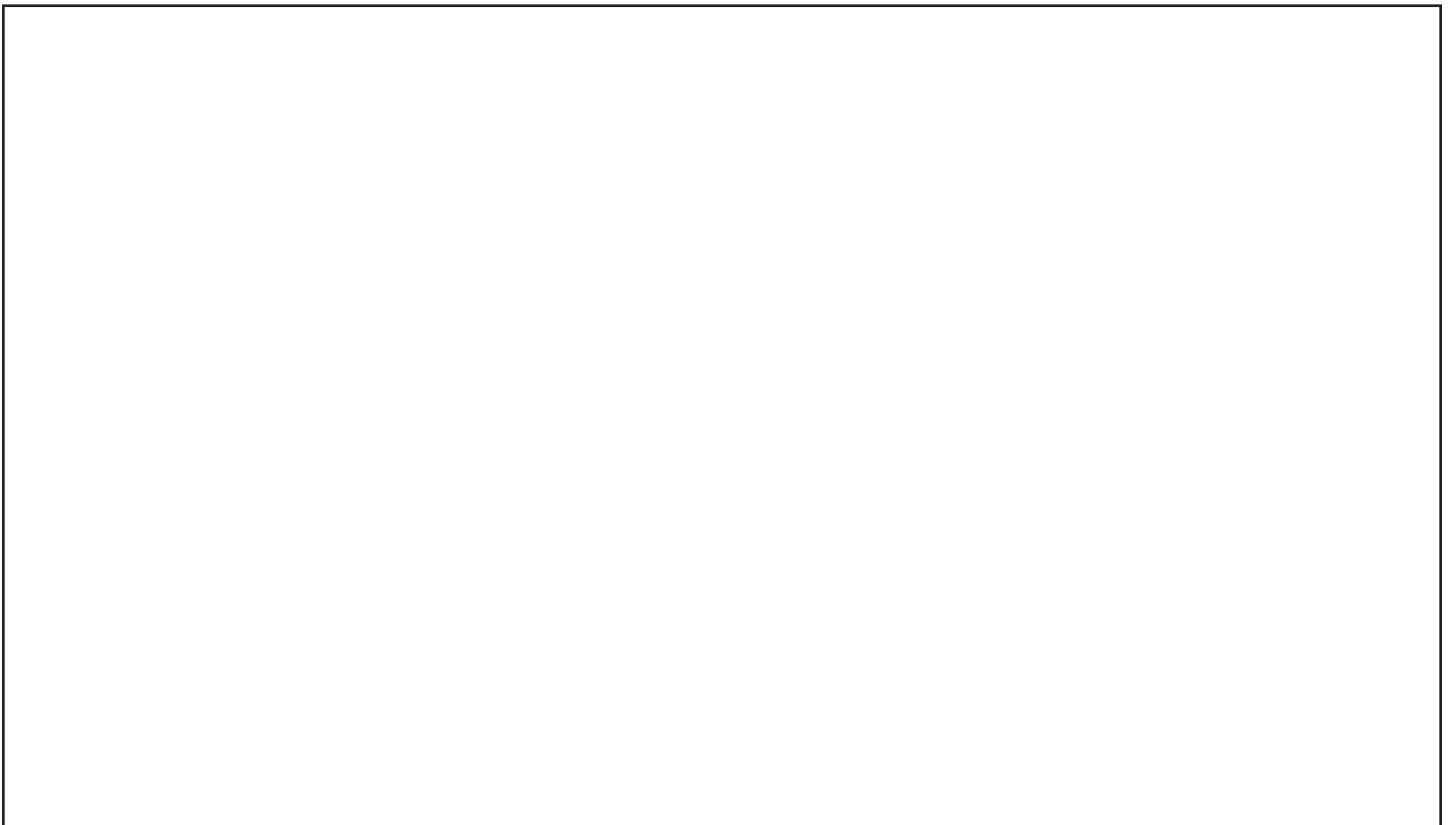


Kindness is defined as the quality of being friendly, generous and considerate

In the story, the Giant learns an important lesson about sharing with others. By being kind and doing kind, the Giant and the Little Boy become friends. How can you be kind to others? Draw a picture below showing how you would be kind.



Draw a picture of a time that someone was kind to you.



Kindness Corner

In *The Selfish Giant*, the Giant builds a wall around his castle to keep the children out of his garden. After many winter months, he realizes Spring cannot come without him having a warm heart. Once he shares his garden with the children, he finds happiness. If you were the Giant, how would you share your garden?

How do you show kindness at school, at home, and in your community? Give three examples of your acts of kindness.

KINDNESS FACT

Kindness makes you happier!

KINDNESS FACT

Kindness can lead to success!

VSC would like to thank
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