

# THE GIVING TREE

**UNIT-8 CLASS-4**

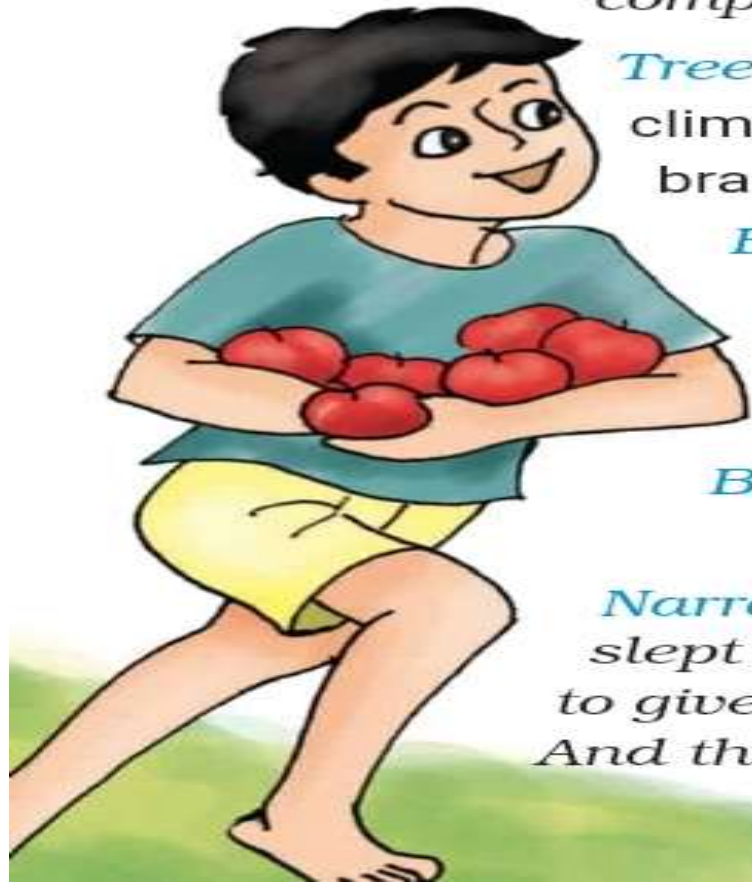
# The Giving Tree

*How do you feel when you help someone?*

*How do you feel when you share your things with others?*

*Read this play to know how a tree feels when it helps a boy.*

**Narrator:** *Once there was a tree and it loved a little boy. Every day the boy would visit the tree and enjoy its company.*



**Tree:** Come here, my boy. Come and climb up my trunk and swing from my branches.

**Boy:** *(swinging from branches)*

Ah, what fun!

**Tree:** Are you hungry? Eat my apples.

**Boy:** *(eating apples)* How delicious!

**Narrator:** *When the boy was tired, he slept under the tree. The tree was happy to give its shade. But time went by. And the boy grew older and went away.*

*The tree  
was often alone.  
After some years...*

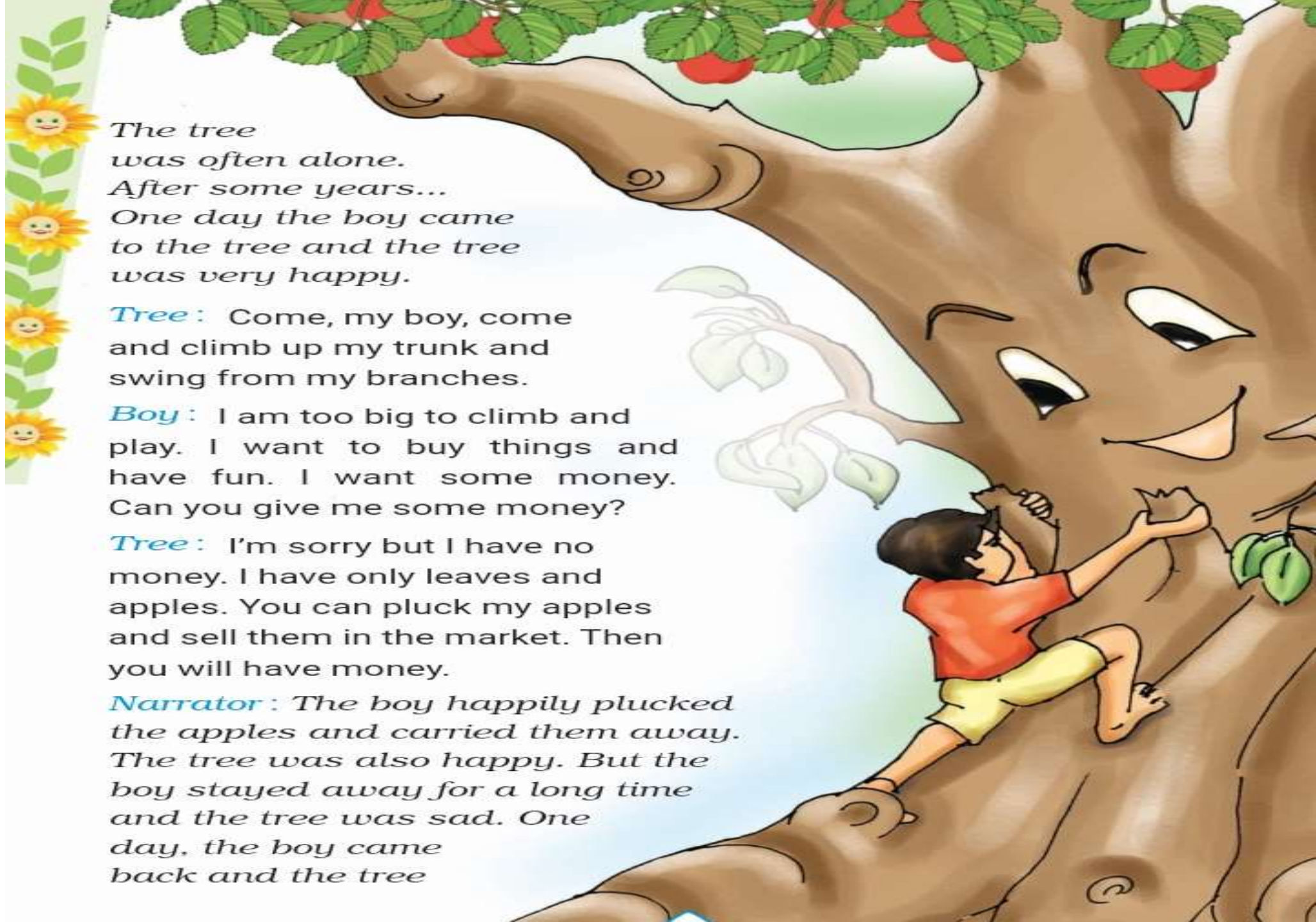
*One day the boy came  
to the tree and the tree  
was very happy.*

**Tree:** Come, my boy, come  
and climb up my trunk and  
swing from my branches.

**Boy:** I am too big to climb and  
play. I want to buy things and  
have fun. I want some money.  
Can you give me some money?

**Tree:** I'm sorry but I have no  
money. I have only leaves and  
apples. You can pluck my apples  
and sell them in the market. Then  
you will have money.

**Narrator:** The boy happily plucked  
the apples and carried them away.  
The tree was also happy. But the  
boy stayed away for a long time  
and the tree was sad. One  
day, the boy came  
back and the tree



*shook with joy.*

**Tree:** Come, Boy, come and climb up my trunk. Swing from my branches, eat my apples, play in my shade and be happy.

**Boy:** I am too busy to climb trees. I am getting married and I need a house for my wife and children. Can you give me a house?

**Tree:** I have no house but you may cut off my branches and build a house.

**Narrator:** *So the boy cut off the tree's branches and carried them away to build a house.*

*The tree was very happy.*

*But the boy stayed away for a long time and the tree was sad again.*

*And when he came back after some years, the tree was so happy that it could hardly speak. Now, the boy was a young man.*

**Tree:** Come, Boy, come. What can I do for you?

**Young man:** I am going on a business trip. I want a boat to take me away. Can you give me a boat?

**Tree:** All I have left is a trunk. Cut down my trunk and make a boat. Then you can sail away.

**Narrator:** *The young man cut the trunk of the tree and sailed away in a boat. The tree was left only*



*with a stump.*

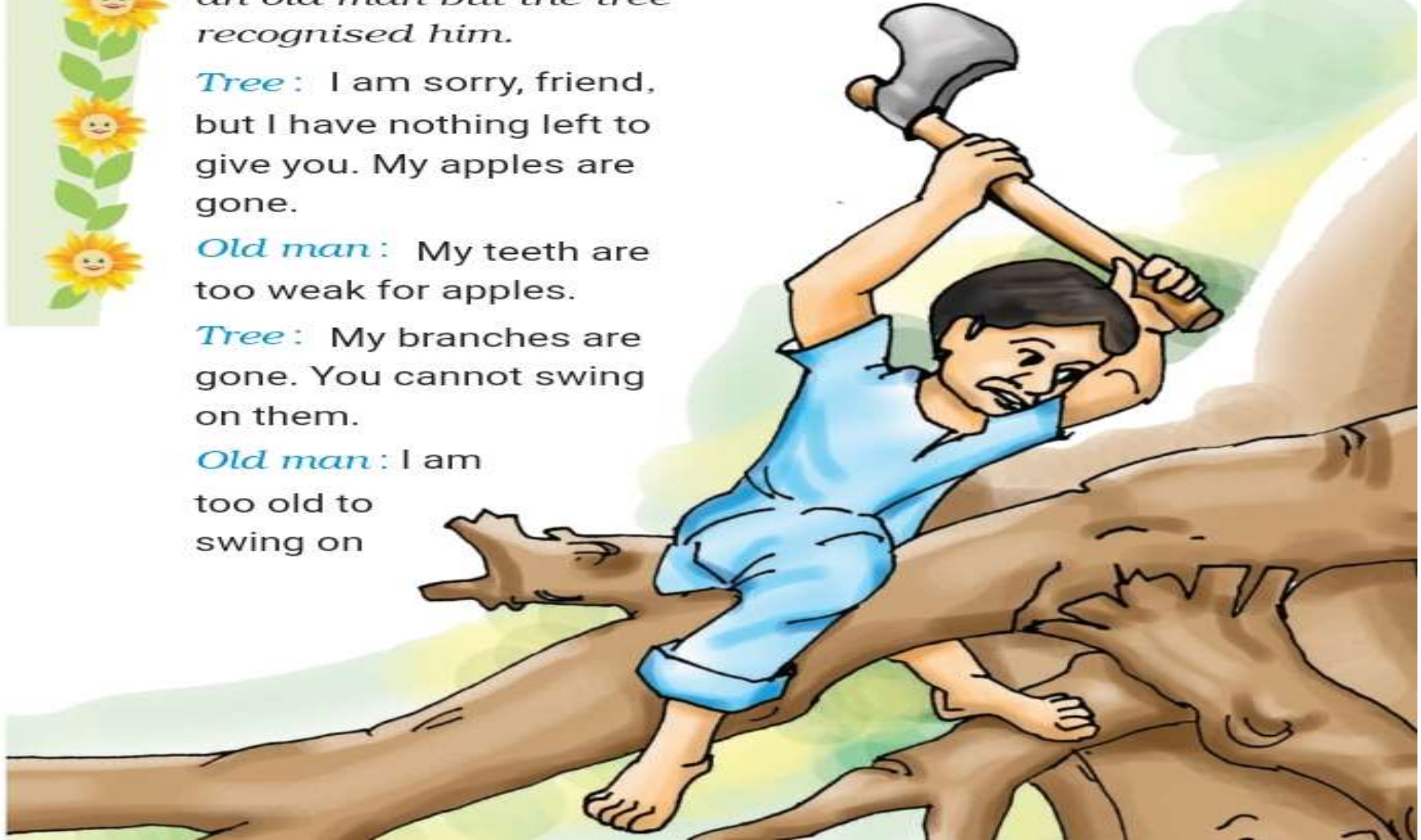
*And after a long time the young man came back again. Now he was an old man but the tree recognised him.*

*Tree:* I am sorry, friend, but I have nothing left to give you. My apples are gone.

*Old man:* My teeth are too weak for apples.

*Tree:* My branches are gone. You cannot swing on them.

*Old man:* I am too old to swing on



branches.

*Tree* : My trunk is gone. You cannot climb.

*Old man* : I am too tired to climb.

*Tree* : *(sighing)* I am sorry. I wish that I could give you something... but I have nothing left. I am just an old stump. I am sorry...

*Old man* : Dear tree, you have always given. But now I don't need much— just a quiet place to sit and rest.

*Tree* : *(happily)* Well, an old stump is good for

### New words

swing, delicious, pluck, trip,  
sail, stump, recognised

*Adapted from – 'The Giving Tree'  
by Shel Silverstein*



# SUMMARY

- The story starts with a boy and his BFF, who just happens to be a tree. Every day the boy climbs the tree, eats the tree's apples, and sleeps in the tree's shade, and both the boy and the tree are happy with this arrangement.
- But, as the boy ages, his needs change. Each time the boy visits, the tree gives him everything she can, including all her branches and her trunk. Reduced to a stump, the tree doesn't think she has anything left to give when the boy returns once again, this time as an old man. But it turns out a stump is just what the old man needs to sit down and get a little rest. So he does, and the tree is happy.

# WORD MEANINGS AND SENTENCES

- **Swing:** to move back and forth Example sentences: 1) The girl swings her arms while eating. 2) The child swings the toy up and down.
- **Delicious:** pleasant to taste Example sentences: 1) The hotel served delicious food. 2) I bought delicious home baked cookies.
- **Pluck:** to quickly remove Example sentences: 1) He plucks the petals carefully. 2) Do not pluck flowers in the garden.
- **Trip:** a journey Example sentences: 1) The trip to Chennai was very tiring. 2) Saima has gone to a school trip.
- **Stump:** the bottom most part of a tree Example sentences: 1) My grandfather likes to sit on the stump. 2) Two chickens were playing on the stump.

# QUESTION ANSWER

- **. How did the boy enjoy the company of the tree?**
- **Ans.** The boy used to climb up the trunk of the tree and swing from its branches. Whenever, it tired he used to eat delicious apples of the tree.
- **How did the tree help the boy earn money?**
- **Ans.** The tree asked the boy to pluck all its apples, sell them in the market and earn money.
- **What did the boy make with the branches of the tree?**
- **Ans.** The boy built a house with the branches of the tree.

- **What did the boy make with the trunk of the tree?**
- **Ans.** The boy built a boat with the trunk of the tree.
  
- **How was stump of the tree useful?**
- **Ans.** The old man wanted to sit and rest, he was weak and tired. The stump of the old tree was the best place to sit and rest. Therefore, in this way, the stump of the tree was useful.
  
- **Why is the play called “The Giving Tree”?**
- **Ans.** The play is called “The Giving Tree” because the tree always gave away something or the other in order to make the happy. So, the play is called “The Giving Tree”.

# BOOK WORK

- Make new words and complete the sentences.
- (a) The children love to sing \_\_\_\_\_. (loud)
- Ans. **Loudly.**
- (b) Throw the ball \_\_\_\_\_. (slow)
- Ans. **Slowly.**
- (c) Read your lesson \_\_\_\_\_. (silent)
- Ans. **Silently.**
- (d) The tree gave its fruit to the boy \_\_\_\_\_. (happy)
- Ans. **Happily.**
- (e) Do your work \_\_\_\_\_. (neat)
- Ans. **Neatly.**

# VALUE BASED QUESTION

- **Why should we not cut trees?**
- **Ans.** We should not cut trees because:
  - (i) Trees give us fruits, flowers, leaves, bark, branches, wood, roots, edibles and shelter etc.
  - (ii) They also purify the air and increase the beauty of the landscape.