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## CLASS 12TH ENGLISH NOTES

### Unit 5: The Giving Tree (by Shel Silverstein)

Complete Text Translation, Detailed Chapter Analysis, Glossary & Complete Solved Exercise Questions

Prepared for Academic Session 2026-27

Published & Distributed by: Muhammad Ali Photostate, Zafarwal

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## Learning Outcomes & Pre-Reading

**Learning Outcomes Summary:** Students will learn to speak fluently across various contexts, use inference and deduction to recognize implicit meanings, interpret figures of speech (e.g., oxymoron, euphemism), analyze word nuances, write engaging narrative texts with effective pacing and precise language, and organize content appropriately for target audiences.

### Pre-Reading Questions & Answers

**Q1: What do you think a true friend should do for someone he loves?**

**Answer:** A true friend should offer unconditional support, care, and guidance. True friends remain loyal during difficult times, make sacrifices without expecting rewards, and selflessly contribute to the well-being and happiness of the person they love.

## Q2: Have you ever received help or kindness from someone? How did it make you feel?

**Answer:** Yes, I have received help from my teachers and family members during challenging moments. It made me feel deeply valued, respected, and grateful, inspiring me to extend similar kindness and generosity to others in need.

## Complete Paragraph-by-Paragraph English to Urdu Translation

### Part 1: The Boy's Childhood and Playfulness

Once there was a tree... and she loved a little boy. And every day the boy would come and he would gather her leaves and make them into crowns and play king of the forest. He would climb up her trunk and swing from her branches and eat apples. And they would play hide-and-go-seek. And when he was tired, he would sleep in her shade. And the boy loved the tree... very much. And the tree was happy.

ایک دفعہ کا ذکر ہے کہ ایک درخت تھا... اور وہ ایک چھوٹے لڑکے سے محبت کرتی تھی۔ اور ہر روز لڑکا آتا اور وہ اس کے پتے اکٹھے کرتا اور ان کے تاج بنا کر جنگل کا بادشاہ بن کر کھیلتا۔ وہ اس کے تنے پر چڑھتا اور اس کی شاخوں سے جھولتا اور سیب کھاتا۔ اور وہ آنکھ میچولی کھیلتے۔ اور جب وہ تھک جاتا، تو وہ اس کے سائے میں سو جاتا۔ اور لڑکا درخت سے بہت محبت کرتا تھا... بہت زیادہ۔ اور درخت خوش تھی۔

### Part 2: Youth and the Need for Money

But time went by. And the boy grew older. And the tree was often alone. Then one day the boy came to the tree and the tree said, "Come, Boy, come and climb up my trunk and swing from my branches and eat apples and play in my shade and be happy."

"I am too big to climb and play," said the boy. "I want to buy things and have fun. I want some money?"

"I'm sorry," said the tree, "but I have no money. I have only leaves and apples. Take my apples, Boy, and sell them in the city. Then you will have money and you will be happy."

And so, the boy climbed up the tree and gathered her apples and carried them away. And the tree was happy.

لیکن وقت گزر رہا تھا۔ اور لڑکا بڑا ہو گیا۔ اور درخت اکثر اکیلی رہ جاتی۔ پھر ایک دن لڑکا درخت کے پاس آیا اور درخت نے کہا، "آؤ، لڑکے، آؤ اور میرے تنے پر چڑھو اور میری شاخوں سے جھولو اور سیب کھاؤ اور میرے سائے میں کھیلو اور خوش رہو۔"

لڑکے نے کہا، "میں اب چڑھنے اور کھیلنے کے لیے بہت بڑا ہو گیا ہوں۔ میں چیزیں خریدنا اور تفریح کرنا چاہتا ہوں۔ مجھے کچھ پیسے چاہئیں۔"

درخت نے کہا، "مجھے افسوس ہے، لیکن میرے پاس پیسے نہیں ہیں۔ میرے پاس صرف پتے اور سیب ہیں۔ میرے سیب لے جاؤ، لڑکے، اور انہیں شہر میں بیچ دو۔ پھر تمہارے پاس پیسے ہوں گے اور تم خوش ہو جاؤ گے۔"

اور یوں، لڑکا درخت پر چڑھا اور اس کے سیب اکٹھے کیے اور انہیں لے گیا۔ اور درخت خوش تھی۔

### Part 3: Adulthood and the Need for a House

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

And then one day the boy came back and the tree shook with joy and she said, "Come, Boy, climb up my trunk and swing from my branches and be happy."

"I am too busy to climb trees," said the boy. "I want a house to keep me warm," he said. "I want a wife and I want children, and so I need a house. Can you give me a house?"

"I have no house," said the tree. "The forest is my house, but you may cut off my branches and build a house. Then you will be happy."

And so, the boy cut off her branches and carried them away to build his house. And the tree was happy.

لیکن لڑکا کافی عرصے تک دور رہا... اور درخت اداس تھی۔

اور پھر ایک دن لڑکا واپس آیا اور درخت خوشی سے جھوم اٹھی اور اس نے کہا، "آؤ، لڑکے، میرے تنے پر چڑھو اور میری شاخوں سے جھولو اور خوش رہو۔"

لڑکے نے کہا، "میں درختوں پر چڑھنے کے لیے بہت مصروف ہوں۔ مجھے اپنے آپ کو گرم رکھنے کے لیے ایک گھر چاہیے۔ مجھے ایک بیوی اور بچے چاہئیں، اور اس لیے مجھے ایک گھر کی ضرورت ہے۔ کیا تم مجھے ایک گھر دے سکتی ہو؟"

درخت نے کہا، "میرے پاس کوئی گھر نہیں ہے۔ جنگل ہی میرا گھر ہے، لیکن تم میری شاخیں کاٹ سکتے ہو اور گھر بنا سکتے ہو۔ پھر تم خوش ہو جاؤ گے۔"

اور یوں، لڑکے نے اس کی شاخیں کاٹ لیں اور اپنا گھر بنانے کے لیے انہیں لے گیا۔ اور درخت خوش تھی۔

#### Part 4: Middle Age and the Need for a Boat

But the boy stayed away for a long time. And when he came back, the tree was so happy she could hardly speak. "Come, Boy," she whispered, "come and play."

"I am too old and sad to play," said the boy. "I want a boat that will take me far away from here. Can you give me a boat?"

"Cut down my trunk and make a boat," said the tree. "Then you can sail away... and be happy."

And so, the boy cut down her trunk and made a boat and sailed away. And the tree was happy... but not really.

لیکن لڑکا کافی عرصے تک دور رہا۔ اور جب وہ واپس آیا، تو درخت اتنی خوش تھی کہ بمشکل بول پار ہی تھی۔ اس نے سرگوشی کی، "آؤ، لڑکے، آؤ اور کھیلو۔"

لڑکے نے کہا، "میں کھیلنے کے لیے بہت بوڑھا اور اداس ہوں۔ مجھے ایک ایسی کشتی چاہیے جو مجھے یہاں سے دور لے جائے۔ کیا تم مجھے ایک کشتی دے سکتی ہو؟"

درخت نے کہا، "میرا تنہا کاٹ لو اور کشتی بنا لو۔ پھر تم دور جا سکتے ہو... اور خوش رہ سکتے ہو۔"

اور یوں، لڑکے نے اس کا تنہا کاٹ دیا اور ایک کشتی بنا کر دور چلا گیا۔ اور درخت خوش تھی... لیکن واقعی نہیں۔

#### Part 5: Old Age and the Final Rest

And after a long time, the boy came back again.

"I am sorry, Boy," said the tree, "but I have nothing left to give you. My apples are gone."

"My teeth are too weak for apples," said the boy.

"My branches are gone," said the tree. "You cannot swing on them—"

"I am too old to swing on branches," said the boy.

"My trunk is gone," said the tree. "You cannot climb—"

"I am too tired to climb," said the boy.

"I am sorry," sighed the tree. "I wish that I could give you something... but I have nothing left. I am just an old stump. I am sorry...."

"I don't need very much now," said the boy. "Just a quiet place to sit and rest. I am very tired."

"Well," said the tree, straightening herself up as much as she could, "well, an old stump is good for sitting and resting. Come, Boy, sit down. Sit down and rest."

And the boy did.

And the tree was happy.

اور ایک طویل عرصے کے بعد، لڑکا پھر واپس آیا۔

درخت نے کہا، "مجھے افسوس ہے، لڑکے، لیکن میرے پاس تمہیں دینے کے لیے کچھ باقی نہیں بچا۔ میرے سب ختم ہو گئے ہیں۔"

لڑکے نے کہا، "میرے دانت سیبوں کے لیے بہت کمزور ہیں۔"

درخت نے کہا، "میری شاخیں ختم ہو گئی ہیں۔ تم ان پر جھول نہیں سکتے۔"

لڑکے نے کہا، "میں شاخوں پر جھولنے کے لیے بہت بوڑھا ہو چکا ہوں۔"

درخت نے کہا، "میرا تنا ختم ہو چکا ہے۔ تم چڑھ نہیں سکتے۔"

لڑکے نے کہا، "میں چڑھنے کے لیے بہت تھکا ہوا ہوں۔"

درخت نے آہ بھری، "مجھے افسوس ہے۔ کاش میں تمہیں کچھ دے سکتی... لیکن میرے پاس کچھ باقی نہیں بچا۔ میں صرف ایک پرانا ٹھونڈ (کٹا ہوا تنا) ہوں۔ مجھے افسوس ہے...."

لڑکے نے کہا، "مجھے اب زیادہ کچھ نہیں چاہیے۔ صرف بیٹھنے اور آرام کرنے کے لیے ایک پرسکون جگہ۔ میں بہت تھکا ہوا ہوں۔"

"ٹھیک ہے،" درخت نے جتنا ہوسکا خود کو سیدھا کرتے ہوئے کہا، "ٹھیک ہے، بیٹھنے اور آرام کرنے کے لیے ایک پرانا ٹھونڈ اچھا ہوتا ہے۔ آؤ، لڑکے، بیٹھ جاؤ۔ بیٹھ جاؤ اور آرام کرو۔"

اور لڑکے نے ایسا ہی کیا۔

اور درخت خوش تھی۔

## Theme & About the Author

### Theme

The theme of "The Giving Tree" by Shel Silverstein centers on unconditional love and selfless sacrifice. The tree represents a maternal or guardian figure who gives everything without expecting anything in return.

Throughout the story, the boy takes from the tree at different stages of his life, demonstrating human greed and changing priorities. The tree's persistent happiness in giving highlights the idea that true love involves selflessness. Concurrently, it exposes the potential imbalance in one-sided relationships where one party gives entirely while the other only receives.

### About the Author

Shel Silverstein (1930–1999) was a celebrated American writer, poet, cartoonist, and songwriter. Famous for his unique humor and imaginative literary style, his works combine simple language with profound philosophical

morals. Some of his most famous books include *The Giving Tree* and *Where the Sidewalk Ends*.

## Vocabulary Glossary

| Word      | English Meaning                                | Urdu Meaning (اردو معنی) |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Quiet     | Calm, silent, not noisy                        | پرسکون / خاموش           |
| Sail      | To travel on water in a boat                   | بحری سفر کرنا            |
| Shade     | A cool, dark area protected from the sun       | سایہ                     |
| Shook     | Moved quickly back and forth                   | جھوم اٹھی / ہل گئی       |
| Sighed    | Breathed out slowly showing tiredness/sadness  | آہ بھری                  |
| Stump     | The remaining part of a tree after being cut   | ٹھونٹھ / کاٹا ہوا تنہ    |
| Trunk     | The main, thick stem of a tree                 | درخت کا تنہ              |
| Warm      | Having a comfortable, slightly hot temperature | گرم / آرام دہ            |
| Whispered | Spoke very softly or quietly                   | سرگوشی کی                |

## Reading & Critical Thinking Exercises

### A. Comprehension Questions & Answers

#### 1. Who are the main characters in the story?

**Answer:** The main characters in the story are a loving, selfless tree and a boy who grows into an old man over time.

#### 2. How did the boy first play with the tree?

**Answer:** In his childhood, the boy gathered the tree's leaves to make crowns and play king of the forest. He also climbed her trunk, swung from her branches, ate her apples, played hide-and-go-seek, and slept in her shade.

### 3. Why was the tree happy when the boy took her apples, branches, and trunk?

**Answer:** The tree felt happy because her love for the boy was entirely unconditional. Giving her resources to fulfill the boy's needs brought her genuine joy, even though it caused her physical loss.

### 4. What did the boy want when he grew older?

**Answer:** As he grew older, the boy's priorities shifted toward material desires: first he wanted money to buy things, then a house for a family, and later a boat to sail far away.

### 5. How did the boy use the tree's apples, branches, and trunk?

**Answer:**

- **Apples:** Sold in the city to earn money.
- **Branches:** Cut off to build a house for his family.
- **Trunk:** Cut down to build a boat for sailing away.

### 6. How did the tree feel when the boy stayed away for a long time?

**Answer:** The tree felt lonely and sad whenever the boy stayed away for extended periods because she deeply missed his presence.

### 7. What lesson does the story teach us about love and giving?

**Answer:** The story teaches that true love involves unconditional giving and selflessness. However, it also warns against taking loved ones for granted without offering gratitude or reciprocation.

### 8. How do the boy's needs change as he grows older?

**Answer:** His needs evolve from simple, joyful playfulness in childhood, to financial wealth in youth, domestic shelter in adulthood, escape in middle age, and finally rest and quiet solitude in old age.

### 9. What does the stump symbolize at the end of the story?

**Answer:** The stump symbolizes absolute sacrifice, complete self-emptying love, and enduring devotion that offers shelter and comfort even when stripped of all material value.

#### 10. Why is the story considered a tale of selfless friendship?

**Answer:** It is considered a tale of selfless friendship because the tree continually gives away every part of her body to ensure the boy's well-being without asking for anything in return.

### B. Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)

| # | Question                                   | Options                                                            | Correct Answer                  |
|---|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 | Who is happy in the story?                 | a) the boy<br>b) the tree<br>c) both<br>d) neither                 | <b>b) the tree</b>              |
| 2 | What does the boy first play with?         | a) apples<br>b) leaves<br>c) stump<br>d) boat                      | <b>b) leaves</b>                |
| 3 | Why does the boy take the tree's branches? | a) to sell<br>b) to build a house<br>c) to eat<br>d) to play       | <b>b) to build a house</b>      |
| 4 | What does the tree become in the end?      | a) apple tree<br>b) stump<br>c) branches<br>d) boat                | <b>b) stump</b>                 |
| 5 | What lesson does the story teach?          | a) honesty<br>b) friendship & love<br>c) hard work<br>d) adventure | <b>b) friendship &amp; love</b> |

### C. Inference & Deduction Passage Exercise

**Passage:** "The old house on the hill was dark, its windows boarded up. Every evening, a single light flickered in the attic, but no one ever saw anyone enter or leave the house. The neighbours whispered about strange noises at night."

**Write down 2-3 inferences about what might be happening in the house:**

- **Inference 1:** Someone is living in secret inside the attic or using it as a hidden workspace, avoiding public entrance through standard doors.
- **Inference 2:** The house is intentionally kept boarded up and dark to create an impression of being abandoned while hidden activities take place at night.
- **Inference 3:** The nocturnal light and strange noises suggest nighttime operations, such as secret research, illegal storage, or unusual habits.

## Vocabulary & Grammar Exercises

### Figurative Language Question Solution

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**Question:** How does the simile "Her smile was like sunshine after rain." use figurative language to convey emotion? What word relationships does it rely on, and how does it differ from a literal description?

**Answer:**

- **Emotion Conveyed:** The simile conveys relief, warmth, hope, and joy replacing sadness or distress. "Sunshine after rain" evokes a sense of comfort after difficulty.
- **Word Relationships:** It relies on contrasting images—rain (representing sadness, tears, or trouble) and sunshine (representing happiness, clarity, and relief).
- **Difference from Literal Description:** A literal description would state, "She smiled happily after being sad." The simile creates vivid sensory imagery that allows the reader to feel the emotional impact.

## Oral Communication Skills

### Group Activity Plan: Confident Speaking in Context

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**Context Selected:** Panel Discussion / Role-play on Conflict Resolution.

**Scenario:** Balancing human material consumption with environmental preservation (inspired by *The Giving Tree*).

**Execution Strategy:**

- **Role 1 (Moderator):** Introduces the discussion on environmental conservation vs. resource exploitation with clear articulation and open questions.
- **Role 2 (Environmentalist):** Expresses strong arguments advocating for nature protection, maintaining steady eye contact and assertive body language.
- **Role 3 (Industrialist/Consumer):** Presents needs for economic growth using structured persuasive arguments.
- **Peer Feedback Criteria:** Evaluated on vocal clarity, eye contact, fluency, appropriate facial expressions, and persuasive tone.

## Writing Skills Exercises

### Narrative Writing Exercise Solution

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**Question:** What real-life experience could you turn into a narrative, and how would you structure its events to build excitement?

**Selected Real-Life Experience:** Getting lost during a group mountain hiking expedition in bad weather and finding the path back.

**Structured Event Sequence to Build Excitement:**

- **1. Orientation/Setup:** Describe the bright morning start, setting a cheerful tone with vivid sensory details of nature.
- **2. Inciting Incident:** Sudden weather change—dense fog descends, and I stray away from the main trail while taking photos.
- **3. Rising Action & Pacing:** Realizing I am alone; phone signals drop; rustling sounds in the woods increase anxiety; darkness sets in.
- **4. Climax:** Spotting a distant flashlight through the fog and using an emergency whistle to signal my location.
- **5. Falling Action:** Reconnecting with the search team and sharing warm tea.
- **6. Resolution & Reflection:** Returning safely home with a deep appreciation for safety precautions and team support.

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