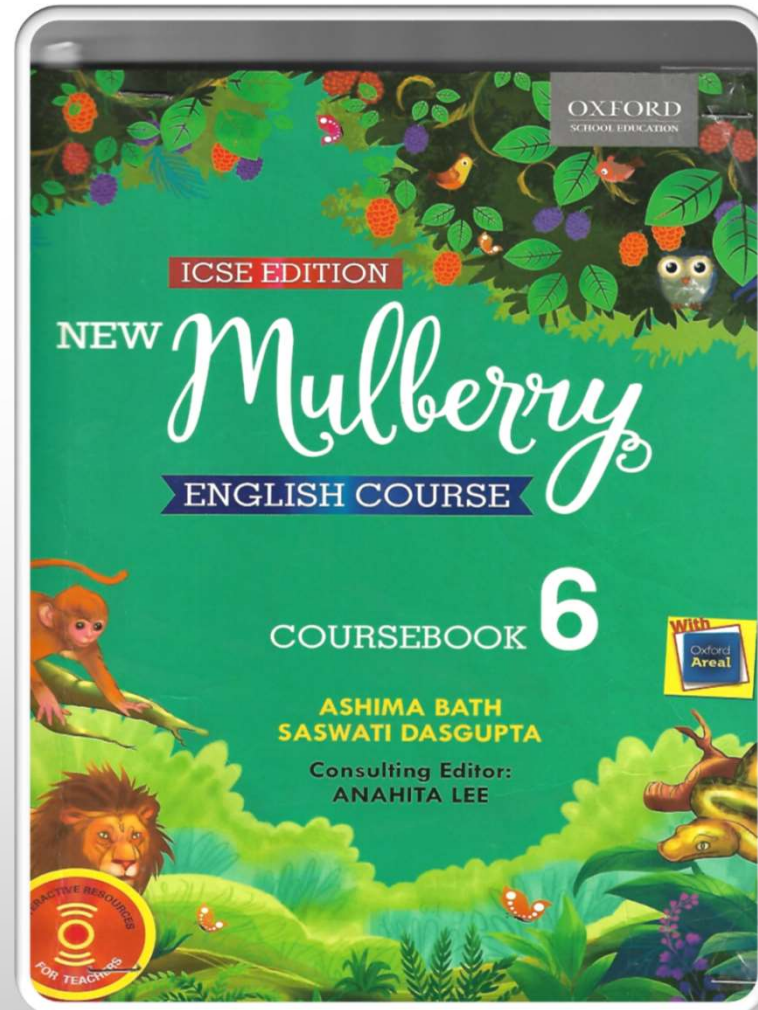
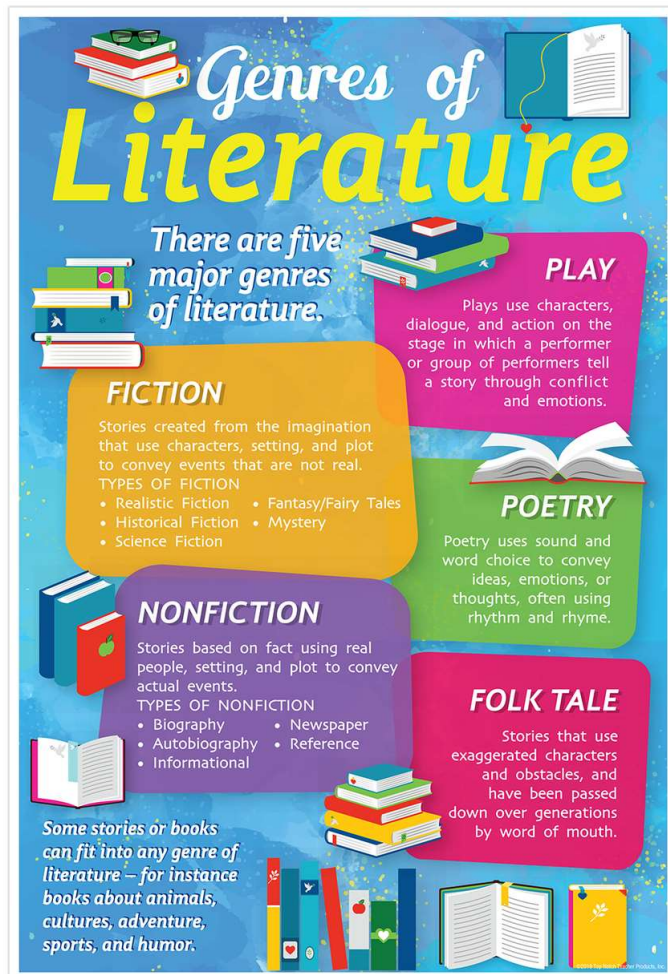


GRADE - 6 ENGLISH –II LITERATURE





Poetry
Drama
Prose

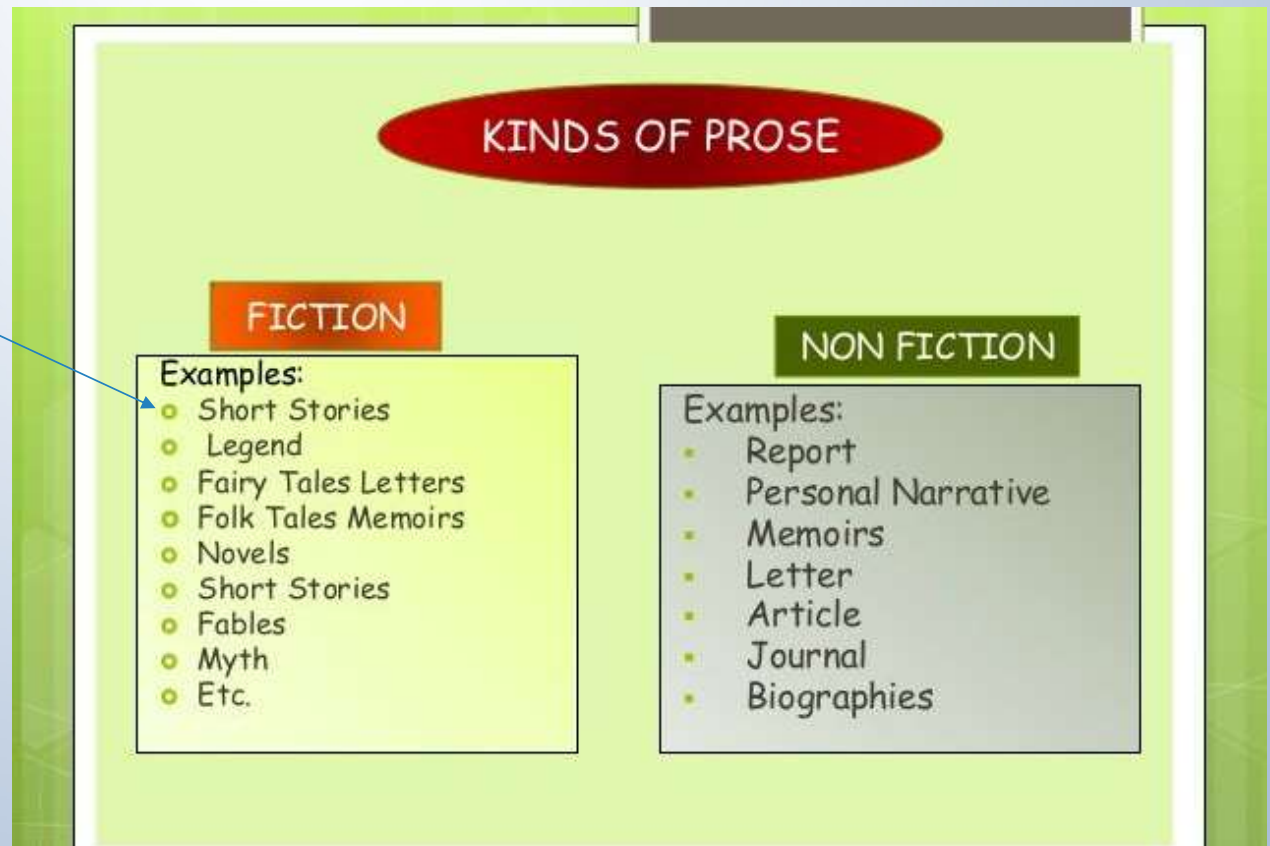


Prose

The Cherry Tree

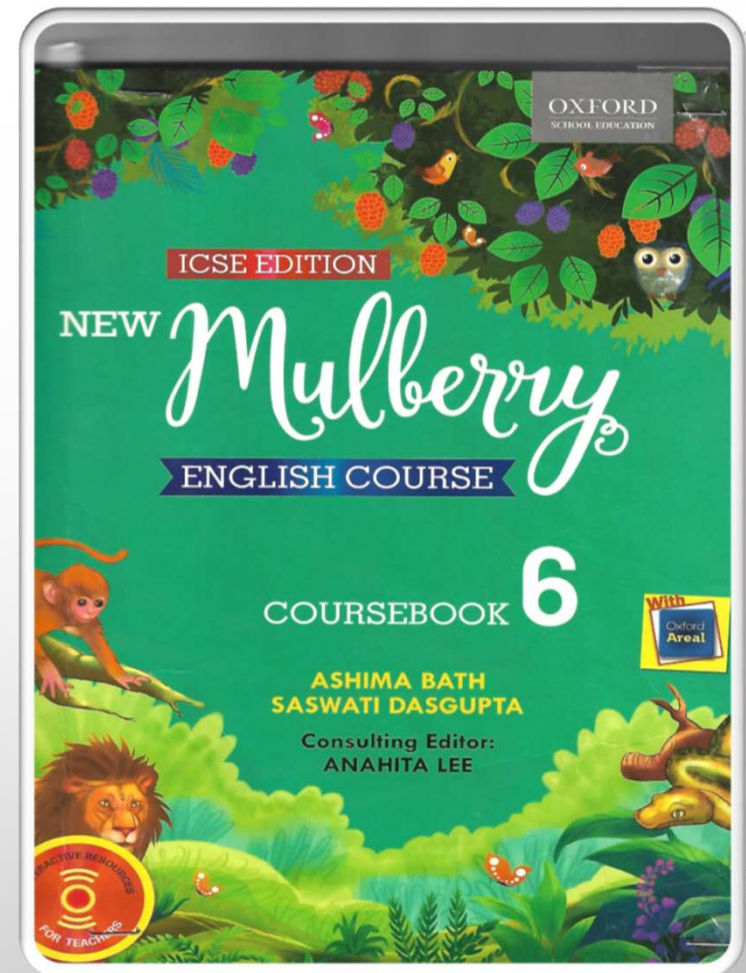
- By Ruskin Bond

The Cherry Tree (A Short Story)



LET'S BEGIN

- PLEASE TAKE OUT YOUR NEW MULBERRY ENGLISH COURSEBOOK.
- OPEN IT AT PAGE NUMBER 30. THE CHERRY TREE BY RUSKIN BOND.
- EACH PAGE IS EXPLAINED IN THE FORM OF A SIMPLE SUMMARY IN THE FOLLOWING SLIDES .
- TO FURTHER HELP YOU, A GLOSSARY (MEANINGS OF DIFFICULT WORDS) IS SEPARATELY GIVEN. (DO NOT WRITE THE GLOSSARY IN NOTEBOOK)
- CLICK THE GIVEN LINK AND LISTEN TO THE AUDIO CAREFULLY.
- [HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=M3OOFRZNJQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M3OOFRZNJQ)



THE CHERRY TREE

- RUSKIN BOND

About The Author

Ruskin bond (b.1934) was born in Kasauli, India. He now lives in Mussoorie. The first book he read as a child was Ali in wonderland: and other tall tales. The room on the roof was published when he was 21, and was partly based on his experience in Dehradun. Though he has authored several collections, Rusty's adventures, The Panther's Moon, The Night Train at Deoli, and Our Trees Still Grow at Dehra are his most popular story collections.



PROSE elements

Character

Who is in
the story

Setting

Where and
when

Plot

What happens
in story

Point of View

Who is telling
the story

Theme

Lesson or
message of a
story

Mood

Feeling created
using story
details

Elements of the Prose- The Cherry Tree

- **CHARACTERS**: RAKESH AND HIS GRANDFATHER
- **SETTING** – OUTSKIRTS OF MUSSOORIE
- **POINT OF VIEW**- THIRD PERSON , NARRATOR OR THE AUTHOR IS TELLING THE STORY.
- **THEME**- CARE FOR ANIMALS AND PLANTS . IT HAS UNDERLYING **THEMES** OF STRUGGLE, DEDICATION, PRIDE, GROWTH AND RESPONSIBILITY
- **MOOD**- FEELING OF LOVE FOR NATURE AND HAPPINESS
- **PLOT**- RAKESH PLANTS A SEED THAT FACES A LOT OF DIFFICULTIES BEFORE GROWING INTO A CHERRY TREE.



NOW WHEN YOU
HAVE GONE
THROUGH THE VIDEO
AND HAVE
UNDERSTOOD
ELEMENTS OF A
PROSE, LET'S READ
THE TEXT .


PAGE NUMBER 30.

EXPLANATION

Rakesh, a six year old boy, lived with his grandfather on the outskirts of Mussoorie. Rakesh's grandfather was a retired forest ranger and had a little cottage. One day Rakesh walked home from the Mussoorie bazaar, eating sweet and sour cherries. He was on his way home from his school. He was left with only three cherries. He offered his grandfather a cherry and quickly ate the other two.


The Cherry Tree

2




Can you identify these trees? Choose from the list given to you.


a. Gulmohar




b. Laburnum




c. Deodar





d. Banyan



e. Coconut



Have you ever planted a sapling or taken care of one in your garden? Is it easy to plant a tree? Read on and find out. 

 One day, when Rakesh was six, he walked home from the Mussoorie bazaar eating cherries. They were a little sweet, a little sour, small, bright red cherries, which had come all the way from the Kashmir Valley.

Here in the Himalayan foothills where Rakesh lived, there were not many fruit trees. The soil was stony and the dry cold winds stunted¹ the growth of most plants. But on the more sheltered slopes² there were forests of oak and deodar.

Rakesh lived with his grandfather on the outskirts³ of Mussoorie, just where the forest began. Grandfather was a retired forest ranger. He had a little cottage outside the town.

Rakesh was on his way home from school when he bought the cherries. He paid fifty paise for the bunch. It took him about half an hour to walk home, and by the time he reached the cottage, there were only three cherries left.

'Have a cherry, Grandfather,' he said, as soon as he saw his grandfather in the garden.

Grandfather took one cherry and Rakesh promptly ate the other two. He kept the last seed

¹stunted: prevented (growth or development) ²slopes: surfaces of land that are higher at one end than the other
³outskirts: outer boundaries

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PAGE NUMBER 31

EXPLANATION

Rakesh kept on rolling the last seed of cherry round and round until its strong flavour had gone. He took out the seed on his palm and asked his grandfather if the cherry seeds were lucky. Grandfather replied yes and explained him that nothing is lucky if you put it away, which means that nothing is lucky if it is not used. Grandfather advised Rakesh that if he wanted luck, he should plant the seed and that is how it would be in use. Rakesh planted the cherry seed.

During winter evenings, Rakesh and his grandfather used to spend time sitting near a charcoal fire. Grandfather used to tell Rakesh stories of people who turned into animals and in turn Rakesh would read him from the newspaper.

in his mouth for some time, rolling it round and round on his tongue until all the tang⁴ had gone. Then he placed the seed on the palm of his hand and studied it.

'Are cherry seeds lucky?' asked Rakesh.

'Of course.'

'Then I'll keep it.'

'Nothing is lucky if you put it away. If you want luck, you must put it to some use.'

'What can I do with a seed?'

'Plant it.'

So Rakesh found a small spade and began to dig up a flower bed⁵.

'Hey, not there,' said Grandfather. 'I've sown mustard in that bed. Plant it in that shady corner, where it won't be disturbed.'

Rakesh went to a corner of the garden where the earth was soft. He did not have to dig. He pressed the seed into the soil with his thumb and it went right in.

Then he had his lunch and ran off to play cricket with his friends, and forgot all about the cherry seed.

When it was winter in the hills, a cold wind blew down from the snows and went *whoo—whoo—whoo* in the deodar trees and the garden was dry and bare. In the evenings, Grandfather and Rakesh sat over a charcoal fire and Grandfather told Rakesh stories—stories about people who turned into animals, and in turn Rakesh would read to him from the newspaper. Grandfather's eyesight being rather weak. Rakesh found the newspaper very dull—especially after the stories—but Grandfather wanted all the news...

They knew it was spring when the wild duck flew north again, to Siberia. Early in the morning, when he got up to chop wood and light a fire, Rakesh saw the V-shaped formation⁶ streaming northwards and heard the calls of the birds clearly through the thin mountain air.

One morning in the garden, he bent to pick up what he thought was a small twig and found to his surprise that it was well-rooted. He stared at it for a moment, then ran to fetch

⁴tang: strong taste or flavour

⁵flower bed: a portion of ground in a garden or park where flowers are grown

⁶V-shaped formation: a shape like the letter V formed by a flock of birds flying together



Where did Rakesh live?
What did Grandfather
tell Rakesh to do with the
cherry seed?

Grandfather, calling, 'Dada, come and look, the cherry tree has come up!'

'What cherry tree?' asked Grandfather, who had forgotten about it.

'The seed we planted last year—look, it's come up!'

Rakesh went down on his haunches⁷, while Grandfather bent almost double and peered down at the tiny tree. It was about four inches high.

'Yes, it's a cherry tree,' said Grandfather. 'You should water it now and then.'

Rakesh ran indoors and came back with a bucket of water. 'Don't drown it!' said Grandfather.

Rakesh gave it a sprinkling and circled it with pebbles.

He looked at the tree every morning but it did not seem to be growing very fast. So he stopped looking at it—except quickly, out of the corner of his eye. After a week or two, when he allowed himself to look at it properly, he found that it had grown—at least an inch!

That year the monsoon rains came early and Rakesh plodded⁸ to and from the school in raincoat and gumboots. Ferns sprang from the trunks of the trees, strange-looking lilies came up in the long grass, and even when it wasn't raining, the trees dripped and mist came curling up the valley. The cherry tree grew quickly in this season.

It was about two feet high when a goat entered the garden and ate all the leaves. Only the main stem and two thin branches remained.

'Never mind,' said Grandfather, seeing that Rakesh was upset. 'It will grow again: cherry trees are tough.'

Towards the end of the rainy season new leaves appeared on the tree. Then a woman cutting grass cut the cherry tree in two.

When Grandfather saw what had happened, he went after the woman and scolded her; but the damage could not be repaired.

'Maybe it will die now,' said Rakesh.

'Maybe,' said Grandfather.

How did Rakesh and Grandfather know that it was spring time?
Where did the wild duck fly in spring?



⁷went down on his haunches: crouched close to the ground, balancing the body on his feet ⁸plodded: walked with heavy steps

Page number 32

Explanation

One morning Rakesh saw a twig in the garden but soon he realised that it was the cherry tree which has come out of the seed he planted last year. Both Rakesh and his grandfather had almost forgotten about the seed, so they were surprised and happy to see the plant. After grandfather's suggestion Rakesh watered the plant and circled it with small stones.

When the cherry tree was about two feet high, one day a goat entered the garden and ate all the leaves. Only the main stem and two thin branches of the trees were left. Seeing this Rakesh became very sad, but his grandfather cheered him up and told him that the cherry trees are tough, it will grow again. By the end of the rainy season the cherry tree had new leaves but then a woman cutting grass cut the cherry tree in two.

Rakesh and his Grandfather thought that probably the cherry tree would die.

Page Number 33 Explanation

But the cherry tree had no intention of dying.

By the time summer came round again, it had sent out several new shoots with tender green leaves. Rakesh had grown taller too. He was eight now, a sturdy boy with curly black hair and deep black eyes. Blackberry eyes, Grandfather called them.

That monsoon Rakesh went home to his village, to help his father and mother with the planting and ploughing and sowing. He was thinner but stronger when he came back to Grandfather's house at the end of the rains, to find that the cherry tree had grown another foot. It was now up to his chest.

Even when there was rain, Rakesh would sometimes water the tree. He wanted it to know that he was there.

One day he found a bright green praying mantis⁹ perched on a branch, peering at him with bulging eyes. Rakesh let it remain there. It was the cherry tree's first visitor.

The next visitor was a hairy caterpillar, who started making a meal of the leaves. Rakesh removed it quickly and dropped it on a heap of dry leaves.

'Come back when you're a butterfly,' he said.

Winter came early. The cherry tree bent low with the weight of snow. Field-mice sought¹⁰ shelter in the roof of the cottage. The road from the valley was blocked, and for several days there was no newspaper and this made Grandfather quite grumpy. His stories began to have unhappy endings.

In February it was Rakesh's birthday. He was nine—and the tree was two, but almost as tall as Rakesh.

One morning, when the sun came out, Grandfather came into the garden. 'Let some warmth get into my bones,' he said.

He stopped in front of the cherry tree, stared at it for a few moments, and then called out, 'Rakesh! Come and look! Come quickly before it falls!'



Where did Rakesh go
 during the monsoons?
 What did he do there?
 What does the word
 intention mean?

Which two visitors
 did Rakesh find on the
 cherry tree?
 What did he do with
 them?

What made Grandfather
 unhappy in winter?
 What effect did this
 have on his stories?

⁹praying mantis: a small green insect with long front legs and big eyes ¹⁰sought: looked for

The cherry tree was tough and had no plans to die. Monsoon arrived and Rakesh went to his parent's village. When he came back the cherry tree was up to the height of his chest. Rakesh loved the tree so much that even when it rained, he sometimes watered it. He wanted the tree to know that he was always there to care for it.

Then came the time when the tree began to have visitors (insects, animals etc.) .The first visitor of the tree was a praying mantis and the next was a hairy caterpillar. During winter the road to the grandfather's village got blocked due to snow and he could not get the newspaper as a result of which his stories began to have sad ending. One day grandfather stood in front of the cherry tree and shouted to call Rakesh to show him something.

Page Number 34 Explanation

Rakesh and Grandfather gazed at the tree as though it had performed a miracle. There was a pale pink blossom at the end of a branch.

The following year there were more blossoms. And suddenly the tree was taller than Rakesh, even though it was less than half his age. And then it was taller than Grandfather, who was older than some of the oak trees.

But Rakesh had grown too. He could run and jump and climb trees as well as most boys, and he read a lot of books, although he still liked listening to Grandfather's tales.

What does the word
nectar mean?
 What does the word
blossoms mean?

In the cherry tree, bees came to feed on the nectar in the blossoms, and tiny birds pecked at the blossoms and broke them off. But the tree kept blossoming right through the spring and there were always more blossoms than birds.

That summer there were small cherries on the tree. Rakesh tasted one and spat it out. 'It's too sour,' he said.

'They'll be better next year,' said Grandfather.

But the birds liked them—especially the bigger birds, such as the bulbuls and scarlet minivets—and they flitted¹¹ in and out of the foliage¹², feasting on the cherries.

On a warm sunny afternoon, when even the bees looked sleepy, Rakesh was looking for Grandfather and couldn't find him in any of his favourite places around the house. Then he looked out of the bedroom window and saw Grandfather reclining on a cane chair under the cherry tree.



'There is just the right amount of shade here,' said Grandfather. 'And I like looking at the leaves.'

'They're pretty leaves,' said Rakesh. 'And they are always ready to dance, if there's a breeze.'

After Grandfather had come indoors, Rakesh went into the garden and lay down on the grass beneath the tree. He gazed up through the leaves at the great blue sky and turning on his side, he could see the mountain striding¹³ away into the clouds. He was still lying beneath the tree when the evening shadows crept across the garden. Grandfather came back and sat down beside Rakesh, and they waited in silence until it was dark.

¹¹flitted: moved lightly and quickly ¹²foliage: the leaves of a tree or plant ¹³striding: walking with long steps

Rakesh and his grandfather looked continuously with surprise at the cherry tree as if it did some magic. The tree began to have flowers!

Soon the tree had more flowers, bees came to feed on the nectar in the blossom .

With the arrival of summer, the tree had small but some sour cherries, which were eaten and enjoyed by birds like bulbuls and scarlet minivets, who moved quickly in and out of the green leaves.


One afternoon, Rakesh and grandfather sat under the cherry tree. They kept talking about the pretty dancing leaves and the amount of shade the tree gives.

Grandfather went inside the cottage but Rakesh lay down under the tree, looking at the sky through the leaves , he could see the mountains as if they were walking with long steps into the clouds. Rakesh sat there till evening , later grandfather also joined him until it was dark.

Page number 35 Explanation

Rakesh asked grandfather that why did he like the cherry tree so much that he wanted to see it only ,when there were so many trees in the forest.
 Grandfather replied that the tree was special because they planted it themselves.

At the end, Rakesh wondered what it felt like a God. He was surprised by how a small seed he planted had grown into a beautiful tree that provided fruit, shade , shelter to everyone. He considered it as a miracle that he had performed and was happy that his effort had been fulfilled.



'There are so many trees in the forest,' said Rakesh.
 'What's so special about this tree? Why do we like it so much?'

'We planted it ourselves,' said Grandfather. 'That's why it's special.'

'Just one small seed,' said Rakesh and he touched the smooth bark of the tree that had grown. He ran his hand along the trunk of the tree and put his finger to the tip of a leaf.

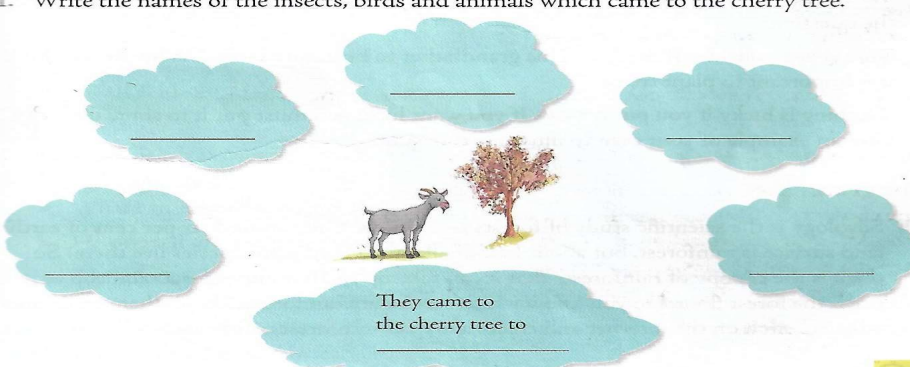
'I wonder,' he whispered, 'is this what it feels to be God?'

Ruskin Bond (b.1934) was born in Kasauli, India. He now lives in Mussoorie. The first book he read as a child was *Ali in Wonderland: And Other Tall Tales*. *The Room on the Roof* was published when he was 21, and was partly based on his experiences in Dehradun. Though he has authored several collections, *Rusty's Adventures*, *The Panther's Moon*, *The Night Train at Deoli*, and *Our Trees Still Grow at Dehra* are his most popular story collections.

MAKING CONNECTIONS

Quick answers

1. Write the names of the insects, birds and animals which came to the cherry tree.



They came to the cherry tree to

35

GOOD JOB!

- LET'S **BEGIN WRITING** WORK NOW.
- I HOPE YOU REMEMBER THERE ARE TWO NOTEBOOKS FOR ENGLISH. ONE FOR LANGUAGE AND ANOTHER FOR LITERATURE .
- OPEN YOUR LITERATURE NOTEBOOK.



To be written in
Literature notebook

PROSE
THE CHERRY TREE
BY RUSKIN BOND

Pre- Reading Activity

(Write/ draw/paste the given slide in your notebook)

PROSe eLEments	
Character Who is in the story	Setting Where and when
Plot What happens in story	Point of View Who is telling the story
Theme Lesson or message of a story	Mood feeling created using story details

Elements of the Prose- The Cherry Tree

Characters- Rakesh and his Grandfather

Setting - Outskirts of Mussoorie

Point of view- Third person , narrator or the author is telling the story.

Theme- Care for animals and plants . It has underlying themes of Struggle, Dedication, Pride, Growth and Responsibility

Mood- Feeling of love for nature and happiness

Plot- Rakesh plants a seed that faces a lot of difficulties before growing into a cherry tree.

REFERENCE TO CONTEXT

(Try writing answers , as done in class transaction, where the teacher guides you while taking rounds in the classroom. It would be appreciable if you can write enhanced or better answers. Following are sample answers to help you)

2. ‘Nothing is lucky if you put it away. If you want luck, you must put it to some use.’

a. Who said this and to whom?

Answers- Grandfather said this to Rakesh.

b. What was the speaker referring to?

Answer- Rakesh’s grandfather was referring to the cherry seed that Rakesh had with him.

c. How did the person being spoken to ‘put it to some use?’

Answer- Rakesh put it to some use by planting it into the ground.

3. ‘ Come back when you are butterfly,’ he said.

a. Who said this and to whom?

Answer- Rakesh said this to a hairy caterpillar.

To be written in Literature notebook

b. Why did the speaker not want the creature to stay?

Answer- Rakesh did not want the caterpillar to stay because it was feasting on the cherry tree's leaves.

c. What does this line tell you about the speaker?

Answer- This line tell us that Rakesh was a kind boy. Though the caterpillar was feasting on the cherry tree's leaves , he did not want to harm it.

4.he could see the mountain striding away into the clouds.

a. Who is referred to as 'he' in this line?

Answer- Rakesh is referred to as he in this line.

b. From where could 'he' see the mountain?

Answer- Rakesh could see the mountain from where he lay under the cherry tree.

c. What does the expression 'striding away into the clouds' mean?

Answer- The expression striding away into the cloud means that the range of mountains extended a great distance up to the horizon, where they were covered by the clouds. It appeared as if the mountains ended in the clouds.

To be written in Literature notebook

READ, REFLECT AND WRITE

5. How did Rakesh and his grandfather spend the winter evenings?

Answer- In the winter evenings , grandfather and Rakesh used to sit by a charcoal fire. Grandfather would tell Rakesh stories about people who turned into animals and in turn Rakesh would read to him from the newspaper.

6. Rakesh thought that the cherry tree had died on two occasions. Narrate the incident briefly.

Answer- Rakesh thought that the cherry tree had died on two occasions , when a goat had eaten all its leaves, and when a woman had chopped off half the tree while cutting the grass .

7. What question does Rakesh ask at the end of the story? What do you think he means by the question?

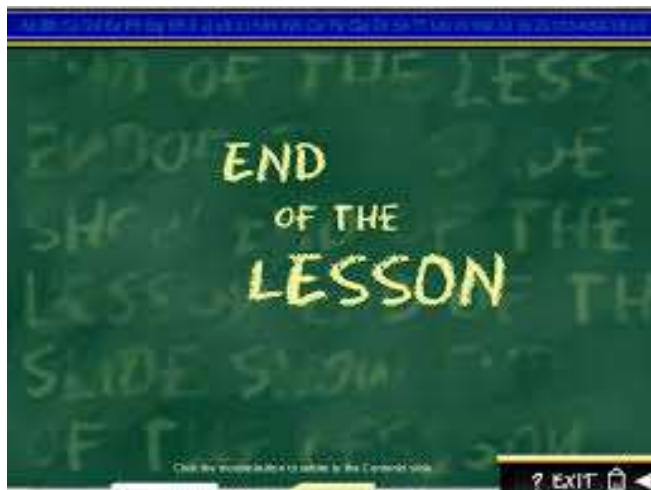
Answer- At the end of the story, Rakesh wondered what it felt to be God. He was amazed by how a small seed, he had planted had grown into a beautiful tree that provided fruits, shade and shelter to everyone. He considered it as a miracle that he had performed and was happy that his efforts had been fulfilled.

To be written in Literature notebook

HOME WORK

(Write answers of the following questions in your own words in your literature notebook)

8. Would you consider Rakesh and his grandfather to be nature lovers ? Why do you think it is important to plant trees.
9. ' Nothing is lucky if you put it away. If you want luck , you must put it to some use.' Give an example of your own to illustrate this quote.



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