

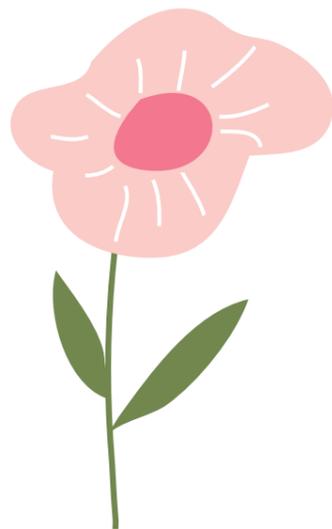
Different ways you could use the story at home or in crèche/pre-school.

Option 1

Read the story out-loud first and ask the children if they would like to play being the King in his garden, looking after his flowers. They can use a colourful scarf or piece of material to be the King's cloak. They could use soft toys or toy animals to be the children playing and the home-made flowers as the real flowers in the King's garden. When the children are being the King ask them how they feel when they see their garden has been damaged. You could use cushions or chairs to make the high walls to keep everyone out of the garden. How do they feel when the flowers can't get enough sun as the walls are too high?

Option 2

Read the first part of the story but don't read all the way to the end. Ask the children if they can find a solution to the King's dilemma. Tell them you are going to become the King — showing them the scarf you are going to wear when you are being the King. Ask the children if they can come up with a solution to the King's problem — how to allow children into his garden but also ensure the flowers don't get damaged. See what ideas and suggestions they come up with.



The King who loved his flowers

by **Joanna Parkes**

based on
The Selfish Giant
by Oscar Wilde





nce upon a time there was a King who loved his garden. He spent all day long looking after his flowers, watering them, weeding around them, singing to them and even wrapping a scarf around them on cold, chilly nights. The King didn't mind other people coming into his garden as long as

they were careful around his flowers. The King felt proud when people said "You have such a beautiful garden, you look after it so well". On sunny days his garden was often full of people having fun and the King was happy as long as no one damaged his lovely flowers.

One sunny day a group of children were running around the King's garden having fun. They had been told to stay away from the King's flowers, they had been told since they were young that the King would be very cross if his flowers were damaged... but... they were having so much fun that they forgot and ran across the flower-bed and damaged some of the King's favourite flowers.

When the King saw the broken flowers he felt very sad and upset, and told everyone to leave his garden at once. Most of his flowers were ok, there were only a few that had been broken but he was still annoyed. He locked the big gate into his garden and put a large sign that said

**GARDEN CLOSED.
NO MORE VISITORS.**

Then the King thought children might be able to climb over the hedge so he decided to build a big wall around his garden. The wall was very, very high, as high as the tallest tree.



At first the King was very happy with the wall. No one could get in and no one could hurt his flowers. Sometimes he saw the children on the other side of the wall, looking for somewhere to play. They looked sad and kept looking at the high wall that towered above them. The King felt a bit bad but decided that it was more important to look after his lovely flowers.

After a while the King began to feel a bit sad. As no one came in his garden anymore there was no one to tell him how lovely his garden was looking. He kind of missed the noise of children playing and people chatting. Then he noticed some of his flowers were starting to look less bright and colourful. He realised the wall was blocking the sun so the flowers weren't getting enough sunlight. "Oh dear, oh dear, oh dear" said the King. "Have I made a mistake building the big high wall? I miss having people in my garden. But what about my flowers? I don't want them to get damaged."

He decided to talk to the families who lived near-by and see if they could find an answer. Could they find a way so people could use the garden and the flowers would not get damaged.

Have you any ideas? What could the children do?

What could the King do?

A few days later the King took down the big wall. The children and the King walked around the garden and found big open spaces where the children could play without damaging any flowers, and other places where people could walk and admire the flowers. The King made new seats and benches where people could sit with flowers all around them and enjoy the view. From then on everyone enjoyed going to the King's garden and the King loved having people around to say "Oh you have such a lovely garden, you look after it so well".