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## The Cherry Tree Summary

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**Summary:** "The Cherry Tree" by Ruskin Bond is a heartwarming story about a young boy named Rakesh who plants a cherry seed and watches it grow over the years. Living in the Himalayan foothills where fruit trees are rare due to the harsh climate, Rakesh's act of planting the seed symbolizes hope, patience, and the bond between generations. Despite challenges like goats eating the leaves and a woman accidentally cutting the tree, the cherry tree grows strong and blossoms, paralleling Rakesh's own growth. The story highlights themes of care, perseverance, and the special connection humans share with nature.

### Key Elements

- **Setting:** Himalayan foothills near Mussoorie, a place with stony soil and cold winds.
- **Main Characters:** Rakesh, a young boy; Grandfather, his wise and caring guardian.
- **Plot:** Rakesh buys cherries, plants a seed, cares for the tree, faces setbacks, and witnesses the tree's growth alongside his own.
- **Themes:** Growth and patience, human-nature relationship, intergenerational bonding, resilience.

### Important Quotes

- “Nothing is lucky if you put it away. If you want luck, you must put it to some use.” – Grandfather’s advice about the cherry seed.
- “Is this what it feels to be God?” – Rakesh’s wonder as he touches the tree he has grown.

## Practice Set

### Level 1 – Easy

- Who is the main character of the story?
- Where does Rakesh live?

### Level 2 – Moderate

- Describe the challenges faced by the cherry tree in the story.
- What does the cherry tree symbolize in the story?

### Level 3 – Challenging

- Explain the significance of the relationship between Rakesh and his Grandfather in the story.
- How does the story portray the theme of patience and perseverance?

## Answer Key

- **Main character:** Rakesh, a young boy who plants the cherry seed.
- **Setting:** Himalayan foothills near Mussoorie.
- **Challenges:** Harsh climate, goats eating leaves, accidental cutting by a woman.
- **Symbolism:** The cherry tree represents growth, hope, and the bond between humans and nature.
- **Relationship:** Grandfather guides and supports Rakesh, sharing stories and wisdom, showing intergenerational learning.

- **Theme:** The story shows that with care and patience, even small efforts can lead to great results.

## Quick Reference

- **Author:** Ruskin Bond
- **Setting:** Mussoorie, Himalayan foothills
- **Main Characters:** Rakesh, Grandfather
- **Themes:** Growth, patience, nature, family bond

## Glossary

- **Stunted:** Prevented from growing to full size.
- **Outskirts:** The outer parts of a town or city.
- **Tang:** A sharp taste.
- **Yielding:** Giving way under pressure.
- **Haunches:** Sitting on bent legs.
- **Peered:** Looked carefully.
- **Plodded:** Walked slowly and heavily.
- **Scrambled:** Moved quickly with difficulty.
- **Scythe:** A tool with a curved blade for cutting grass.
- **Foliage:** Leaves of plants.
- **Grumpy:** Bad-tempered.
- **Gazed:** Looked steadily with admiration.
- **Flitted:** Moved quickly from place to place.
- **Reclining:** Leaning back.
- **Nightjar:** A nocturnal bird.
- **Cicadas:** Insects known for loud calls.

## Character Sketch of Rakesh

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**Introduction:** Rakesh is a young, curious, and caring boy who lives in the Himalayan foothills. He is the protagonist of the story and shows qualities of patience, responsibility, and love for nature.

## Key Traits

- **Curious and Observant:** Rakesh studies the cherry seed carefully and watches the tree grow over time.
- **Patient and Caring:** He waters the tree regularly and protects it from harm.
- **Resilient:** Despite setbacks like goats eating the leaves and the tree being cut, he continues to care for it.
- **Respectful and Loving:** He shares cherries with his Grandfather and values their relationship.

## Textual Evidence

- "He pressed the seed into the soil with his thumb and it went right in."
- "Rakesh gave it a sprinkling and circled it with pebbles."
- "He removed the caterpillar quickly and dropped it on a heap of dry leaves."

## Practice Set

### Level 1 – Easy

- What does Rakesh do with the cherry seed?

### Level 2 – Moderate

- How does Rakesh show patience in the story?

### Level 3 – Challenging

- Explain how Rakesh's actions reflect his love for nature.

## Answer Key

- Rakesh plants the cherry seed in the garden.
- He patiently waters and cares for the tree even when growth is slow.
- He protects the tree from harm and observes its growth with interest, showing respect and love for nature.

## Quick Reference

- **Rakesh:** Young, patient, caring, curious, resilient.

## Glossary

- **Resilient:** Able to recover quickly from difficulties.
- **Sprinkling:** Lightly watering.

## Themes in The Cherry Tree

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**Growth and Patience:** The story emphasizes that growth takes time and requires patience and care, as seen in Rakesh's nurturing of the cherry tree.

**Human-Nature Relationship:** It highlights the special bond between humans and nature, showing how caring for plants can bring joy and meaning.

**Intergenerational Bonding:** The relationship between Rakesh and his Grandfather shows the passing of knowledge, values, and love across generations.

**Resilience and Hope:** Despite challenges, both Rakesh and the cherry tree demonstrate resilience, symbolizing hope and perseverance.

## Practice Set

### Level 1 – Easy

- What is the main theme of the story?

### Level 2 – Moderate

- How does the story show the relationship between Rakesh and his Grandfather?

### Level 3 – Challenging

- Discuss how the cherry tree symbolizes hope and resilience.

## Answer Key

- The main theme is growth and patience.
- The story shows a loving and educational relationship between Rakesh and his Grandfather.
- The cherry tree's survival despite damage symbolizes hope and the ability to overcome difficulties.

## Quick Reference

- **Themes:** Growth, patience, nature, family, resilience.

## Literary Devices in The Cherry Tree

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**Symbolism:** The cherry tree symbolizes growth, hope, and the bond between humans and nature.

**Imagery:** Vivid descriptions of the Himalayan foothills, the garden, and the changing seasons create a strong visual picture.

**Personification:** The tree is given human-like qualities, such as being “tough” and having “visitors” like insects and birds.

**Dialogue:** Conversations between Rakesh and his Grandfather reveal important lessons and character traits.

**Metaphor:** Rakesh’s question, “Is this what it feels to be God?” compares the feeling of nurturing life to divine power.

## Examples from Text

- “Nothing is lucky if you put it away. If you want luck, you must put it to some use.” (Symbolism and dialogue)
- “The cherry tree bent low with the weight of snow.” (Personification)
- “He ran his hand along the trunk of the tree and put his finger to the tip of a leaf.” (Imagery)

## Practice Set

### Level 1 – Easy

- What does the cherry tree symbolize?

### Level 2 – Moderate

- Identify an example of personification in the story.

### Level 3 – Challenging

- Explain the metaphor used by Rakesh when he touches the tree.

### Answer Key

- The cherry tree symbolizes growth and hope.
- Personification example: The tree is described as “tough” and bending under snow.
- Rakesh’s metaphor compares nurturing the tree to feeling like God, highlighting the power of creation and care.

### Quick Reference

- **Symbolism:** Cherry tree as hope and growth.
- **Imagery:** Descriptions of nature and seasons.
- **Personification:** Tree given human traits.
- **Metaphor:** Feeling of being God through nurturing.