



2. 'Go!' and 'Come!'

Once there was a little boy who lived in a pretty little cottage. There was a lovely garden around the cottage. Different kinds of plants grew in the garden, and so there was a lot of work to do there. The plants had to be watered every day. They had to be given manure from time to time. They had to be cut and pruned at the right time. The garden needed weeding and cleaning. Everybody in the little boy's family helped to take care of the garden.

The boy had a very strict uncle who came to stay with them for a few days. The uncle believed in hard work and discipline. One day, he saw that the boy was playing around in the house.



"Little boy," said the uncle, "you would be far better at work. Your garden needs weeding sadly; go now and weed it, like a good child!"

But the little boy did not feel like weeding that day.

"I can't do it," he said.

"Oh, yes, you can," said the uncle.

"Well, I don't want to, not just now," said the little boy.

"But you must!" said his uncle. "Don't be naughty, but go at once and do your work! This is an order! Get up and go!"

The uncle was himself a hard-working man. He went away to carry on with his own work in another room, but the little boy sat still. He felt that his uncle was being unfair. His chin began to wobble, he had a lump in his throat and his eyes welled up.

Just then, his mother walked in.

"What's the matter, little boy?" she asked, "Why do you look so unhappy?"

"Uncle told me to weed the garden," said the little boy.

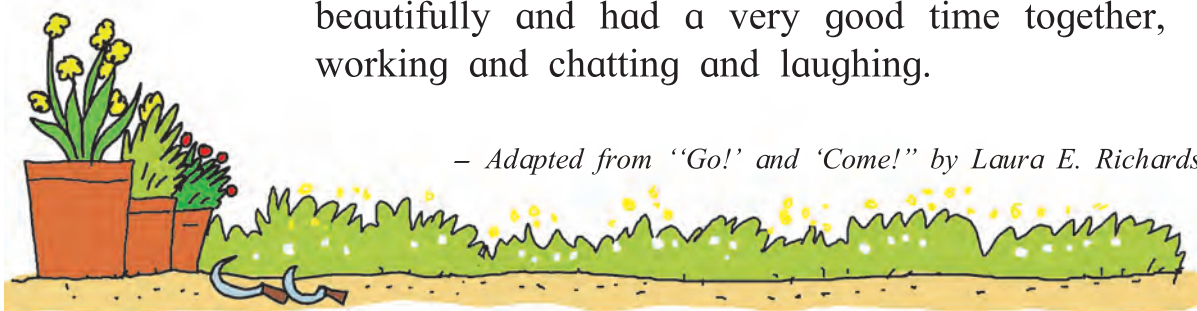
“Oh!” said his mother, “What fun that will be! I love to weed, and it is such a fine day! Can I come and help you to weed?”

“Why, yes!” said the boy.

“Come, let’s do it now,” said his mother.



The boy got up readily and went outside with his mother. The two of them weeded the garden beautifully and had a very good time together, working and chatting and laughing.



– Adapted from “Go!” and “Come!” by Laura E. Richards

- **cottage** : a small simple house. We usually see cottages in a rural area.
- **manure** : material mixed with soil to help plants grow.
- **pruned** : removed dead and unwanted parts of the plants to help them grow.
- **weeding** : removing troublesome, unwanted plants from a field or garden.
- **sadly** : badly, very much. Used with words like ‘needed’ or ‘wanted.’
- **welled up** : filled with water (tears).

Things to do :

1. Answer the following questions :
 - (a) Was it wrong to tell the boy to weed the garden ?
 - (b) Was the boy naughty ?
 - (c) Did the boy’s mother want him to work ?
2. Find and write the lines that tell us the following :
 - (a) How the boy’s family took care of the garden.
 - (b) The little boy was about to cry.
 - (c) The boy and his mother worked happily and well.
3. Write any two requests/orders, first using ‘Go....’ and then using, ‘Come, let’s....’ Which one would you use ?
4. Copy the words : * different * believed * discipline * naughty * readily.
5. Write 3-5 lines about any grown-up person you like. Also write how you spend time with that person.

