

The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett
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Chapter I - Little Miss Mary

Pages 1 to 5

- 1) What sort of child is Mary Lennox ? How old is she? Where does she live?
What about her parents?
- 2) Pick out all the adjectives describing her in this chapter. Give the number of the lines.
What can explain her personality?

“Mary had never thought of other people, but only of herself.” (lines 8-9)

“She only thought of herself, as she had always done”. (lines 79-80)

Which adjective best describes this type of behaviour?

- 3) Why doesn't Kamala come to take care of Mary?
Can you imagine what the name of this disease might be?
- 4) Why is Mary left all alone in her house?

5) Provide the appropriate linkwords:

Mary has no family left in India, she has to go and live with her uncle in England.

.....

..... Mary has no family left in India, she has to go and live with her uncle in England.

Pages 6 and 7

6) In which part of England is Mary going to live? Highlight the name of the county on the map:



7) Lines 103 to 105

Comment on the description Basil makes of Mary's uncle. Make suppositions by using the appropriate modals.

- 8) How does Mary travel from India to England?
On the map of the world provided by your teacher, highlight India and England and trace the route Mary might have taken.
- 9) Who meets her at the station?
- 10) Can you imagine what their relationship is going to be like?
- 11) Write the description of what Misselthwaite Manor looks like.
- 12) Is Mr Archibald Craven divorced? Single? A widower? Justify your answer by quoting from the text.
- 13) Pick out the sentence explaining that Mary is not eager to live with her uncle.

 **Pages 8 and 9**

- 14) Write the definition of the word “moor”:

[This link will help you to see what the moors look like :

<http://www.northyorkmoors-npa.gov.uk>]



Chapter II - Mary in Yorkshire

✚ Pages 9 to 13

- 1) How does Mary feel when she sees her uncle's house? Why?
- 2) Who is Martha? Pick out the words used to describe her. Compare her to Mary. (Use the appropriate linkwords).
- 3) Line 41 "My servant always **used to** dress me." What does Mary imply?
- 4) Lines 42-43 "I think you **should** learn to dress yourself."
"People **should** be able to take care of themselves."
What does the modal **should** express in these sentences?
- 5) What do we learn about Martha's social background and her family?
- 6) Who is Dickon? What do we learn about him?
- 7) Who first mentions **the secret garden**? Quote the relevant passage.

✚ Pages 14 to 17

- 8) Who does Mary meet in the garden? What is her first impression?
- 9) What can account for the change in the man's attitude?
- 10) Page 15 What does Mary admit for the first time?

11) Line 142 What does Mary wish?

12) Pick out five sentences showing Mary is gradually beginning to change:

- page 15 :
- page 16 :
- page 17 :
- page 17 :
- page 19 :

13) Lines 92-93 « I **can hear** Mrs Medlock's bell **ringing** for me. »


Pick out similar structures on pages 17 and 18:

- page 17 :
- page 18 :

 Draw your conclusion:

14) Line 170 a- "She and Mr Craven **used to** take care of it themselves."

Line 172 b- "They **used** the branch of an old tree as a seat."

 Compare the words in bold :

a-

b-

15) Why has Mr Craven decided to keep his wife's walled garden locked?

16) What arouses Mary's curiosity at the end of the chapter?



Chapter III - Finding the secret garden

✚ Page 19

- 1) Why is Martha surprised?
- 2) Line 15 “I like Dickon, **although** I’ve never seen him.”
Express this contrast by using different linkwords :
 - I’ve never seen Dickon, I like him.
 - I’ve never seen Dickon, I like him.
 - I’ve never seen Dickon, I like him

✚ Page 20

- 3) Why must Martha leave Mary ?
- 4) Lines 43-44 “**He’s** the only one who’s been in **there** for the last ten years.”
He refers to **there** refers to
Consequently no one has been in there Mrs Craven died.
✎ Draw your conclusion : **for** expresses
..... refers to

- 5) Lines 48-49 Rephrase this sentence to show Mary has changed:
“Before she came to Yorkshire, she had not liked anybody.”
- 6) Lines 45 to 47 “She **had been** born ten years ago.”
“She **had begun** to like the gardens.”

✎ What is the name of this tense? When is it used?

- 7) Line 59 Why is Mary so delighted? Express it in three different ways:
 - o
 - o
 - o

- 8) Lines 65-66 Express Mary's wish differently :
- -

9) Why are Martha's brothers and sisters so interested in Mary?

✚ Page 23

- 10) How does Mary react when Martha gives her her mother's present?

What is the present? Can Mary use it?

✚ Page 24

- 11) Rephrase what Mary tells the robin: "You **ought to** show me the door today".

- You
- You
- Why
- Why

✚ Page 25

- 12) line 132 Express this sentence differently : "She **managed to** open the door."

-
-

- 13) Line 126 "The robin sang his **most beautiful** song.

Line 137 "It was the **loveliest, most exciting** place she had ever seen."

✍ Draw your conclusion about the words in bold:

Find a similar example on page 27:

14) Express the notion of contrast by using the appropriate linkwords:
Lines 143-144 “It seemed very strange and silent, **but** she did not feel lonely at all.”

- It seemed very strange and silent, she did not feel lonely at all.
- She did not feel lonely at all it seemed very strange and silent.

15) What does Mary decide to do then?

 Page 27

16) Pick out an expression meaning: she **was about to** forget it was lunchtime.

17) What does Mary need to garden? Who will get it for her?

18) Why does Mary feel uncomfortable?

General questions about chapter III

A- Who says that to whom ? Indicate the number of the lines.

- 1) “But I’d like to meet your family.”
- 2) “But do you like yourself?”
- 3) “Can you smell spring in the air?”
- 4) “Your mother is very kind.”
- 5) “You showed me where the key was yesterday.”

B- When is the climax in this chapter?



Chapter IV - Meeting Dickon

✚ Pages 28-29

- 1) Right or wrong? Justify by quoting from the text.
 - A- Mary enjoys gardening very much. R? W?
 - B- Ben works for a young lady who is fond of roses. R? W?
 - C- Ben is surprised at Mary's sudden interest in roses. R? W?
 - D- Ben is touched by Mary's loneliness. R? W?
 - E- The boy who plays the pipe is surrounded by animals. R? W?

- 1) How old is Dickon? What does he look like?

✚ Pages 30-31

2) In chapter I Mary took an instant dislike to Mrs Medlock when she first met her: "Mary did not like her, but that was not surprising, because she did not usually like people." (page 6).

This is what we can read lines 72-73:

"Dickon, said Mary suddenly, I like you. I never thought I'd like as many as five people."

✂ Compare the two sentences and analyse Mary's evolution.

- 3) Page 31 Pick out the sentence that best reflects Mary's new frame of mind:

✚ Pages 32-33

- 4) What strikes Mary when she meets her uncle? Quote two adjectives.

- 5) How does Mr Craven behave towards Mary? Quote two adverbs in your answer.

To which extent does this contradict what we had read in chapter I? Quote the relevant passages.

- 6) What does Mary think of her uncle? Why?

✍ Look, think and write!

AS / LIKE

A- AS

What is the meaning of “as” in the following sentences?

- “**As** they were looking at the seed packets...” (page 30)
- “... and they talked **as** they cut and cleared.” (page 31)
- “I’d never thought I’d like **as** many **as** five people!” (page 31)
- “... her voice shook a little **as** she spoke.” (page 31)
- “Yes, child, take **as** much of the garden **as** you want.” (page 33)

B- LIKE

What is the meaning of “like” in these sentences?

- “Of course a child **like** you...” (page 33)
- “I knew someone once who loved growing things, **like** you”. (page 33)

Conclude Structure: LIKE +
AS +

MODAL AUXILIARIES

MODAL	Sentences taken from the text (pages 30 to 33)	Meaning
	“I mustn’t frighten them!”	
	“I’m Dickon and you must be Miss Mary.”	
	“But she must be careful.”	
	“He mustn’t guess her secret now.”	
	“Can you understand everything it says?”	
	“I can help you plant them.”	
	“Could you keep a secret?”	
	“So I can keep yours too.”	
	“...a child like you couldn’t damage anything.”	
	“Could I have a bit of garden?”	
	“he says I can have my own garden.”	
	“...they’ll show green shoots...”	

A modal is ...

Structure:



Chapter V - Meeting Colin

+ Page 34

1) What does Mary decide to do in the middle of the night? What for ?

+ Page 35

2) Who is Colin Craven?

3) The two children have the same reaction. Explain.

4) Rephrase these sentences:

Line 21 "What a strange house this is!"

Lines 23-24 "It makes him remember my mother."

5) Express Dr Craven's wish differently:

- o
- o

Why would Doctor Craven like Colin to die?

6) Right or wrong? Justify your answer by quoting from the text.
Colin and Mary are the same age. R? W?

🚩 Page 36

- 7) Right or Wrong?
- Colin knows all about the secret garden. R? W?
 - Mary wants to keep everything a secret. R? W?
 - It is the first time Colin has had a secret. R? W?
 - Mary would like Colin to keep staying inside. R? W?
 - Colin felt happier at the thought of going outside. R? W?

🚩 Page 37

- 8) Thanks to Mary's song, Colin asleep.
- 9) How does Colin feel when Mary comes back the next day?
- 10) How do Dr Craven and Mrs Medlock react on finding Mary in Colin's room?

🚩 Page 38

- 11) Is Colin a very polite child? Give examples to justify your point.
- 12) Line 94 "Dr Craven did not look happy." Explain this paradoxical reaction.
- 13) Find the equivalent of : "he really looks better".



Chapter VI - Colin is afraid

✚ Pages 40-41

- 1) Why is Colin afraid?
- 2) Mary used to be selfish and bad-tempered when she lived in India. Colin is selfish and bad-tempered. Why?
- 3) Quote sentences showing how bossy Colin is.
- 4) "You're **more selfish** than I am."
"You're **the most selfish** boy I've ever met."
"I'm not **as selfish as** your fine Dickon!"

✂ Compare these three sentences and draw your conclusions:

- 5) "An angel! Don't make me laugh! He's just a poor country boy, with holes in his shoes!"
(lines 53-54)
What does Colin's attitude reveal?

✚ Pages 42-43

- 6) "He'll go on screaming until he **makes** himself really ill."
✂ Explain the use of the tenses in this sentence.

Practice : fill in the blanks with the relevant verb forms.

- a- Colin will stop screaming **when** he his cousin. (see)
 - b- Colin will feel relieved **once** Mary him down. (calm)
 - c- Colin will be reassured **as soon as** Mary him about the secret garden.
(tell)
- 7) Lines 95 to 97 and 103 to 105
Analyse the way Mary addresses Colin.

Why does it puzzle the people who are watching?

✚ Pages 44-45

- 8) Quote the key sentence showing Mary has succeeded in making Colin change his mind about his health.



Chapter VII - Colin and the garden

✚ Pages 46-47

- 1) "Colin **was carried** downstairs by a man servant."
"Colin **was put** in his wheelchair outside the front door."
"The door **was shut** again".
What do these sentences have in common?

Follow the same pattern and transform these sentences accordingly:

- The sun warmed Colin's face.
 - Dickon pushed the wheelchair all round the garden.
- 2) What season is it ? What are its characteristics?
 - 3) Who feels different as a result? Quote a relevant sentence.

✚ Pages 48-49

- 4) What urges Colin to stand on his feet?
- 5) Why does Ben cry?

✚ Pages 50-51

- 6) What does Colin do for the first time in his life?
- 7) "Colin **was brought** there by Dickon and Mary." This sentence is
Rephrase this sentence : Dickon and Mary
- 8) "When my father **comes** home, I 'll **walk** up to him.

✂ Translate this sentence into French. What do you notice about the way the tenses are translated?

✚ Page 52

- 9) What has made Colin strong and healthy?
- 10) How do we know Colin misses his mother's affection, love and kindness?
- 11) Pick out a sentence showing Dickon's mother is a loving Mum.



Chapter VIII - Mr Craven comes home

✚ Page 53

- 1) Pick out all the words with negative overtones in the first paragraph.

Who are they associated with? What do they convey?

- 2) What particular thing makes him understand he is still alive?

✚ Pages 54-55

- 3) Which two events happen simultaneously, although many miles away from each other?

- 4) Who does Mr Craven dream of?

- 5) Why does he decide to go back home?

- 6) Provide the missing linkword:

Colin is alive Mr Craven's wife is dead.

- 7) Rephrase this sentence with a relevant modal:

"Perhaps I've been wrong."

- ✍ To express a probability in the past,

- 8) Rephrase this sentence without changing its meaning: "I should go home."

-
-

- 9) Explain the connection between Mr Craven's dream and the reality.

- 10) In chapter V, we can read:

"In the large bed was a boy, who looked tired and cross, with a thin, white, tearful face."

In this chapter, we can read, page 55 :

"A boy ran out, a tall, healthy, handsome boy."

Compare the two sentences and draw your conclusion.

General assessment

1) Which character do you like or dislike most in the story ? Why?



- 2) How can you account for the radical transformation of Mary, Colin and Mr Craven?
- 3) In your opinion, which message did Frances Hodgson Burnett mean to convey when she wrote *The Secret Garden*?

A summary

Fill in the blanks with the following words :

India - Manor - abroad - grows - daughter - hunchback - transformation - though - secret - meets - earlier - supernatural - gardener - moors - since - housemaid - into - succeeds - hidden - invalid -

Mary Lennox, the sickly and spoilt orphaned of a British official in is sent to England to the care of an uncle she has never met, a recluse who spends most of his time abroad: his housekeeper, Mrs Medlock, brings her to his home, Misselthwaite in Yorkshire. Now begins the gradual and almost magical of Mary into a healthy and pleasant child. The change is at first worked by a combination of fresh air from the Yorkshire and a couple of plain-speaking Yorkshire characters, Martha the and Ben Weatherstaff the

Then Mary discovers the way a secret garden, an enclosure that has been shut up the death of her guardian's wife ten years Without telling anyone she begins gardening there, and her own character warms with the effect of spring on her handiwork.

Then she and enlists the help of Dickon, Martha's young brother, a boy with almost powers of charming nature. The final of Misselthwaite that Mary uncovers is Colin, her guardian's son, kept in the house. Bed-ridden, the boy is convinced he is an who will develop his father's deformity and is scarcely likely to live. Mary where no one else had dared to try, in braving Colin's appalling tantrums and persuading him to lead a normal life, she does this by almost brutal methods. From now on Colin and Mary share the secret garden, and Colin's strength as he watches it coming into bloom. He learns to walk and to know that he is well, and when his father returns from

Colin amazes and overjoys him by running headlong into his arms.

THE CHARACTERS

Characters	Family connections	Physical description	Psychological description (evolution, if any)	Other information
Mary Lennox				
Colin Craven				
Dickon Sowerby				

Fiches de travail – Séquence : The Secret Garden

Characters	Family connections	Physical description	Psychological description (evolution, if any)	Other information
Archibald Craven				
Mrs Medlock				
Martha Sowerby				
Susan Sowerby				
Ben Weatherstaff				
Doctor Craven				

Branching out

- 1) How long was India a British colony ? Look up the exact dates and find out who reigned over the British empire for over sixty years.
- 2) What were the advantages and drawbacks of British colonialism in India?
- 3) When did India become independent? What exactly is the partition mentioned on the map?

