

the secret garden by frances hodgson burnett summary

The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett Summary: A Timeless Tale of Healing and Hope

the secret garden by frances hodgson burnett summary opens the door to one of the most beloved children's classics ever written. This enchanting novel has captured the hearts of readers worldwide with its themes of friendship, renewal, and the transformative power of nature. If you're curious about the story's plot, characters, and why it remains a timeless piece of literature, this article will walk you through a detailed and engaging overview of the novel, while uncovering the deeper messages Burnett weaves into her narrative.

Introducing The Secret Garden

The Secret Garden, first published in 1911, is a novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett that tells the story of Mary Lennox, a spoiled and lonely girl who discovers a hidden garden on her uncle's estate. Set against the backdrop of the Yorkshire moors, the story unfolds as Mary's life gradually transforms from gloom to joy, mirroring the garden's own revival. The novel is often categorized as children's literature, but its rich symbolism and emotional depth make it a compelling read for all ages.

The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett Summary: Plot Overview

At its core, The Secret Garden follows Mary Lennox, a young girl born in India to wealthy but neglectful parents. After a cholera outbreak claims her parents' lives, Mary is sent to live with her reclusive uncle, Archibald Craven, in his vast and gloomy mansion called Misselthwaite Manor. Initially, Mary is sour and isolated, struggling to adjust to her new surroundings.

Mary's Discovery of the Secret Garden

Mary's curiosity leads her to explore the sprawling estate, where she learns about a mysterious locked garden that has been shut away since the death of her aunt, Lily Craven. Driven by a sense of adventure and loneliness, Mary searches for the key and eventually finds the hidden entrance. The secret garden, neglected and wild, becomes a sanctuary not only for Mary but for other characters who join her.

Friendship and Healing in the Garden

As Mary tends to the garden, she befriends two key characters: Dickon, a kind-hearted boy who has a magical way with animals and nature, and Colin

Craven, her sickly and spoiled cousin who has been confined to his room due to health fears. Through their shared efforts in restoring the garden, all three children experience physical and emotional healing. The garden symbolizes hope, rejuvenation, and the importance of nurturing life and relationships.

Exploring the Main Characters

Understanding the characters in *The Secret Garden* helps deepen appreciation of Burnett's themes and storytelling.

Mary Lennox: From Lonely to Loving

Mary begins as a bratty, unloved child but gradually transforms into a warm, caring individual. Her journey reflects the healing power of nature and friendship, showing how openness to change can lead to personal growth.

Dickon: The Nature Whisperer

Dickon is the embodiment of harmony with the natural world. His gentle demeanor and knowledge of animals provide not only practical help in reviving the garden but also a stark contrast to Mary's initial bitterness.

Colin Craven: Overcoming Fear and Isolation

Colin's character arc is one of the most compelling parts of the novel. Believed to be frail and destined to remain an invalid, Colin finds strength and confidence through the garden's magic and the company of Mary and Dickon. His recovery symbolizes the power of hope and belief in oneself.

The Symbolism and Themes of The Secret Garden

One of the reasons why *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett summary resonates so deeply is due to its rich symbolism and universal themes.

The Garden as a Metaphor for Renewal

The secret garden itself is a powerful symbol of rebirth and transformation. Once neglected and locked away, it flourishes again as the children nurture it. This mirrors their own emotional and physical healing, suggesting that care and attention can restore even the most broken parts of life.

Isolation and Connection

Isolation is a recurring motif in the novel. Mary, Colin, and even Archibald Craven initially live in solitude, each emotionally cut off from the world. Their gradual connections highlight the human need for companionship and the healing effects of love.

Nature's Healing Power

Burnett emphasizes the restorative qualities of nature, presenting the outdoors as a place where wounds—both physical and emotional—can be healed. This idea was quite progressive at the time and continues to resonate in our modern context where nature therapy and mental well-being are increasingly valued.

Why The Secret Garden Still Matters Today

With its timeless appeal, *The Secret Garden* remains a relevant and inspiring story for readers of all generations. Here are some reasons why the novel still holds a special place in literature and hearts worldwide:

- **Universal Themes:** Themes of growth, healing, and friendship are universally relatable and timeless.
- **Encourages Emotional Intelligence:** The characters' journeys teach empathy, self-reflection, and the importance of nurturing relationships.
- **Connection to Nature:** In an age of digital distraction, the novel reminds us of the grounding and therapeutic effects of nature.
- **Literary Influence:** It has inspired countless adaptations in film, theater, and television, testifying to its enduring impact.

Tips for Reading and Teaching *The Secret Garden*

Whether you are a parent, teacher, or simply a reader diving into this classic for the first time, here are some helpful tips to get the most out of the story:

1. **Focus on Character Development:** Pay close attention to how Mary and Colin evolve; their transformations are central to understanding the novel's message.
2. **Discuss the Role of Nature:** Encourage conversations about how nature influences mood and well-being, both in the book and in real life.
3. **Explore Historical Context:** Understanding the Edwardian era's social norms can add depth to the reading experience.

4. **Use Visual Aids:** Maps of Misselthwaite Manor or illustrations of the garden can make the story more immersive, especially for younger readers.

Final Thoughts on The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett Summary

The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett summary reveals a beautifully woven tale about the magic that can unfold when neglected things—be they gardens, people, or emotions—are given love and attention. The story's blend of mystery, nature, and heartfelt character growth continues to enchant readers, making it a perfect example of storytelling that teaches as much as it entertains. Whether you're revisiting it as an adult or discovering it for the first time, the secret garden remains a place where hope blooms eternal.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main theme of The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett?

The main theme of The Secret Garden is the healing power of nature and friendship, as the characters transform physically and emotionally through their connection with the garden and each other.

Can you provide a brief summary of The Secret Garden?

The Secret Garden tells the story of Mary Lennox, a spoiled and lonely girl who is sent to live with her uncle in England. She discovers a locked, neglected garden and, with the help of new friends, brings it back to life, which also leads to the healing of herself and others.

Who are the central characters in The Secret Garden?

The central characters are Mary Lennox, a lonely and spoiled girl; Colin Craven, Mary's sickly cousin; and Dickon, a kind boy who loves nature and helps restore the garden.

How does the secret garden symbolize change in the novel?

The secret garden symbolizes growth, renewal, and the rejuvenating power of nature, reflecting the characters' emotional and physical transformations throughout the story.

What role does Colin Craven play in The Secret Garden?

Colin Craven is Mary's cousin who is initially bedridden and ill-tempered

but, through the garden and friendships, gains confidence and health, symbolizing hope and recovery.

Why does Mary Lennox change throughout the story?

Mary changes from a spoiled and lonely child to a kind and caring individual because of her experiences with the secret garden and her friendships, which teach her responsibility and empathy.

What is the significance of the garden being 'secret'?

The garden being 'secret' emphasizes themes of discovery, privacy, and personal growth, as it is a hidden place where the characters can heal and develop away from the outside world.

How does Frances Hodgson Burnett portray nature in The Secret Garden?

Nature is portrayed as a powerful, restorative force that nurtures the characters' physical and emotional well-being, highlighting the importance of the natural world in human happiness.

What is the setting of The Secret Garden?

The novel is set primarily in Misselthwaite Manor, a large estate in the English moors, during the early 20th century, providing a backdrop for the mysterious and transformative garden.

How does friendship influence the story in The Secret Garden?

Friendship is crucial as it helps the characters overcome loneliness and illness; through their bonds, Mary, Colin, and Dickon support each other's growth and happiness.

Additional Resources

The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett Summary: An In-Depth Literary Exploration

the secret garden by frances hodgson burnett summary unveils a timeless tale that has captivated readers since its publication in 1911. This classic children's novel weaves themes of healing, transformation, and the restorative power of nature through the journey of its young protagonists. As one of Frances Hodgson Burnett's most celebrated works, it continues to attract literary analysis and remains a staple in both educational curricula and popular culture. Exploring the narrative's core elements alongside its broader thematic significance offers valuable insights into why it endures as a beloved piece of literature.

Overview of The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett Summary

At its heart, *The Secret Garden* follows Mary Lennox, a spoiled and unloved English girl who, after the tragic death of her parents in India, is sent to live with her reclusive uncle, Archibald Craven, in Yorkshire. The novel charts Mary's transformation from a sullen, lonely child into a compassionate and lively individual. Central to this transformation is the discovery of a hidden, neglected garden on her uncle's estate—a garden that, once restored, parallels the emotional rejuvenation experienced by Mary and other characters.

Frances Hodgson Burnett's narrative technique intertwines the physical landscape of the secret garden with the psychological landscapes of the characters. The garden becomes a symbol of hope, rebirth, and the healing power of nature—a motif that resonates deeply within children's literature. The secret garden's revival mirrors the awakening of its inhabitants' spirits, especially Mary, her cousin Colin Craven, and the gardener Dickon.

Key Characters and Their Development

Understanding the character arcs in *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett summary is essential to grasping the novel's enduring appeal:

- **Mary Lennox:** Initially portrayed as a disagreeable and neglected child, Mary's encounter with the garden sparks a significant emotional and moral growth. Her journey from isolation to empathy forms the narrative's backbone.
- **Colin Craven:** Mary's cousin, Colin, is a sickly boy believed to be destined for a life of confinement due to his health problems and overprotective upbringing. His gradual recovery, both physical and emotional, is catalyzed by Mary and the garden.
- **Dickon Sowerby:** The kind-hearted local boy who understands and communes with nature, Dickon plays a pivotal role in helping Mary and Colin connect with the garden and themselves.
- **Archibald Craven:** The aloof uncle, haunted by grief, embodies the adult world's detachment, which contrasts with the children's renewed vitality.

These characters' intertwined stories underscore themes of loneliness, loss, and eventual healing, making the novel a profound exploration of human resilience.

Analytical Dimensions of The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett

Delving deeper into *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett summary

reveals several analytical layers that contribute to its critical acclaim and pedagogical value.

The Motif of Nature and Healing

Nature serves not merely as a backdrop but as an active agent of restoration. The secret garden itself is a metaphor for the characters' inner worlds—initially closed off and barren, it flourishes as the children nurture it, symbolizing growth and renewal. This motif aligns with early 20th-century Romantic ideals about nature's redemptive qualities and reflects Burnett's progressive views on childhood and health.

The Psychological Transformation of the Protagonists

Mary and Colin's development can be examined through the lens of psychological growth. Mary's transition from emotional neglect to empowerment reflects theories of attachment and socialization. Similarly, Colin's journey from hypochondria and self-pity to confidence and physical well-being illustrates the mind-body connection emphasized in the narrative. The secret garden acts as a therapeutic space facilitating this transformation, emphasizing the importance of environment in psychological health.

Social and Historical Context

Set against the backdrop of British colonial India and Edwardian England, the novel subtly critiques social hierarchies and the consequences of emotional neglect. Mary's initial upbringing in India, marked by cultural displacement and parental indifference, contrasts with her later experiences in the English countryside. Through this, Burnett touches on themes of identity, belonging, and the impact of societal structures on personal development.

Comparative Perspectives and Literary Significance

The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett summary gains additional depth when compared with other children's literature classics of its era, such as Lucy Maud Montgomery's *Anne of Green Gables* and L.M. Boston's *The Children of Green Knowe*. These works similarly explore themes of childhood, nature, and personal growth but differ in tone, setting, and cultural context.

Unlike the more whimsical or idyllic portrayals common in contemporaneous literature, Burnett's novel embraces a nuanced realism. It acknowledges trauma and loss while offering a hopeful prospect of healing. This balance contributes to its lasting influence and frequent inclusion in studies of children's literature and developmental psychology.

Pros and Cons of The Secret Garden in Modern Contexts

- **Pros:**

- Timeless themes applicable to modern readers, such as mental health and emotional growth.
- Rich symbolism that invites multiple interpretations, making it suitable for diverse academic discussions.
- Strong emphasis on nature, promoting environmental appreciation and outdoor activity among young readers.

- **Cons:**

- Some language and social attitudes reflect the Edwardian era and may require contextual explanation.
- The pacing and descriptive style might challenge contemporary readers accustomed to faster narratives.

These considerations highlight the evolving reception of Burnett's work while affirming its educational and literary value.

The Secret Garden's Legacy and Adaptations

The enduring popularity of *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett is evidenced by its numerous adaptations across media, including films, stage productions, and television series. Each adaptation interprets the novel's themes and characters with varying degrees of fidelity and creative license, reflecting changing cultural perspectives.

These adaptations contribute to the novel's accessibility and relevance, introducing new generations to its core messages. They also spark renewed interest in the original text, encouraging critical reading and appreciation of Burnett's craftsmanship.

Exploring these adaptations reveals how *The Secret Garden* continues to inspire and resonate, underscoring the novel's place as a cornerstone of children's literature.

The secret garden's narrative complexity and emotional depth make it a compelling subject for literary analysis and educational study. Frances Hodgson Burnett's skillful blending of character development, thematic richness, and symbolic imagery ensures that the story remains vibrant and meaningful more than a century after its creation.

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the secret garden by frances hodgson burnett summary: Quicklet on Frances Hodgson Burnett's The Secret Garden (CliffNotes-like Summary) Dani Alexis Ryskamp, 2012-02-24
ABOUT THE BOOK The idea for The Secret Garden first came to Burnett while living in Maytham Hall in Kent, England. She used the Hall's pattern as the blueprint for the book's Misselthwaite Manor and its surrounding gardens, including the "secret" garden. The Secret Garden started life as a "serial," or an ongoing story which has one installment published in each edition of a magazine over a period of months or even years. The adaptation of a work serial work to novel is a common occurrence. In fact, many of Charles Dickens' books were originally published as serials, as was Louisa May Alcott's Little Women. The Secret Garden first appeared in The American Magazine in the U.S. and the Children's Magazine in the UK in 1910. Burnett gathered the installments together and had them published in book form in 1911. The work passed into the public domain in 1987 and its full text is available online from the University of Virginia Library and other sources. The Secret Garden reflects upper-middle-class English life in the Victorian period, from the end of the 19th century to the beginning of the 20th century. Mary's early life as the daughter of an English colonel stationed in India during its British colonization, and the significant differences between upper class and working class life, speech, and thought, both characterize major themes of the Victorian era.
EXCERPT FROM THE BOOK Mary's life in India is soon interrupted by an outbreak of cholera which kills both her parents and all the servants in the house. She's found by another English colonist and shipped to England to live with her only remaining relative, her uncle Archibald Craven. Mr. Craven is a hunchback and lives in a sprawling, run-down house called Misselthwaite Manor, in the Yorkshire region of England. As Mary learns from the housekeeper, Mrs. Medlock, the house has over a hundred rooms, most of them closed. Mr. Craven is still in mourning for his wife, Lily, who died when she fell out of a tree in their special garden ten years ago. After her death, Mr. Craven locked the garden's door and buried the key. Having nothing better to do in a secretive house full of adults, Mary soon starts searching for the secret garden, encouraged by the tales of the Yorkshire housemaid, Martha, and the gruff gardener, Ben. She finds the key to the garden where a mole has dug it up in the bare March soil. She searches the walled gardens until she finds the door, then lets herself into the secret garden. Buy a copy to keep reading!

the secret garden by frances hodgson burnett summary: The Secret Garden Frances Hodgson Burnett, An all-time childrens' classic and a pretty story of a walled-in garden in Yorkshire, which is discovered by little Mary Lennox and a robin. She was a lonely, delicate little girl who had been sent from India to be cared for by an uncle who was twisted in body, and in mind through the tragedy of his young wife's death. Colin, his little son, is a spoiled invalid, but he and Mary Lennox and a Yorkshire lad called Dickon, who can charm all wild things of the moor, and old Ben Weatherstaff, a crabbed gardener, and the robin all share the secret garden, and plant things and trim vines and watch things grow. The garden belonged to Colin's mother, and had lain neglected until Mary found the buried key. Here they regained health and happiness, and Colin's father returns from his travels to find his son straight and strong, and not deformed as he had feared.

the secret garden by frances hodgson burnett summary: The Secret Garden Frances Hodgson Burnett, 2016-10-07 The Secret Garden is a novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett. It was initially published in serial form beginning in 1910, and first published in its entirety in 1911. It is now one of Burnett's most popular novels, and considered a classic of English children's literature.

Several stage and film adaptations have been made. Plot summary Mary Lennox is a troubled, sickly, and unloved 10-year-old girl born in India to selfish, wealthy British parents who never wanted her. She is primarily cared for by servants, who pacify her as much as possible to keep her out of her parents' way. She grows into a spoiled and selfish girl. Eventually, there is a cholera epidemic in India which kills Mary's parents and all the servants. Mary is discovered alive but alone in the empty house. She briefly lives with an English clergyman and his family and is then sent to Yorkshire, England, to live with Archibald Craven, an uncle she has never heard of let alone met, at his miserable, isolated mansion called Misselthwaite Manor. At first, Mary is her usual self, sour and rude, disliking her uncle's large house, the people within it, and, most of all, the vast stretch of moor, which seems scrubby and grey after the winter. She is told that she must stay confined to her two rooms and keep herself amused without much attention. Martha Sowerby, a good-natured maid, tells Mary a story of the late Mrs. Craven and how she would spend hours in a private walled garden growing roses. Mrs. Craven was killed when a tree branch fell on her in the garden, and the devastated Mr. Craven locked the garden and buried the key. Mary is piqued by this story and her ill manner begins to soften. Soon, she comes to enjoy the company of Martha, Ben Weatherstaff the gardener, and a friendly robin redbreast, to whom she assigns a human personality. Her appetite increases, the bracing air improves her health and she grows stronger as she plays by herself on the moor. Martha's mother buys Mary a skipping rope to encourage this, and Mary takes to it immediately. Mary occupies her time wondering about both the secret garden and the cries she hears at night. The servants claim not to hear the cries. As Mary is exploring the periphery of the gardens, her robin draws her attention to an area of turned-over soil. Mary finds the key to the locked garden, and eventually the door to the garden. She asks Martha for garden tools, which Martha sends with Dickon, her twelve-year-old brother. Mary and Dickon take a liking to each other, as Dickon has a kind way with animals and a good nature. Eager to absorb his gardening knowledge, Mary shared the secret of the garden with him. That night, Mary hears the crying again. She follows the noise, and to her surprise finds a small boy her age living in a hidden bedroom. His name is Colin. She soon discovers that they are cousins: he is the son of her uncle, his mother died when he was a baby, and he suffers from an unspecified spinal problem. Mary visits every day that week, distracting him from his troubles with stories of the moor, Dickon and his animals, and the garden. Mary finally admits she has access to the secret garden, and they decide Colin needs fresh air. Colin is put into his wheelchair and brought outside into the garden, the first time he has been outdoors for years. While in the garden, the children are surprised to see Ben Weatherstaff looking over the wall on a ladder. Startled and angry to find the children there in Colin's mother's garden, he admits he believed Colin to be a cripple. Colin stands up from his chair and finds that his legs are fine, though weak from disuse for so long..... Frances Eliza Hodgson Burnett (24 November 1849 - 29 October 1924) was an English-American novelist and playwright.

the secret garden by frances hodgson burnett summary: *The Secret Garden* (Illustrated) Frances Hodgson Burnett, 2024-10-02 Contains beautifully detailed illustrations that bring the story to life Includes a thorough summary of the book Features an author biography of Frances Hodgson Burnett Provides a complete list of key characters Frances Hodgson Burnett's *The Secret Garden* is a beloved classic that tells the enchanting story of Mary Lennox, a spoiled and lonely orphan sent to live with her uncle in a mysterious Yorkshire estate. As Mary explores the sprawling mansion, she discovers a locked, hidden garden that has been abandoned for years. Along with her new friends, the frail Colin and the spirited Dickon, she brings the garden back to life, and in doing so, finds healing, joy, and transformation for herself and those around her. This tale of renewal and the magic of nature is filled with rich, vivid descriptions and heartwarming moments. This illustrated edition enhances the reading experience with beautiful artwork, offering a deeper connection to the story and its characters.

the secret garden by frances hodgson burnett summary: *The Power of Story* Joan Wink Ph.D., 2017-11-07 Through this book, readers will discover that stories can move the human heart and head in ways that research cannot. Stories bring together readers, writers, librarians, teachers,

students, and families in the libraries of today and will continue to do so tomorrow. Written for all those lovers of literacy, this book links libraries and literacies through the power of stories. The book is not filled with data in the form of pie charts, graphs, and tables. Rather, the truth of the research is grounded in authentic stories that reflect not only the interpretation of data, but also the transformative nature of literacies and libraries. The author's primary goal is that readers will come to value and use storytelling in their own professional and personal lives to explain and expand on complex concepts and to make information more accessible for all. The book begins by presenting anecdotes and the author's personal story to lay the foundation for what literacies are, and what literacy is not. An activity, *Spiral of Literacy*, allows readers to reflect on their own literacies. Chapters that follow each begin with a story that sets the theoretical foundation. Each chapter concludes with an action section that demonstrates how to turn theory to practice, whether you are in a library, a classroom, or at home. A final chapter envisions what libraries might look like in 10 years, through interviews with librarians, teachers, and others interested in literacy.

the secret garden by frances hodgson burnett summary: *The Secret Garden* Frances Hodgson Burnett, 2002 Ten-year-old Mary comes to live in a lonely house on the Yorkshire moors and discovers an invalid cousin and the mysteries of a locked garden.

the secret garden by frances hodgson burnett summary: *The Secret Garden* Frances Burnett Hodgson, 2021-11-09 *The Secret Garden* is a novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett first published in book form in 1911. Set in England, it is one of Burnett's most popular novels and seen as a classic of English children's literature. When orphaned Mary Lennox comes to live at her uncle's great house on the Yorkshire Moors, she finds it full of secrets. The mansion has nearly one hundred rooms, and her uncle keeps himself locked up. And at night, she hears the sound of crying down one of the long corridors. The gardens surrounding the large property are Mary's only escape. Then, Mary discovers a secret garden, surrounded by walls and locked with a missing key. With the help of two unexpected companions, Mary discovers a way in and becomes determined to bring the garden back to life.

the secret garden by frances hodgson burnett summary: *The Secret Garden* Frances Hodgson Burnett, 2014-01-19 *The Secret Garden*, Classic Novels, Brand New Copy, Complete Edition, By Frances Hodgson Burnett, *The Secret Garden* is a novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett. It was initially published in serial format starting in the autumn of 1910, and was first published in its entirety in 1911. It is now one of Burnett's most popular novels, and is considered to be a classic of English children's literature. Several stage and film adaptations have been produced. Mary Lennox is a sour-faced 10-year-old girl who is born in India to selfish wealthy British parents who had not wanted her and were too wrapped up in their own lives. She was taken care of primarily by servants, who pacified her as much as possible to keep her out of the way. Spoiled and with a temper, she is unaffectionate, angry, rude and obstinate. Later, there is a cholera epidemic which hits India and kills her mother, father and all the servants. She is discovered alone but alive after the house is empty. She briefly lives with an English clergyman and his family and is then sent to Yorkshire, England to live with her uncle Archibald Craven at his home called Misselthwaite Manor. At first, Mary is her usual self, sour and rude, disliking her uncle's large house, the people within it and most of all the vast stretch of moor, which seems scrubby and grey after the winter. She is told that she must stay confined to her two rooms and that nobody will bother much with her and she must amuse herself. Martha Sowerby, her good-natured maidservant, tells Mary a story of the late Mrs. Craven, and how she would spend hours in a private garden growing roses. Later, Mrs. Craven was killed in an accident, and Mr. Craven had the garden locked and the key buried. Mary is roused by this story and starts to soften her ill manner despite herself. Soon she begins to lose her disposition and gradually comes to enjoy the company of Martha, Ben Weatherstaff the gardener, and also that of a friendly robin redbreast to whom she attaches human qualities. Her appetite increases and she finds herself getting stronger as she plays by herself on the moor. Martha's mother buys Mary a skipping rope to encourage this, and she takes to it immediately. Mary's time is occupied by wondering about the secret garden and a strange crying sound that can sometimes be heard around the house which

the servants ignore or deny.

the secret garden by frances hodgson burnett summary: The Secret Garden Frances Hodgson Burnett, 2017-03-21 The Secret Garden is a novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett. It was initially published in 1911. Summary : Year-old girl born in India to selfish, wealthy British parents who never wanted her. She is primarily cared for by servants, who pacify her as much as possible to keep her out of her parents' way. She grows into a spoiled and selfish girl. Eventually, there is a cholera epidemic in India which kills Mary's parents and all the servants. Mary is discovered alive but alone in the empty house. She briefly lives with an English clergyman and his family and is then sent to Yorkshire, England, to live with Archibald Craven, an uncle she has never heard of let alone met, at his miserable, isolated mansion called Misselthwaite Manor. At first, Mary is her usual self, sour and rude, disliking her uncle's large house, the people within it, and, most of all, the vast stretch of moor, which seems scrubby and grey after the winter. She is told that she must stay confined to her two rooms and keep herself amused without much attention. Martha Sowerby, a good-natured maid, tells Mary a story of the late Mrs. Craven and how she would spend hours in a private walled garden growing roses. Mrs. Craven was killed when a tree branch fell on her in the garden, and the devastated Mr. Craven locked the garden and buried the key. Mary is piqued by this story and her ill manner begins to soften. Soon, she comes to enjoy the company of Martha, Ben Weatherstaff the gardener, and a friendly robin redbreast whom she assigns a human personality. Her appetite increases, the bracing air improves her health and she grows stronger as she plays by herself on the moor. Martha's mother buys Mary a skipping rope to encourage this, and Mary takes to it immediately. Mary occupies her time wondering about both the secret garden and the cries she hears at night. The servants claim not to hear the cries. As Mary is exploring the periphery of the gardens, her robin friend draws her attention to an area of turned-over soil. Mary finds the key to the locked garden, and eventually the door to the garden. She asks Martha for garden tools, which Martha sends with Dickon, her twelve-year-old brother. Mary and Dickon take a liking to each other, as Dickon has a kind way with animals and a good nature. Eager to absorb his gardening knowledge, Mary lets him in on the secret of the garden. That night, Mary hears the crying again. She follows the noise and, to her surprise, finds a small boy her age living in a hidden bedroom. His name is Colin. She soon discovers that they are cousins: he is the son of her uncle, his mother died when he was a baby, and he suffers from an unspecified spinal problem... Extrait : During the confusion and bewilderment of the second day Mary hid herself in the nursery and was forgotten by everyone. Nobody thought of her, nobody wanted her, and strange things happened of which she knew nothing. Mary alternately cried and slept through the hours. She only knew that people were ill and that she heard mysterious and tightening sounds. Once she crept into the dining-room and found it empty, though a partly finished meal was on the table and chairs and plates looked as if they had been hastily pushed back when the diners rose suddenly for some reason. The child ate some fruit and biscuits, and being thirsty she drank a glass of wine... Biography of author : Frances Hodgson Burnett (1849 -1924) was an English-American novelist and playwright. She is best known for the three children's novels Little Lord Fauntleroy (published in 1885-1886), A Little Princess (1905), and The Secret Garden (1911)...

the secret garden by frances hodgson burnett summary: The Secret Garden Pam Sterling, 1991

the secret garden by frances hodgson burnett summary: *The Secret Garden* Frances Hodgson Burnett, 1911 Since its publication in 1911, *The Secret Garden*, a touchstone of children's literature, has been adapted for plays and movies over a dozen times. Charming generations of readers, the story centers around the healing power of friendship, and the magic in the everyday. Burnett begins with a spoiled and unsympathetic heroine named Mary Lennox. When Mary is orphaned, she is shipped from her home in colonial India to a drab country house in Yorkshire. As she learns to tend the garden on the estate, Mary forms her first true friendships; when they bring a secret garden back to life, Mary and her friends are also transformed.

the secret garden by frances hodgson burnett summary: Tell Me a Story in the Dark

John Olive, 2015-03-17 Tonight, don't read your child a story. Instead, dim the light, lie down, and create storytelling magic. Weave a spell that will enchant your child . . . Written by an award-winning playwright, *Tell Me A Story In The Dark* provides you with every tool you need to tell great and entertaining stories. In a day when parents want to spend more quality time with their children, *Tell Me A Story In The Dark*: Shows you how to prepare and tell a story. Communicates the enormous benefits—ending the bedtime battle of wills, building vocabulary, making room for effective parenting moments. Provides a treasure trove of stories that parents (and grandparents) can adapt for their children. Teaches you how to make up and tell your own stories. Anyone who loves children will love this book.

the secret garden by frances hodgson burnett summary: Exploring Children's Literature Nikki Gamble, Sally Yates, 2002-11-04 This book is based on the belief that deep subject knowledge of language and literature provides a foundation for effective teaching and learning.

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