

the secret garden story summary

The Secret Garden Story Summary: An Enchanting Tale of Healing and Hope

the secret garden story summary reveals a timeless narrative that has captivated readers for over a century. Written by Frances Hodgson Burnett, this classic children's novel is much more than a simple tale about a hidden garden; it is a profound exploration of transformation, friendship, and the healing power of nature. If you've ever been curious about what makes **The Secret Garden** such an enduring favorite, this article will guide you through its essential plot points, characters, and themes, offering a rich understanding of the story that continues to inspire readers young and old.

The Secret Garden Story Summary: Setting the Scene

The story begins in India, where Mary Lennox, a spoiled and lonely little girl, leads an unhappy life with her neglectful British parents. After a sudden cholera outbreak tragically takes the lives of her family and their servants, Mary is sent to live with her reclusive uncle, Archibald Craven, at Misselthwaite Manor in the Yorkshire moors. This stark change in environment—from the heat and chaos of India to the cold, gloomy mansion in England—sets the stage for Mary's incredible journey.

Misselthwaite Manor is a mysterious and imposing place, filled with locked doors, long corridors, and secrets waiting to be uncovered. It's here that Mary discovers rumors of a secret garden, long locked and neglected since the death of her uncle's wife. The garden becomes a symbol of hope and renewal throughout the story.

Key Characters and Their Roles in The Secret Garden Story Summary

Understanding the main characters is crucial to appreciating the depth of **The Secret Garden**. Here's a closer look at the trio who drive the story forward:

Mary Lennox: From Sour to Sweet

When Mary first arrives at Misselthwaite Manor, she is described as disagreeable and spoiled, a reflection of her isolated and pampered upbringing. However, as she explores the estate and discovers the secret

garden, Mary undergoes a remarkable transformation. The garden becomes a catalyst for her growth, teaching her kindness, patience, and the joy of nurturing life.

Dickon Sowerby: The Nature Whisperer

Dickon is a local boy with a magical touch when it comes to animals and plants. His connection to nature and gentle demeanor provide a perfect complement to Mary's evolving character. Dickon's role is essential in **The Secret Garden** story summary because he helps Mary unlock the garden's potential and teaches her the wonders of the natural world.

Colin Craven: Healing Through Friendship

Colin is Mary's sickly cousin who has been confined to his room for years, convinced he is too weak to walk. Initially portrayed as spoiled and fearful, Colin's encounter with Mary and Dickon leads to his gradual physical and emotional healing. The secret garden becomes a place of hope for Colin, mirroring the restoration of his health and spirit.

Plot Overview: The Secret Garden Story Summary Unfolded

The narrative of **The Secret Garden** is structured around Mary's discovery and revival of the garden, which parallels the rejuvenation of the characters' inner lives.

Mary's Arrival and Discovery

Upon arriving at Misselthwaite Manor, Mary is lonely and curious. Her exploration of the grounds leads her to find the key to the secret garden, a locked and forgotten place that sparks her imagination. The garden's locked status symbolizes the emotional barriers that Mary and the other characters must overcome.

The Garden's Revival

With the help of Dickon, Mary begins to nurture the neglected garden. This act of caring for the plants mirrors her own emotional growth. The garden's transformation from a barren, lifeless space into a blooming paradise is a vivid metaphor for renewal and hope.

Colin's Transformation

Mary introduces Colin to the garden, and together with Dickon, they spend time outdoors, building Colin's strength and confidence. The story beautifully illustrates how nature and friendship can contribute to healing, both physically and mentally. Colin's change from a bedridden child to an energetic boy is a highlight of the story, emphasizing the novel's optimistic message.

The Themes Behind The Secret Garden Story Summary

This beloved novel is rich with themes that resonate deeply with readers. Understanding these themes adds layers of meaning to the story, making it more than just a children's book.

The Healing Power of Nature

One of the most prominent themes in **The Secret Garden** is the restorative power of nature. The garden itself symbolizes life, growth, and rejuvenation. Burnett beautifully portrays how interaction with nature can bring emotional and physical healing, a concept that remains relevant in today's fast-paced, technology-driven world.

Friendship and Compassion

The relationships between Mary, Dickon, and Colin showcase the importance of companionship and empathy. Each character helps the others grow, supporting the idea that human connection is vital for overcoming adversity.

Transformation and Personal Growth

At its core, **The Secret Garden** is a story about change. From Mary's initial bitterness to Colin's physical recovery, the novel celebrates the possibility of transformation through hope and determination. It serves as a reminder that even the most difficult circumstances can lead to positive growth.

Why The Secret Garden Remains a Timeless

Classic

Many readers and critics consider **The Secret Garden** a masterpiece of children's literature, and its enduring popularity can be attributed to several factors:

- **Relatable Characters:** The emotional journeys of Mary, Colin, and Dickon are universal, appealing to readers who understand loneliness, fear, and the desire for connection.
- **Evocative Setting:** The mysterious manor and the hidden garden create a magical atmosphere that captures the imagination.
- **Meaningful Messages:** Themes of healing, nature, and friendship resonate across generations, offering comfort and inspiration.
- **Beautiful Writing Style:** Burnett's descriptive prose brings the moors and garden to life, immersing readers in a vivid sensory experience.

What You Can Learn from The Secret Garden Story Summary

Beyond its enchanting narrative, **The Secret Garden** offers valuable lessons that readers of all ages can appreciate:

1. **Patience and Nurturing:** Just as the garden takes time to bloom, so do personal changes and healing processes.
2. **Importance of Curiosity:** Mary's willingness to explore leads to her transformation, reminding us to stay open to new experiences.
3. **Power of Positivity:** Colin's recovery underscores how mindset and support can affect physical health.
4. **Connection to Nature:** Spending time outdoors can be profoundly beneficial for mental well-being.

For parents and educators, sharing **The Secret Garden** with children can spark discussions about emotions, resilience, and the environment, making it a valuable tool beyond just entertainment.

The secret garden story summary captures not only the plot but also the

spirit of a novel that encourages us to believe in renewal and the magic that can be found in unexpected places. Whether you're revisiting this classic or discovering it for the first time, the story's gentle wisdom and charm remain as powerful today as when it was first published.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main plot of The Secret Garden?

The Secret Garden follows Mary Lennox, a lonely and spoiled girl who is sent to live with her uncle in England. There, she discovers a hidden, neglected garden and, with the help of new friends, brings it back to life, which also transforms their lives.

Who are the key characters in The Secret Garden?

The key characters include Mary Lennox, the protagonist; Colin Craven, her sickly cousin; Dickon, a nature-loving boy; and Archibald Craven, Mary's uncle.

What themes are explored in The Secret Garden?

The Secret Garden explores themes of healing and transformation, the power of nature, friendship, and the importance of hope and positivity.

How does Mary Lennox change throughout the story?

Mary starts as a spoiled and lonely girl but becomes kind, curious, and compassionate as she nurtures the secret garden and helps Colin gain confidence and health.

What role does the secret garden play in the story?

The secret garden symbolizes healing and renewal. Restoring the garden parallels the characters' emotional and physical recovery.

Why is Colin Craven important to the story?

Colin Craven's journey from a sickly, fearful boy to a healthy and confident child is central to the story's message of transformation and the healing power of nature and friendship.

What is the setting of The Secret Garden?

The story is set in the early 20th century, primarily at Misselthwaite Manor, a large estate in the Yorkshire moors of England, which includes the secret garden.

Additional Resources

The Secret Garden Story Summary: A Timeless Tale of Healing and Transformation

the secret garden story summary reveals a narrative that has captivated readers for over a century, inviting audiences into a world where nature, friendship, and personal growth intertwine. Written by Frances Hodgson Burnett and first published in 1911, this classic children's novel transcends its genre to offer profound insights into the human spirit. The story centers on Mary Lennox, a young, spoiled, and solitary girl, who undergoes a remarkable transformation after discovering a hidden garden in her uncle's estate. This article delves deeply into the thematic elements, character development, and enduring appeal of the novel, while naturally incorporating relevant keywords such as "children's literature," "classic novel," "Mary Lennox," "hidden garden," and "personal growth."

An Overview of The Secret Garden's Plot and Themes

At its core, the secret garden story summary outlines a journey from isolation to connection. Mary Lennox arrives at Misselthwaite Manor in England after the death of her neglectful parents in India. Initially portrayed as a surly and disagreeable child, Mary's character gradually softens as she explores the sprawling estate and stumbles upon a locked, neglected garden. With the help of new friends—Martha, a kind-hearted maid; Dickon, a nature-loving boy; and her sickly cousin Colin—Mary breathes life back into the garden and, symbolically, into their own lives.

The narrative explores themes of rebirth, healing, and the restorative power of nature. The hidden garden serves as a metaphor for the characters' internal growth, mirroring their emotional and physical rejuvenation. Unlike many children's stories of its time, *The Secret Garden* emphasizes psychological development and the importance of nurturing one's environment and relationships.

The Historical and Cultural Context

Understanding the secret garden story summary also requires a brief look at the early 20th-century context in which Burnett wrote. The novel emerged during the Edwardian era, a time when children's literature was increasingly valued for its moral and educational potential. Burnett's work diverged from the didactic tone common in that period by weaving a more subtle message about self-awareness, empathy, and the human connection to the natural world.

Furthermore, the story's setting in the English countryside reflects

contemporary societal shifts, including an increased appreciation for rural life amid growing urbanization. The garden itself symbolizes a sanctuary from industrialization and modern pressures, reinforcing the narrative's timeless relevance.

Character Dynamics and Development

One of the most compelling aspects of the secret garden story summary is its rich character development, which significantly contributes to the novel's lasting popularity.

Mary Lennox: From Isolation to Empathy

Mary begins as a neglected, self-centered child, shaped by her upbringing in colonial India. Her transformation is both physical and psychological. Exposure to the garden and her new companions nurtures her empathy and responsibility. This change challenges early 20th-century stereotypes of childhood, presenting a nuanced portrayal of growth fueled by environment and relationships.

Colin Craven: Overcoming Illness and Fear

Colin's character arc complements Mary's journey. Confined by illness and crippled by his own fears, Colin is initially portrayed as a spoiled and temperamental boy. His gradual recovery—both physical and emotional—is intertwined with the garden's revival, underscoring the novel's message about the mind-body connection and the therapeutic qualities of nature.

Dickon and Martha: Catalysts of Change

Dickon, with his deep affinity for animals and nature, and Martha, the warm and practical maid, represent the grounding forces in the story. Their roles emphasize community, kindness, and the importance of social bonds in healing both body and spirit.

Symbolism and Literary Features

The secret garden story summary is rich with symbolism, making it a fertile subject for literary analysis and a staple in educational curricula.

The Garden as a Symbol

The garden itself is the novel's central symbol. Locked and abandoned, it represents repression, neglect, and emotional barrenness. As Mary and her friends restore the garden, it becomes a living metaphor for renewal and hope. This transformation parallels the characters' internal journeys, illustrating the therapeutic power of nature.

Use of Setting and Atmosphere

Burnett's vivid descriptions of the English moors, the manor, and the garden create a tangible atmosphere that enhances the novel's themes. The contrast between the gloomy, isolated mansion and the vibrant, blossoming garden visually reinforces the shift from despair to vitality.

Narrative Style and Tone

The novel employs a third-person omniscient perspective, allowing readers to access the inner thoughts and feelings of multiple characters. Burnett's tone balances a gentle, almost lyrical quality with moments of frank emotional insight, making the story accessible to children while engaging adult readers.

The Legacy and Adaptations of The Secret Garden

The secret garden story summary extends beyond the pages of the book, influencing a wide array of adaptations and cultural works.

Film, Television, and Stage Versions

Since its publication, *The Secret Garden* has been adapted into numerous films, television series, and stage productions. These adaptations vary in faithfulness to the original text but consistently highlight the novel's core themes of healing and transformation. Notable versions include the 1949 and 1993 films, which brought the story to broader audiences and renewed interest in Burnett's work.

Educational Impact and Continued Relevance

The novel remains a staple in school curricula worldwide due to its rich

thematic content and approachable language. Its emphasis on empathy, resilience, and environmental appreciation continues to resonate with contemporary readers, particularly in an era increasingly concerned with mental health and ecological awareness.

Critical Perspectives and Modern Interpretations

While widely celebrated, *The Secret Garden* has also been subject to critical scrutiny, particularly regarding its colonial undertones and gender roles.

Postcolonial Critique

Mary's origins in colonial India and her initial portrayal as an unpleasant child reflect early 20th-century British attitudes toward empire and race. Modern readers and scholars often examine these aspects critically, exploring how the novel navigates or perpetuates colonial stereotypes.

Feminist Readings

The novel's focus on female protagonists and themes of independence and self-discovery invites feminist interpretations. Mary's empowerment through action and connection challenges traditional gender expectations, offering a progressive portrayal for its time.

Psychological and Therapeutic Insights

Contemporary analyses frequently highlight the novel's psychological dimensions. The secret garden story summary can be seen as an early exploration of child psychology, emphasizing the importance of environment, social support, and emotional expression in personal development.

Why The Secret Garden Endures as a Classic

The continued popularity of *The Secret Garden* lies in its universal themes and richly drawn characters. Its narrative offers readers of all ages a hopeful message about the possibility of change and the healing power of nature and friendship. The book's balance of whimsy and realism invites readers to reflect on their own lives and environments, making it a timeless piece of children's literature.

In summary, the secret garden story summary is more than just a children's tale; it is a layered work that combines literary artistry with profound human truths. As readers unlock the garden's door alongside Mary Lennox, they embark on a journey of rediscovery that remains as relevant today as it was over a century ago.

[The Secret Garden Story Summary](#)

the secret garden story 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 story summary: The Secret Garden Book and Charm Frances Hodgson Burnett, 1985-10-16 When orphaned Mary Lennox, lonely and sad, comes to live at her uncle's great house on the Yorkshire moors, she finds it full of secrets. At night, she hears the sound of crying down one of the long corridors. Outside, she meets Dickon, a magical boy who can charm and talk to animals. Then, one day, with the help of a friendly robin, Mary discovers the most mysterious wonder of all--a secret garden, walled and locked, which has been completely forgotten for years and years. Is everything in the garden dead, or can Mary bring it back to life?

the secret garden story summary: The Secret Garden Frances Hodgson Burnett, Thea Kliros, 1994-08-23 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 story 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 story summary: The Secret Garden. Novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett (World's Classics) Frances Hodgson Burnett, 2016-03-11 The Secret Garden is a novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett. It was initially published in serial format beginning in 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 troubled, sickly, and unloved 10-year-old girl born in India to selfish, wealthy British parents. 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 met, at his home called Misselthwaite Manor.

the secret garden story summary: The Secret Garden (Annotated) Frances Hodgson Burnett, 2020-10-25 Honestly, The Secret Garden has such a straightforward plot that we can almost sum it up as follows: Girl loses parents, girl finds friends, girl finds garden, boy joins girl in garden, boy learns to walk on his own, the end. Actually, that isn't quite as straightforward as we thought; let us explain in a bit more detail. Mary Lennox is a nine-year-old British girl growing up in colonial India in the care of a sequence of nannies. Since her father is an officer in the British army and her mom is super-busy with the vital business of dinner parties and nice clothes, Mary barely knows her own parents. And since she spends all of her time alone, she's selfish, demanding, and self-absorbed. Her parents die suddenly of cholera, leaving her in the care of her mother's brother, Archibald Craven. Mary's uncle doesn't care much about her, so he brings her to his huge mansion in England, Misselthwaite Manor, and basically leaves her there, more or less on her own. Mary's maid Martha is a cheerful Yorkshire woman who won't stand for Mary's spoiled tantrums and fits. She tells Mary all about two things that change Mary's life: (1) There is a walled garden on the grounds that has been sealed off since the death of Archibald Craven's wife ten years before; and (2) Martha has a little brother named Dickon who loves gardening and wild things. Of course, Mary discovers the walled garden (since the title of this book is The Secret Garden). With the help of a local robin (this isn't Mary Poppins, so the robin doesn't actually talk, but it's smarter than your average bird), Mary stumbles on the long-lost key to the garden and opens it up. With the kindly help of nature-smart Dickon, Mary begins secretly working in the garden to bring its many roses back to life. The exercise and outdoor time improves both her physical and her mental health, and Mary stops being quite so much the spoiled princess that she was at the beginning of the novel. Ever

since she first arrived at Misselthwaite Manor, Mary has been hearing the sound of a crying child late at night. She finally discovers the secret of the Manor (well, besides the Secret Garden) one night: Archibald Craven has a son. The boy, Colin, is even more sheltered and spoiled than Mary. He's been told his whole life that he is sickly, so he believes it—even though there is actually nothing physically wrong with him. Since he gets so little exercise and he spends so much time about his own (imaginary) illnesses, he has a rotten temper and horrible manners. Now that Mary is around to give Colin some straight talk about his bullying behavior and his needless self-pity, though, he begins to grow out of his selfishness. The two of them (again, with the help of Dickon and his green thumb) decide to work in the Secret Garden together. Colin decides that he is going to make himself better so that when his father arrives back in England, Colin can surprise Archibald with his transformation. But wait... You may ask: Why does Colin's father spend so little time at home with Colin? There are two important details to this tragedy that you have to know: (1) Archibald has a deformed spine, which has had a huge emotional effect on him; and (2) he was deeply in love with his wife Lillias. Lillias was pregnant with Colin when she fell from a tree in the walled garden, went into labor, and died...

the secret garden story summary: The Secret Garden Frances Hodgson Burnett, 1997-03 A beautiful hardcover edition of a timeless classic, with illustrations by Lauren Child. Young, orphaned Mary Lennox is sent to live with her reclusive uncle, Archibald Craven. All but ignored by Craven, and kept away from her sickly cousin Colin, Mary happens upon a secret, walled garden. As she starts to work in it, the garden begins to flourish, and so do Mary and her new family. With an unjacketed fabric cover, six full color plates, and colored endpapers, everything about this hardcover edition is high-end and luxurious.

the secret garden story summary: The Secret Garden Frances Hodgson Burnett, 2017-11-01

the secret garden story summary: **The Secret Garden** Francis Hodgson Burnett, 2023-03-06 Mary is a 10 year old girl that is neglected and unloved by her wealthy British parents. Born in British India, she is looked after by the servants. She becomes spoilt. Her parents die from a cholera epidemic, whereupon, the servants flee the household. Mary is discovered by British soldiers where she is put in temporary care of an English clergyman. She is then sent to England to live with her uncle, Archibald Craven who turns out to be a hunchback to live a new life. She is upset and rude but after some time becomes acquainted with the people and her surroundings and the mystery that lies ahead with the Secret Garden.

the secret garden story 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 story summary: The Secret Garden Frances Hodgson Burnett, 1987-01-01 The Secret Garden should be on every child's bookshelf.—Amanda Craig, The Time An enchanting story of transformation and compassion, Frances Hodgson Burnett's *The Secret Garden* is widely considered to be one of the most important works of children's literature. After her parents die of cholera, Mary Lennox, a difficult and sickly little girl, is brought from India to her mysterious uncle's sprawling estate on the Yorkshire moors. Mary continues in her self-absorbed ways until one day she discovers a hidden and neglected garden adjoining her uncle's mansion. When she meets Ben Weatherstaff, a curt but gentle gardener, and discovers her hidden-away invalid cousin, Colin Craven, the three come together to tend the garden, and Mary's life—as well as the lives of those around her—begins to change in unforeseen ways. This Modern Library Paperback Classic is set from the text of the first American edition published in 1911. Praise for *The Secret Garden* "It is only the exceptional author who can write a book about children with sufficient skill, charm, simplicity, and significance to make it acceptable to both young and old. Mrs. Burnett is one of the few thus gifted."—The New York Times

the secret garden story summary: The Secret Garden Frances Gilbert, Frances Hodgson Burnett, 2017-01-10 A picture book retelling, perfect for the youngest readers, of the beloved classic children's story—and new movie starring Colin Firth, coming to theaters April 2020. "A key!" cried Mary. "Is it the key to the secret garden?" This story of a key that leads a lonely girl to a secret garden is a beloved children's classic. Based on Frances Hodgson Burnett's 1911 children's novel, this retelling, simply and warmly written, will charm young readers. They'll fall in love with Mary, her gentle friend Dickon, and the beautiful garden they bring to life. And the lush pictures by Brigette Barrager, illustrator of *Uni the Unicorn*, will let young children feel they've entered the garden themselves.

the secret garden story 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 story summary: *The Secret Garden* Frances Hodgson Burnett, 2006
Orphaned, 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. Includes a study guide.

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