

## **TOM'S MIDNIGHT GARDEN by Phillipa Pearce**

### **Lesson 1: Introduction to Tom's Midnight Garden**

Our first lesson will begin with a **reflection** on the last three lessons; we will discuss what we learned and enjoyed from our work together on *Wonder* before we move onto our fourth book, *Tom's Midnight Garden*. We will begin our work on *Tom's Midnight Garden* by **sharing our first impressions** of the book and discussing what interested us about the story and Pearce's writing. The students will then be supplied with some **information about the author and the context of the book**. With this information in mind, we will discuss how knowledge of an author's background and the fact that it is inspired by real people, places, and events informs our reading of it. We will then think about **perspective** and how the **type of narration** influences the way a story is told and received.

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#### **Preparation required:**

- Read *Tom's Midnight Garden*.
  - Think about what thoughts you have on the book and would like to share with the group.
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#### **Homework:**

**How** would the story be **different** if it were written from **Tom's perspective**?

## **Lesson 2: Discussion of themes**

In lesson two, we will move on to focussing on some of the **major themes** in the novel. As in our previous lessons, we will use a combination of **class discussion** and **looking at extracts from the book** to gain a rich understanding and appreciation of *how* and *why* these themes are explored in the book. When looking at the selected extracts we will also practice our **close analysis skills** (i.e. unpicking the structure, language, and literary techniques used by the author).

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### **Preparation required:**

- Complete the homework task from Lesson 1.
  - Think about the following themes and how they are explored in the novel:
    - Time
    - Childhood vs. Adulthood
    - Magic
    - Belief
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### **Homework:**

**Why** do you think **Mrs Bartholomew** tells Tom who she really is at the end of the book?

### **Lesson 3: Homework discussion and consolidation**

Our final lesson will involve a **discussion of the homework** completed by the students (it is therefore *crucial* that they have completed this homework in advance of our lesson). We will **share our thoughts** with one another and look at **what we did well and how we can improve**. To finish, we will have a **debate** in which we discuss as a group some **essay-style questions** and think about how we would go about **writing a response**.

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#### **Preparation required:**

- Complete the homework task from Lesson 2.
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#### **Homework:**

What **statements** does the novel make about **growing up**?