

## *The Secret Garden* - Frances Hodgson Burnett

### Lesson 1

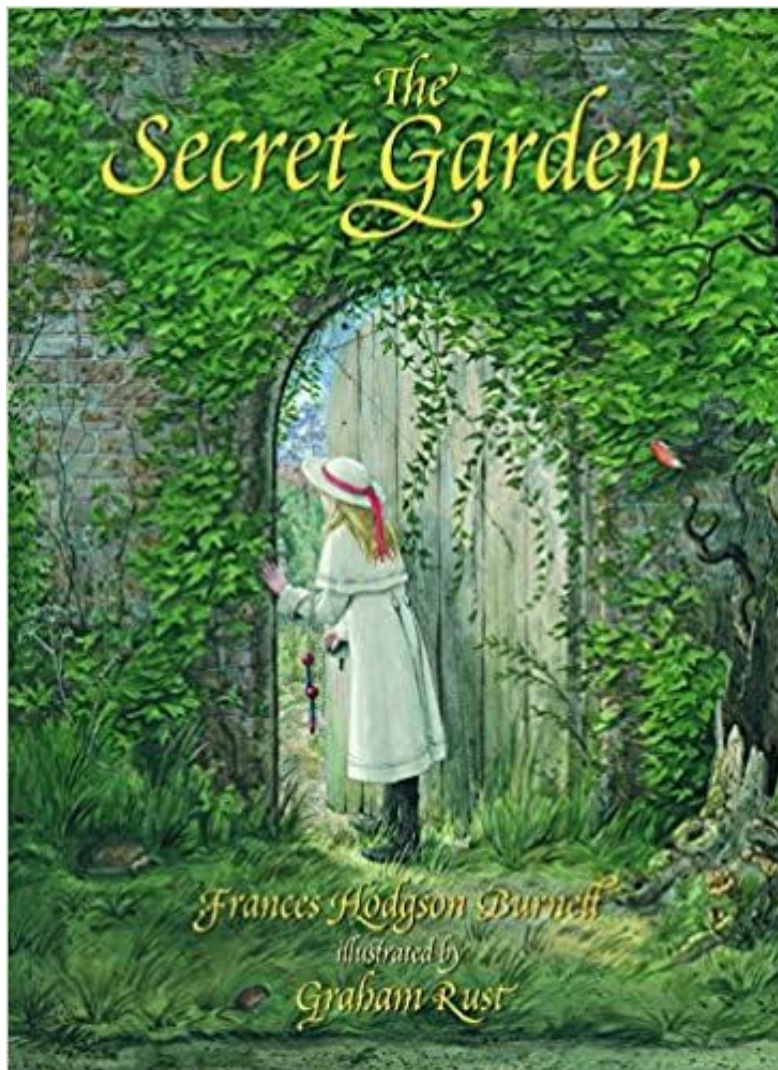
#### **Before reading...**

Look at the front cover.

- What do you think the book will be about?
- What things can you see on the front cover?
- What sort of story will it be?
- Who might enjoy it?

#### **Now read the blurb...**

- Were any of your predictions correct?



## The Opening Lines

Read the first lines of the book (below) and think about the following questions:

- What tone does this set for the book?
- What do we learn from these lines?
- How do we feel when we read these lines?
- Why does the book begin with these lines?

*When Mary Lennox was sent to Misselthwaite Manor to live with her uncle everybody said she was the most disagreeable-looking child ever seen. It was true, too. She had a little thin face and a little thin body, thin light hair and a sour expression. Her hair was yellow, and her face was yellow because she had been born in India and had always been ill in one way or another. Her father had held a position under the English Government and had always been busy and ill himself, and her mother had been a great beauty who cared only to go to parties and amuse herself with gay people. She had not wanted a little girl at all, and when Mary was born she handed her over to the care of an Ayah, who was made to understand that if she wished to please the Mem Sahib she must keep the child out of sight as much as possible. So when she was a sickly, fretful, ugly little baby she was kept out of the way, and when she became a sickly, fretful, toddling thing she was kept out of the way also.*

## **Comprehension**

### **Chapters 1-8**

1. Why was Mary Lennox's father in India?
2. Who took care of Mary?
3. What happened to her mother and father?
4. Why were Mary and the snake the only living things in the bungalow?
5. Why had Mary been forgotten?
6. During the confusion of the epidemic on the second day, what happened to Mary?
7. Who found her alone and forgotten?
8. Why doesn't Mary miss her parents?
9. What name did the English clergyman's children give Mary when she stayed with them until the authorities could decide what to do with her?
10. What didn't Mary seem to know anything about?
11. What did Mary do when Mrs. Crawford, the clergyman's wife, tried to kiss her and be kind to her?
12. Who is Mrs. Medlock?
13. What did Mary think of Mrs. Medlock?
14. What did Mrs. Medlock think of Mary?
15. When Mrs. Medlock asked Mary if she cared about where she was being taken, what did Mary answer?
16. What had happened to Mr. Craven's beautiful wife?
17. What did Mrs. Medlock tell Mary about living at Mr. Craven's manor?
18. What curious thing does Mary realize and tell Ben Weatherstaff?

19. When Mrs. Medlock found Mary wandering around in the house, what did Mrs. Medlock do?

20. How did Mary, who had never thanked anyone in her whole life, thank Martha for the jump rope?

## **Vocabulary**

1. sour
2. expression
3. fretful
4. tyrannical
5. slunk
6. veranda
7. insult
8. disdain
9. imploringly
10. wailing
11. cholera
12. bewilderment
13. alternately
14. intensely
15. drowsy
16. panic-stricken
17. desolation
18. neglected
19. heavily
20. affectionate

## HOMEWORK

What is your **first impression** of **Mary**?

**OR**

Write a **short story** using **at least 5 new words** (above) that we learned from these chapters.