

The Secret Garden (1909) - Frances Hodgson Burnett

Lesson 2

Read and think about the extract below from when Mary first meets Colin.

Mary stood near the door with her candle in her hand, holding her breath. Then she crept across the room, and, as she drew nearer, the light attracted the boy's attention and he turned his head on his pillow and stared at her, his gray eyes opening so wide that they seemed immense.

"Who are you?" he said at last in a half-frightened whisper. "Are you a ghost?"

"No, I am not," Mary answered, her own whisper sounding half frightened. "Are you one?"

He stared and stared and stared. Mary could not help noticing what strange eyes he had. They were agate gray and they looked too big for his face because they had black lashes all round them.

"No," he replied after waiting a moment or so. "I am Colin."

"Who is Colin?" she faltered.

"I am Colin Craven. Who are you?"

"I am Mary Lennox. Mr. Craven is my uncle."

"He is my father," said the boy.

"Your father!" gasped Mary. "No one ever told me he had a boy! Why didn't they?"

"Come here," he said, still keeping his strange eyes fixed on her with an anxious expression. She came close to the bed and he put out his hand and touched her.

"You are real, aren't you?" he said. "I have such real dreams very often. You might be one of them."

Comprehension

Chapters 10-19

1. What colour eyes does Dickon have?
2. How did Dickon tell Mary that her secret of the garden was safe with him?
3. Why was Mary late?
4. Why was Mary sorry she told Colin about the secret garden?
5. What did Dickon mean the picture to be?
6. What is the weather like in these chapters?
7. Why did Mary say she couldn't see Colin that night?
8. Why did Colin have a tantrum when Mary didn't come to his room when he thought she should?
9. Why does Colin want to go outside?

Vocabulary

1. self-absorbed
2. anxious
3. impudent
4. rockery
5. contrary
6. scorn
7. mantle
8. fringe
9. sallow
10. alter
11. disagreeable
12. brisk
13. unresponsive
14. discomfited
15. indifference
16. moor
17. spite
18. trifle
19. chattering
20. shrieked

HOMEWORK

Using the work we did today as inspiration, imagine you are **Colin** and have **left your room for the first time**. Write a **diary entry** about the experience.

OR

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