

The Secret Garden - Frances Hodgson Burnett

Lesson 3

Read and think about the following extract from the end of the book:

In each century since the beginning of the world wonderful things have been discovered. In the last century more amazing things were found out than in any century before. In this new century hundreds of things still more astounding will be brought to light. At first people refuse to believe that a strange new thing can be done, then they begin to hope it can be done, then they see it can be done—then it is done and all the world wonders why it was not done centuries ago. One of the new things people began to find out in the last century was that thoughts—just mere thoughts—are as powerful as electric batteries—as good for one as sunlight is, or as bad for one as poison. To let a sad thought or a bad one get into your mind is as dangerous as letting a scarlet fever germ get into your body. If you let it stay there after it has got in you may never get over it as long as you live.

So long as Colin shut himself up in his room and thought only of his fears and weakness and his detestation of people who looked at him and reflected hourly on humps and early death, he was a hysterical half-crazy little hypochondriac who knew nothing of the sunshine and the spring and also did not know that he could get well and could stand upon his feet if he tried to do it. When new beautiful thoughts began to push out the old hideous ones, life began to come back to him, his blood ran healthily through his veins and strength poured into him like a flood. His scientific experiment was quite practical and simple and there was nothing weird about it at all. Much more surprising things can happen to anyone who, when a disagreeable or discouraged thought comes into his mind, just has the sense to remember in time and push it out by putting in an agreeable determinedly courageous one. Two things cannot be in one place.

*“Where you tend a rose, my lad,
A thistle cannot grow.”*

Comprehension

Chapters 20-27

1. Why does Mrs. Medlock say '[things] couldn't well change for the worse'?
2. What did Ben Weatherstaff do when he was confronted by Colin in the secret garden?
3. Why was Colin so eager to walk by himself?
4. What was really "half the battle" in getting Colin well?
5. What vegetables did Dickon tend to?
6. What was in the robin's nest?
7. When does 'Magic work best' according to Dickon?
8. Why did Mr. Craven go back home to Misselthwaite Manor?

Vocabulary

1. Obligated
2. Absorbing
3. System
4. Delightful
5. Upholding
6. Annoyance
7. Century
8. Agreeable
9. Attended
10. Wilderness
11. Deepening
12. Incantations
13. Pilgrimage
14. Relations
15. Ivory
16. Brooded
17. Eagerly
18. Immense
19. Presence
20. Dignity

HOMEWORK

What was your **favourite part of the book** and **why**?

OR

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