

the secret garden by frances hodgson burnett

The Enduring Magic of The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett

the secret garden by frances hodgson burnett is much more than just a classic children's novel; it's a timeless story that has enchanted readers for over a century. First published in 1911, this novel continues to captivate audiences with its themes of healing, friendship, and the transformative power of nature. Whether you're encountering the tale for the first time or revisiting it with fond memories, there's something deeply refreshing about the world Burnett creates—a secret garden where magic feels real and hope blossoms in unexpected ways.

Exploring the Story Behind The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett

At its heart, the secret garden is a story of personal growth and rejuvenation. The narrative follows Mary Lennox, a spoiled and lonely girl who is sent to live with her reclusive uncle in the Yorkshire moors after the death of her parents. The gloomy manor and the mysterious locked garden on the estate become central to Mary's journey. As she discovers the garden and begins to nurture it back to life, she also transforms herself and those around her.

This novel beautifully captures the contrast between the bleakness of Mary's early life and the vibrant rebirth that the garden symbolizes. Frances Hodgson Burnett's portrayal of the Yorkshire landscape adds a rich, atmospheric quality that draws readers into this enchanting setting.

The Characters That Bring the Story to Life

One reason why the secret garden by frances hodgson burnett remains beloved is the memorable cast of characters who experience profound changes throughout the story:

- **Mary Lennox**: Initially headstrong and unpleasant, Mary's character development is central to the novel. Her discovery of the garden sparks a newfound empathy and curiosity.
- **Colin Craven**: Mary's sickly cousin, whose own transformation from a bedridden, fearful boy into a healthy, confident child mirrors the garden's revival.
- **Dickon Sowerby**: The nature-loving boy who helps Mary understand the secrets of the garden and the healing power of nature.
- **Mrs. Medlock and Ben Weatherstaff**: Supporting characters who add depth and realism to the story's moorland setting.

These characters' intertwined journeys emphasize themes of friendship, resilience, and the restorative qualities of the natural world.

The Deeper Themes in *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett

While it reads like a charming children's tale on the surface, *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett explores several profound themes that resonate with readers of all ages.

Healing and Renewal

One of the most powerful motifs in the novel is the idea of healing—both emotional and physical. The garden itself is a metaphor for rebirth, symbolizing hope and recovery. Mary and Colin's gradual improvements in health and spirit parallel the garden's blossoming flowers and greenery. This theme encourages readers to reflect on the importance of nurturing both themselves and their surroundings.

The Power of Nature

Frances Hodgson Burnett's vivid descriptions of the natural world highlight its critical role in the characters' transformations. The secret garden is not just a backdrop; it's an active participant in the story. This celebration of nature—its beauty, cycles, and restorative powers—has made the novel a forerunner in literature promoting environmental appreciation.

Friendship and Compassion

The relationships formed in the novel emphasize kindness and understanding as catalysts for change. Mary's connection with Dickon and Colin teaches her empathy and cooperation, showing that human bonds can be as nourishing as the earth itself.

Why *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett Still Matters Today

In a world increasingly dominated by technology and urban life, *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson

burnett offers a gentle reminder of the importance of reconnecting with nature and ourselves. Its themes of mental and physical wellbeing resonate strongly in today's context, where many seek solace and balance through outdoor activities and mindfulness.

Moreover, the novel's exploration of childhood resilience and the impact of environment on development provides valuable insights for educators, parents, and caregivers. It encourages nurturing curiosity, independence, and emotional intelligence in young readers.

Adaptations and Cultural Impact

The secret garden has inspired numerous adaptations, including films, stage plays, and television series. Each adaptation brings a fresh perspective to Burnett's story, demonstrating its versatility and enduring relevance. From the 1949 film to more recent productions, these retellings introduce the story to new generations, ensuring its place in popular culture.

Tips for Reading and Teaching The Secret Garden

For those looking to dive deeper into the novel or share it with children, here are some helpful tips:

- **Encourage Visualization:** The rich descriptions of the garden and moorland invite readers to imagine the setting vividly, enhancing engagement.
- **Discuss Themes:** Talking about healing, friendship, and nature can help readers relate their own experiences to the story.
- **Explore Character Growth:** Tracking Mary and Colin's changes can promote discussions about personal development and empathy.
- **Connect to Real Gardens:** If possible, visiting a garden or planting seeds can create a hands-on connection to the novel's message.

These approaches make reading the secret garden by frances hodgson burnett an enriching and interactive experience.

The Writing Style of Frances Hodgson Burnett in *The Secret Garden*

Burnett's prose is both accessible and evocative, making the novel appealing to readers young and old. Her descriptive language paints vivid images of the garden's transformation from neglected space to a vibrant sanctuary, mirroring the characters' emotional journeys. The narrative pacing balances moments of quiet reflection with bursts of discovery and excitement, keeping readers engaged throughout.

Additionally, Burnett's use of dialogue and internal monologues allows readers to understand the characters' inner worlds, fostering empathy and connection.

Symbolism and Imagery

The novel is rich with symbolism, most notably the garden itself as a symbol of growth and renewal. The locked garden represents hidden potential and the unlocking of emotional barriers. Seasonal changes reflect the cycles of life and healing. Even the moorland's wildness contrasts meaningfully with the cultivated garden, highlighting themes of control versus freedom.

Recognizing these literary devices adds layers of appreciation for Burnett's craftsmanship.

Final Thoughts on *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett

The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett remains a beloved classic because it speaks to universal experiences: loneliness, hope, and the healing power of care—whether given to a garden or to a friend. Its timeless appeal lies in its gentle reminder that even in the darkest times, growth and renewal are possible.

For anyone seeking a story that combines warmth, adventure, and profound insight, this novel offers a magical escape into a world where nature and human spirit intertwine beautifully. Revisiting the secret garden is like taking a deep breath of fresh air—a moment to pause, reflect, and find inspiration in the simplest, most natural things.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main theme of 'The Secret Garden' by Frances Hodgson Burnett?

'The Secret Garden' primarily explores themes of healing and transformation, showing how nature and friendship can bring emotional and physical renewal.

Who are the main characters in 'The Secret Garden'?

The main characters are Mary Lennox, a spoiled and lonely girl; Colin Craven, her sickly cousin; and Dickon Sowerby, a kind boy who loves nature.

How does the secret garden symbolize change in the novel?

The secret garden symbolizes growth, healing, and rejuvenation, mirroring the personal transformations of Mary and Colin as they nurture the garden and themselves.

What role does nature play in 'The Secret Garden'?

Nature serves as a powerful force for healing and connection, helping characters overcome isolation, illness, and emotional struggles through the restorative power of the garden.

Why is 'The Secret Garden' still popular among readers today?

'The Secret Garden' remains popular due to its timeless themes of hope, friendship, and renewal, as well as its engaging story that resonates with both children and adults.

Additional Resources

The Enduring Charm of The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett

the secret garden by frances hodgson burnett stands as a timeless piece of children's literature that continues to captivate readers over a century after its initial publication in 1911. This novel, rich in themes of healing, nature, and personal transformation, has been the subject of extensive literary analysis and remains a significant work in the canon of English literature for young audiences. Its enduring popularity is reflected not only in its numerous adaptations across film, theater, and television but also in its persistent presence in academic discussions and reading lists worldwide.

In-depth Analysis of The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson

Burnett

At its core, *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett explores the profound impact that environment and human connection can have on an individual's psychological and emotional well-being. The story follows Mary Lennox, a sour and unloved child who is sent to live with her reclusive uncle in Yorkshire after the death of her parents. The narrative unfolds as Mary discovers a hidden, neglected garden on the estate and, through her efforts to restore it, undergoes a remarkable transformation.

The novel's setting—a large, mysterious manor and its surrounding moors—plays a critical role in shaping the mood and themes. Burnett's vivid descriptions of the garden's revival parallel Mary's own journey from isolation to vitality. The use of nature as a catalyst for renewal is a recurring motif, emphasizing the restorative power of the natural world, which was a somewhat progressive theme for children's literature of the early 20th century.

Thematic Depth and Symbolism

One of the key strengths of *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett lies in its layered symbolism. The hidden garden itself is emblematic of neglected potential and the possibility of rebirth. The act of unlocking the garden parallels the unlocking of Mary's own guarded emotions and the secrets harbored by other characters, such as Colin Craven, her sickly cousin.

The novel also addresses themes of loneliness and friendship. Mary's initial alienation, due to her upbringing and personality, gradually diminishes as she forms meaningful relationships. This evolution highlights the importance of empathy and human connection. Additionally, the motif of healing—both physical and psychological—is intricately woven into the narrative, reflecting contemporary understandings of health and environment during Burnett's time.

Character Development and Psychological Insight

Burnett's characterization in *The Secret Garden* is noteworthy for its psychological nuance. Mary's transformation from a spoiled, indifferent child to a compassionate and lively individual is portrayed with subtlety, avoiding didacticism. Similarly, Colin's journey from a hypochondriac, confined by fears and misconceptions about his health, to a confident boy capable of joy and activity illustrates Burnett's insight into child psychology.

The supporting characters, such as Dickon, whose affinity with animals and nature provides a grounding influence, enrich the narrative and embody the novel's celebration of harmony between humans and the natural world. Their interactions offer readers a model of community and cooperation that transcends social barriers.

Contextualizing The Secret Garden in Children's Literature

When examining *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett within the broader context of children's literature, it emerges as a pioneering work that blends fantasy with realism. Unlike many contemporaneous works that favored overt moralizing or adventure, Burnett's novel delves into internal growth and emotional healing, marking a shift towards more psychologically complex storytelling.

The book's impact can be compared to other classics of its era, such as J.M. Barrie's *Peter Pan* or E. Nesbit's works, which also focus on childhood experiences but often emphasize escapism or whimsy. *The Secret Garden*'s grounded approach to themes of loss, recovery, and the natural environment offers a unique contribution to the genre that has influenced subsequent authors and educators.

Adaptations and Cultural Impact

The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett has inspired a wide array of adaptations, reflecting its universal themes and appeal. From early silent films to modern cinematic renditions, and from stage musicals to television series, the story's core elements have been reinterpreted to resonate with contemporary audiences.

These adaptations often highlight different facets of the novel—some emphasize the gothic elements of the mysterious manor, while others focus on the garden's magical qualities or the characters' emotional journeys. This versatility underscores the novel's rich narrative and thematic complexity.

Pros and Cons of The Secret Garden's Narrative Approach

- **Pros:**
 - Timeless themes of healing and transformation ensure ongoing relevance.
 - Richly developed characters provide psychological depth uncommon in early children's literature.
 - The symbolic use of nature encourages environmental appreciation and mindfulness.
 - Accessible language makes it suitable for a broad age range.

- **Cons:**

- Some modern readers may find the pacing slow compared to contemporary children's novels.
- Certain cultural attitudes reflective of its early 20th-century context might require critical discussion.
- The portrayal of illness and disability, while progressive for its time, may now seem simplistic.

Despite these limitations, *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett remains a valued text for its literary qualities and thematic richness.

SEO Keywords and Their Integration

In discussing *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett, several latent semantic indexing (LSI) keywords naturally arise: classic children's novel, Mary Lennox, Colin Craven, hidden garden, nature and healing, childhood transformation, Victorian literature, garden symbolism, and literary adaptations.

These keywords are integral to accurately representing the novel's content and appeal. For instance, Mary Lennox's character arc is central to the theme of childhood transformation, while the hidden garden encapsulates the motif of renewal and hope. References to Victorian literature and classic children's novel situate the work historically and culturally, enhancing its SEO relevance for readers seeking authoritative content on the subject.

Comparative Literary Significance

Comparing *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett to other literary works reveals its unique position in the evolution of children's literature. Unlike adventure-focused books such as Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island*, Burnett's narrative privileges introspection and emotional growth. Its focus on nature as a healing force also sets it apart from the urban or fantastical settings typical of many contemporaries.

Moreover, the book's subtle social commentary—on issues such as class, gender roles, and the impact of upbringing—adds layers that invite adult readers and educators to revisit the text beyond its surface as a children's story.

Final Reflections on The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett

The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett endures not merely because of its charming storyline but due to its profound exploration of themes that resonate across ages and cultures. Its depiction of emotional and physical rejuvenation through the nurturing of both garden and self continues to inspire readers and creators alike.

In an era increasingly conscious of mental health and environmental sustainability, the novel's messages gain renewed relevance, inviting new generations to discover the magic and meaning concealed within its pages. The secret garden, both literal and metaphorical, remains a fertile ground for imagination and healing—a testament to Burnett's literary legacy.

[The Secret Garden By Frances Hodgson Burnett](#)

the secret garden by frances hodgson burnett: 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 by frances hodgson burnett: **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 by frances hodgson burnett: 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 by frances hodgson burnett: **The Secret Garden** Jan Fields, Frances Hodgson Burnett, 2011 Presents an adaptation of the classic story of the ten-year-old orphan who goes to live in a lonely house on the Yorkshire moors, where she discovers an invalid cousin and the mysteries of a locked garden.

the secret garden by frances hodgson burnett: **The Secret Garden** Francis Hodgson Burnett, 2022-11-13 In *The Secret Garden*, Frances Hodgson Burnett weaves a tale that harmonizes themes of rejuvenation, the power of nature, and the transformative journey of self-discovery. The novel is set in the early 20th century, rich with Victorian sensibilities, yet it resonates with the timeless realities of childhood healing and friendship. Through lyrical prose and vivid imagery, Burnett crafts a world where the hidden garden becomes a symbol of hope and regeneration, inviting readers to explore the parallels between the natural environment and personal growth. The

narrative is interspersed with elements of gothic tradition and the exploration of deep emotional struggles, all while fostering a poignant exploration of resilience and the bonds of kinship. Frances Hodgson Burnett, an acclaimed author of children's literature, drew on her own experiences of loneliness and transformation to create her beloved characters. Born in 1849 in England and later moving to America, she faced significant challenges during her early life, including the loss of her father and financial difficulties. These personal trials influenced her portrayal of the orphaned and isolated Mary Lennox, allowing her to explore themes of healing and connection through the lens of youth within the natural world. I highly recommend *The Secret Garden* to readers of all ages seeking an enriching and evocative story that celebrates both the restorative power of nature and the enduring spirit of human connection. Burnett's masterful storytelling invites readers to reflect on their own experiences of transformation, making this classic a timeless testament to the profound impact of love and companionship.

the secret garden by frances hodgson burnett: *The Secret Garden (Illustrated)* Frances Hodgson Burnett, 2022-11-13 In *The Secret Garden (Illustrated)*, Frances Hodgson Burnett masterfully weaves a narrative that intertwines themes of regeneration, nature, and childhood innocence. Set against the backdrop of a gloomy estate in Yorkshire, this classic tale follows the journey of Mary Lennox, a spoiled and lonely girl who uncovers a locked garden. With vivid descriptions and a lyrical prose style, Burnett employs rich imagery to evoke both the desolation of Mary's early existence and the vibrant transformation that ensues as she discovers the healing power of nature and friendship. The illustrative elements enhance the enchanting experience, bringing the lush, mysterious garden to life and highlighting the contrasts in Mary's emotional development throughout the story. Frances Hodgson Burnett was a prominent English-American author whose own experiences of hardship and transformation greatly informed her writing. Born in 1849 in England and later relocating to the United States, Burnett faced adversity in her youth, which led to a deep understanding of the complexities of childhood and the restorative qualities of nature. Her background as a writer for both adults and children allowed her to employ nuanced characterizations and emotional depth in her storytelling, making her works enduring and relatable across generations. I highly recommend *The Secret Garden (Illustrated)* not only for its nostalgic charm but also for its profound exploration of healing through nature and human connection. This timeless tale resonates with readers of all ages, offering a powerful reminder of the transformative abilities of love and friendship. For those interested in classic literature, this beautifully illustrated edition serves as a cherished addition to any literary collection.

the secret garden by frances hodgson burnett: The Secret Garden By Frances Hodgson Burnett (Children Book) "Complete Unabridged & Annotated Volume" Frances Burnett, 2020-05-05 One of the most delightful and enduring classics of children's literature, *The Secret Garden* by Victorian author Frances Hodgson Burnett has remained a firm favorite with children the world over ever since it made its first appearance. Initially published as a serial story in 1910 in *The American Magazine*, it was brought out in novel form in 1911. The plot centers round Mary Lennox, a young English girl who returns to England from India, having suffered the immense trauma by losing both her parents in a cholera epidemic. However, her memories of her parents are not pleasant, as they were a selfish, neglectful and pleasure-seeking couple. Mary is given to the care of her uncle Archibald Craven, whom she has never met. She travels to his home, Misselthwaite Manor located in the gloomy Yorkshire, and a vast change from the sunny and warm climate she was used to. When she arrives, she is a rude, stubborn and given to stormy temper tantrums. However, her nature undergoes a gradual transformation when she learns of the tragedies that have befallen her strict and disciplinarian uncle whom she earlier feared and despised. Once when he's away from home, Mary discovers a charming walled garden which is always kept locked. The mystery deepens when she hears sounds of sobbing from somewhere within her uncle's vast mansion. The kindly servants ignore her queries or pretend they haven't heard, spiking Mary's curiosity. *The Secret Garden* appeals to both young and old alike. It has wonderful elements of mystery, spirituality, charming characters and an authentic rendering of childhood emotions and experiences. Commonsense, truth

and kindness, compassion and a belief in the essential goodness of human beings lie at the heart of this unforgettable story. It is the best known of Frances Hodgson Burnett's works, though most of us have definitely heard of, if not read, her other novel *Little Lord Fauntleroy*. The book has been adapted extensively on stage, film and television and translated into all the world's major languages. In 1991, a Japanese anime version was launched for television in Japan. It remains a popular and beloved story of a child's journey into maturity, and a must-read for every child, parent, teacher and anyone who would enjoy this fascinating glimpse of childhood. One of the most delightful and enduring classics of children's literature, *The Secret Garden* by Victorian author Frances Hodgson Burnett has remained a firm favorite with children the world over ever since it made its first appearance. Initially published as a serial story in 1910 in *The American Magazine*, it was brought out in novel form in 1911.

the secret garden by frances hodgson burnett: *The Secret Garden* Frances Hodgson Burnett, 2017-11-01

the secret garden by frances hodgson burnett: *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 by frances hodgson burnett: *The Secret Garden* Frances Hodgson Burnett, 2019-04 One of the most beloved children's stories of all time *The Secret Garden* is arguably Frances Hodgson Burnett's most famous novel. First serialized in the fall of 1910 and in book form in 1911, *The Secret Garden* is the story of Mary Lennox, a sick young girl living in India with her parents. Mary rarely sees her parents though, as her sick and unsightly condition is too much for them to bother with. She is placed in the constant care of Indian servants until an outbreak of cholera kills everyone in the Lennox household except for Mary. Mary returns to Yorkshire to live with her uncle, Archibald Craven. It is here that Mary learns of a secret garden that belonged to the late wife of her uncle. Mary is instantly intrigued and sets out to find this secret garden and what is contained within. This classic story is one which explores the healing power inherent in all living things, in this case that which grows in the garden. For its inspirational outlook in the face of tragic circumstances *The Secret Garden* is a work that has come to be cherished by generations of young readers ever since its first publication. This edition is printed on premium acid-free paper and is illustrated by Charles Robinson.

the secret garden by frances hodgson burnett: *The Secret Garden* Frances Hodgson Burnett, 2004 .0000000000 Mary Lennox is sent from an India as an orphan to live at Misselthwaite Manor. She arrives as a sour-faced, sickly and ill-tempered little madam but becomes friends with local lad Dickon and her poorly cousin Colin. In their restoration of a secret garden all their lives are changed for the better. With an Afterword by Anna South.

the secret garden by frances hodgson burnett: *The Secret Garden* Frances Hodgson Burnett, 2002 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 by frances hodgson burnett: *The Secret Garden* Frances Hodgson Burnett, 1990-01-15 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 by frances hodgson burnett: *The Secret Garden* Frances Hodgson

Frances Hodgson Burnett, 2017-07-21 How is this book unique? Font adjustments & biography included Unabridged (100% Original content) Illustrated About The Secret Garden 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.

the secret garden by frances hodgson burnett: *The Secret Garden* Frances Hodgson Burnett, 2018-08-05 The Secret Garden is a children's novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett first published as a book in 1911, after a version was published as an American magazine serial beginning in 1910. Set in England, it is one of Burnett's most popular novels and is considered a classic of English children's literature. Several stage and film adaptations have been made. The American edition was published by Stokes with illustrations by Maria Louise Kirk (signed as M. L. Kirk) and the British edition by Heinemann with illustrations by Charles Heath Robinson.

the secret garden by frances hodgson burnett: The Secret Garden Frances Hodgson Burnett, 2016-05-04 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.

the secret garden by frances hodgson burnett: 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 by frances hodgson burnett: *The Secret Garden By Frances Hodgson Burnett (Children's Literature & Fiction) "The Complete Unabridged & Annotated Volume"* Frances Burnett, 2020-05-13 The Secret Garden By Frances Hodgson Burnett One of the most delightful and enduring classics of children's literature, The Secret Garden by Victorian author Frances Hodgson Burnett has remained a firm favorite with children the world over ever since it made its first appearance. Initially published as a serial story in 1910 in The American Magazine, it was brought out in novel form in 1911. The plot centers round Mary Lennox, a young English girl who returns to England from India, having suffered the immense trauma by losing both her parents in a cholera epidemic. However, her memories of her parents are not pleasant, as they were a selfish, neglectful and pleasure-seeking couple. Mary is given to the care of her uncle Archibald Craven, whom she has never met. She travels to his home, Misselthwaite Manor located in the gloomy Yorkshire, and a vast change from the sunny and warm climate she was used to. When she arrives, she is a rude, stubborn and given to stormy temper tantrums. However, her nature undergoes a gradual transformation when she learns of the tragedies that have befallen her strict and disciplinarian uncle whom she earlier feared and despised. Once when he's away from home, Mary discovers a charming walled garden which is always kept locked. The mystery deepens when she hears sounds of sobbing from somewhere within her uncle's vast mansion. The kindly servants ignore her queries or pretend they haven't heard, spiking Mary's curiosity. The Secret Garden appeals to both young and old alike. It has wonderful elements of mystery, spirituality, charming characters and an authentic rendering of childhood emotions and experiences. Commonsense, truth and kindness, compassion and a belief in the essential goodness of human beings lie at the heart of this unforgettable story. It is the best known of Frances Hodgson Burnett's works, though most of us have definitely heard of, if not read, her other novel Little Lord Fauntleroy. The book has been adapted extensively on stage, film and television and translated into all the world's major languages. In 1991, a Japanese anime version was launched for television in Japan. It remains a popular and beloved story of a child's journey into maturity, and a must-read for every child, parent, teacher and anyone who would enjoy this fascinating glimpse of childhood. One of the most delightful and enduring classics of children's literature, The Secret Garden by Victorian author Frances Hodgson Burnett has remained a firm favorite with children the world over ever since it made its first appearance. Initially published as a serial story in 1910 in The American Magazine, it was brought out in novel form in 1911.

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