

The Secret Garden

The story step by step

- 1 Read this summary of chapter 1. There are 13 errors in it. Listen to the chapter on your CD/download, and find the errors.

Mary was born in India, but her parents died when she was nine and she went to England to live with her mother's cousin. Mary hadn't seen her parents very much and was a thin child who always looked sad. She was also selfish and disagreeable, like her mother.

When Mary arrived in England, Mrs Medlock met her and took her to Yorkshire on the train. Mrs Medlock was large and had red cheeks; she was also very patient, but she did not like Mary very much; she thought she looked spoilt.

Mrs Medlock told Mary about the house. She said it was very old and had nearly a hundred rooms, but a few were locked. The gardens had big trees. Mary liked new things, but she wasn't interested in the house. She was interested in Mr Craven, though. He had always been cross until he got married but he loved his wife. She had married him for his money, but she was pretty. She had died and Mr Craven had become very strange and didn't leave his room when he was in the house.

Mary looked out of the train and felt very gloomy because it had got dark. She fell asleep.

When she woke up, they had arrived at the station. She took her bags and went to the carriage with Mrs Medford. She was fascinated when she saw the moor. It looked like the sea, and the wind made a loud noise. There was nothing growing there, and only ponies, rabbits and sheep lived on the moor.

The house was very big, with high walls, and the hall was full of paintings of people who had died. Mary felt very small and lonely. Mrs Medford showed her her two rooms, where her dinner was waiting for her, and told her she was not allowed to leave the rooms.

2 Listen to chapter 2 on your CD/download, and put these adjectives in the order that you hear them.

amazed	<input type="checkbox"/>	bare	<input type="checkbox"/>	bright	<input type="checkbox"/>
cheeky	<input type="checkbox"/>	cheerful-looking	<input type="checkbox"/>	endless	<input type="checkbox"/>
fresh	<input type="checkbox"/>	friendliest	<input type="checkbox"/>	frightened	<input type="checkbox"/>
full	<input type="checkbox"/>	gloomy	<input type="checkbox"/>	horrible	<input type="checkbox"/>
huge	<input type="checkbox"/>	kind	<input type="checkbox"/>	locked	<input type="checkbox"/>
proud	<input type="checkbox"/>	red-cheeked	<input type="checkbox"/>	relieved	<input type="checkbox"/>
strong-looking	<input type="checkbox"/>	warm	<input type="checkbox"/>		

3 These words are related to nature. Listen to chapter 3 and write down how many times you hear each word.

wind/windy	<input type="checkbox"/>	moor	<input type="checkbox"/>	ivy	<input type="checkbox"/>
robin	<input type="checkbox"/>	treetop	<input type="checkbox"/>	orchard	<input type="checkbox"/>
branch	<input type="checkbox"/>	spring(time)	<input type="checkbox"/>	earth	<input type="checkbox"/>
gorse	<input type="checkbox"/>	heather	<input type="checkbox"/>	fox cub	<input type="checkbox"/>
crow	<input type="checkbox"/>	crocuses	<input type="checkbox"/>	snowdrops	<input type="checkbox"/>
daffodils	<input type="checkbox"/>				

4 There are sixteen examples of the past perfect in chapter 4. Listen to your CD/download and complete the sentences.

- 1 When _____ Mother with all the baking and the washing...
- 2 ...until she _____ tidying away Mary's breakfast things.
- 3 Mary _____ forwards close to the robin....
- 4 Mary saw a round knob which _____ by leaves.
- 5 ...the door which _____ for ten years.
- 6 ...the climbing roses _____ all over them.
- 7 In places, the roses _____ from one tree to another...
- 8 It was different from any other place Mary _____.
- 9 Even the robin, who _____ to his treetop, was still.
- 10 ...she felt as if she _____ a world that was all her own.
- 11 Mary could see that there _____ once _____ a flower bed.
- 12 She remembered what Ben Weatherstaff _____...
- 13 ...said Mary, after she _____ the first ones.
- 14 She realised that she _____ for two or three hours.
- 15 And she _____ happy all the time.
- 16 Mary had some money which Mrs Medlock _____ her....

5 Which of these sentences are true and which are false? Listen to chapters 5 and 6 to check.

- 1 Ben said he had learned about roses when he was a child.
- 2 Ben was surprised when Mary asked about roses.
- 3 Mary saw a boy sitting under a tree, surrounded by poppies and animals.
- 4 Mary thought Dickon smelt nice.
- 5 Dickon taught Mary how to cut the dead wood away.
- 6 Mary thought someone else had been looking after the garden in the previous ten years.
- 7 Mary felt excited about going to meet Mr Craven.
- 8 Martha's mother had spoken to Mr Craven.
- 9 Dickon left his note next to the garden tools.
- 10 Mary woke up after an hour, because she heard something.
- 11 The boy in the bed had a lot of hair, and big, green eyes.
- 12 The boy was crying because he was frightened.
- 13 Mr Craven has a cousin who might be happy if Colin dies.
- 14 Colin says he is good at keeping secrets.
- 15 Colin does not want to sleep, so Mary sings to him.

6 Complete the sentences with the missing verbs in the correct form. Then listen to chapters 7 and 8 on your CD/download to check.

- 1 But when Martha came to bring her her tea, Mary _____ her the news at once.
- 2 'Oh, Miss Mary,' cried Martha. 'You _____ have done that. They _____ cross with me...'
- 3 'Nobody really knows,' said Martha. 'Mr Craven nearly _____ mad when he _____ born, because Mrs Craven _____.'
- 4 'Well, you _____ him in a good mood,' she said. 'He' _____ up on his sofa reading.'
- 5 '_____ in,' he said. 'I' _____ about you all morning.'
- 6 When Martha _____, Colin _____ that Mary _____ at him.
- 7 Dickon _____ always _____ about living things. He' _____ always _____ up in the sky to watch birds _____.
- 8 But she _____ perhaps if Colin _____ Dickon and _____ things growing, he _____ about dying so much.
- 9 The sun _____ in through the windows. She _____ out of bed and _____ to open the window.
- 10 Both animals _____ Dickon, who _____ hard on the grass below.
- 11 ...the little fox cub _____ up and _____ next to him. And the crow _____ down and _____ quietly on his shoulder.
- 12 'Where _____ you _____?'
- 13 'I _____ in the garden with Dickon,' said Mary.
- 14 Colin: ... I _____ to _____ into a hunchback, and then I _____.'
- 15 '... if you _____ not to have any more tantrums, I _____ you about it tomorrow.'
- 16 And when she _____ up, Colin _____ asleep.

7 There is a word which is wrong, in each of these sentences. Listen to chapter 9 and correct the wrong word.

- 1 There were also two or three games, and a beautiful, little writing box.
- 2 She ate her breakfast happily and went straight to Colin's room, carrying the box.
- 3 'There is a door into the garden,' said Mary. 'I found it. It is behind the ivy on the wall.'
- 4 Mary thought for a couple of moments. And then she told Colin the truth.
- 5 'You will start to get healthier just like me,' she said.
- 6 He was holding a newborn lamb in his hands, and the little fox cub was walking next to him.
- 7 Two squirrels were looking out of his jacket, and the crow sat on his shoulder.
- 8 He was so shy and so excited that he forgot to speak.
- 9 'It was half dead with cold when I found it,' said Dickon. 'But I fed it with some warm milk, and it lay down near the fire, and soon started to look better.'
- 10 They also talked about the roses that were growing in the secret garden.

8 Listen to chapter 10 on your CD/download and choose the correct modal verb to complete the sentences.

- 1 'If I like the fresh air, I *will/shall/may* go out every day. When I go, all the gardeners *shall/must/may* stay away from the kitchen gardens. I *will/shall/may* go out at about two o'clock. I *shall/must/will* tell them when they *will/must/can* go back to their work.'
- 2 'I *will/can/shall* get well!' he cried out. 'Mary! Dickon! I *must/shall/will* get well! And I *will/may/shall* live for ever and ever.'
- 3 'I don't want this afternoon to end,' he said. 'But I *will/shall/may* come back tomorrow and the next day, and the next day. I'm going to see everything grow here. And I'm going to grow here myself.' 'You *shall/will/can*,' said Dickon. 'Soon you *ll/may/shall* be walking about and digging here like us.'
- 4 You *ll/shall/must* do as I say. This is my garden. You *can't/mustn't/won't* say anything about it. Now get down from that ladder. Go out to the long walk and Mary *will'll/shall* meet you there. She *ll/can/shall* bring you here. I want to talk to you. We did not want you, but you *may/shall/will* have to be in the secret.'
- 5 'It's my garden now,' said Colin. 'I like it. I *ll/will/shall* come here every day. But that *must/will/can* be a secret. No-one *can/will/must* know that we come here. Mary and Dickon have worked and made it come alive. We *ll/must/will* ask you to come and help sometimes....'

9 Put these sentences in the correct order, then listen to chapter 11 to check.

He finally believed he was going to get well.

It's a good thing that little girl came to the manor.

The problem is that Master Colin and Miss Mary are always hungry now.

You are wonderful!

He told her about the buried key, and the garden, and about Master Colin getting stronger.

Oh, they're enjoying themselves, aren't they!

'Here I am. I am quite well and I shall live to be a man.'

He watched the insects and birds in the garden.

The poppies Dickon and Mary had planted grew, and the roses covered the garden.

'What will Dr Craven say?'

10 Complete this summary of chapter 12. Listen to the chapter on your CD/download to check your answers.

Archie Craven had been travelling around beautiful _____ in Europe, because he had been feeling sad for _____ years. Little by little, however, he began to grow _____. One night, he was walking near a _____ and sat down to look at the moon's reflection. He began to feel _____ and fell asleep. He dreamt that he could hear a sweet, happy voice calling him and saying 'In the garden.' The voice was his _____ voice.

In the morning, a _____ woke him up, and gave him a letter. In the letter, Martha's mother asked him to go home. Mr Craven read the letter _____, then went to get ready to go back to England. He started to think about his _____. He had not been a good father because he had been _____ that his wife was dead and the baby was _____. He only ever went to see Colin when he was asleep, and the servants had told him that Colin was _____ and had big _____.

When Mr Craven got home, he decided to go to the garden immediately. Everything was beautiful, the flowerbeds were full of _____ flowers. He went to the door of the garden, and was surprised because he could hear the noise of quiet _____ and the sound of someone running _____ and _____. The garden door _____ open and a boy ran straight into Mr Craven's arms.

This was probably the best way Colin could give his father a surprise, and both father and son were very happy – in fact, Mr Craven was _____ with happiness. He put his hands on the boy's _____ and held him _____. He asked Colin to take him into the garden and tell him about it. Mary and Dickon were there too, and he saw the colours, and the late roses.

They all sat under a tree and told him about how Mary had met Colin in the _____ of the night and all about their secret garden. Mr Craven both laughed and _____. Colin said he did not need his _____ any more, and that he would walk back to the house with his father. Mrs Medlock saw them and gave a cry; the other servants came _____ and watched the father and son walking happily together for the first time.