

INDEPENDENT STUDY COMPANION

THE SECRET GARDEN



A LIVING BOOK STUDY - LEARNING BOOKLET

Name: _____

TASKS: DAY 1

Week 1 - Chapters 1-2

READ:

Chapter 1: There Is No One Left, and Chapter 2: Mistress Mary Quite Contrary.

NARRATION:

What kind of child is Mary at the start of the book? Why is she called 'quite contrary'?

EXTENSION:

History: research British colonial India in the early 1900s. What was Mary's life like there?

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 2

Week 1 - Chapters 3-4

READ:

Chapter 3: Across the Moor, and Chapter 4: Martha.

LITERACY:

Collect a few Yorkshire dialect words Martha uses, and write down what each one means.

EXTENSION:

Geography: trace the journey from India to Yorkshire on a map.

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 3

Week 1 - Chapters 5-6

READ:

Chapter 5: The Cry in the Corridor, and Chapter 6: 'There Was Some One Crying - There Was!'

DISCUSS:

How does Burnett build mystery and suspense in these chapters?

EXTENSION:

Predict: who do you think is crying, and why?

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 4

Week 1 - Chapters 7-8

READ:

Chapter 7: The Key of the Garden, and Chapter 8: The Robin Who Showed the Way.

DISCUSS:

What might the key and the robin represent in the story?

EXTENSION:

Nature: research robins - their habits, and their place in British folklore.

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 5

Week 2 - Chapter 9

READ:

Chapter 9: The Strangest House Any One Ever Lived In.

NARRATION:

How does Burnett describe Misselthwaite Manor? Find your favourite description.

EXTENSION:

Art: draw the house as you imagine it.

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 6

Week 2 - Chapters 10-11

READ:

Chapter 10: Dickon, and Chapter 11: The Nest of the Missel Thrush.

DISCUSS:

What makes Dickon special? How is he different from Mary?

EXTENSION:

Art: draw Dickon with his animal friends.

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 7

Week 2 - Chapter 12

READ:

Chapter 12: 'Might I Have a Bit of Earth?'

DISCUSS:

Why is this such an important moment for Mary?

EXTENSION:

Nature: plant a real bulb or seed and start a growth diary alongside your reading.

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 8

Week 2 - Chapters 13-14

READ:

Chapter 13: 'I Am Colin', and Chapter 14: A Young Rajah.

DISCUSS:

Compare Colin to Mary when we first met her. What is similar?

EXTENSION:

History: discuss why Colin might be nicknamed 'A Young Rajah' - link to the colonial context in the book.

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 9

Week 2 - Chapter 15

READ:

Chapter 15: Nest Building.

NARRATION:

How does Mary begin to change Colin's outlook on life?

EXTENSION:

Writing: write a short conversation between Mary and Colin about the secret garden.

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 10

Week 3 - Chapters 16-17

READ:

Chapter 16: 'I Won't!' Said Mary, and Chapter 17: A Tantrum.

DISCUSS:

Why is Mary's reaction to Colin's tantrum important?

EXTENSION:

Drama: act out the tantrum scene with a friend or family member.

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 11

Week 3 - Chapters 18-19

READ:

Chapter 18: 'Tha' Munnot Waste No Time', and Chapter 19: 'It Has Come!'

NATURE:

Research spring growth - what changes are happening in the garden at this point in the story?

EXTENSION:

Discuss: how does Dickon help Colin see things differently?

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 12

Week 3 - Chapter 20

READ:

Chapter 20: 'I Shall Live Forever - and Ever - and Ever!'

NARRATION:

Describe Colin's reaction to seeing the garden for the first time.

EXTENSION:

Art: illustrate this moment.

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 13

Week 3 - Chapters 21-22

READ:

Chapter 21: Ben Weatherstaff, and Chapter 22: When the Sun Went Down.

DISCUSS:

Why does Ben Weatherstaff care so much about the garden?

EXTENSION:

Narration: retell this section from Ben's point of view.

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 14

Week 4 - Chapters 23-24

READ:

Chapter 23: Magic, and Chapter 24: 'Let Them Laugh'.

DISCUSS:

What does 'Magic' mean in this book? Is it really magic, or something else - fresh air, exercise, friendship, positive thinking?

EXTENSION:

PSHE: try your own daily 'Magic' - write one positive thought or piece of gratitude, each day for a week.

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 15

Week 4 - Chapters 25-27

READ:

Chapter 25: The Curtain, Chapter 26: 'It's Mother!', and Chapter 27: In the Garden.

NARRATION:

How has the whole household changed by the end of the book?

EXTENSION:

Wrap-up: compare the beginning and end of the story - how have Mary, Colin, and Mr Craven all changed?

Your response:

GROWTH DIARY

If you are growing a real bulb or seed alongside the story, use this page to record what you see each week.

Week	What I see	Drawing

YORKSHIRE DIALECT WORD BANK

Collect dialect words used by Martha, Dickon and Ben Weatherstaff as you read, and write down what each one means.

Word	Who says it	What it means