

Frances Hodgson Burnett

The Secret Garden



Audio CD-ROM



Frances Hodgson Burnett

The Secret Garden

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ISBN 978-88-530-0689-9 Book + audio CD/CD-ROM

Printed in Italy by Litoprint, Genoa

The CD contains an audio section (the recording of the text) and a CD-ROM section (additional fun games and activities that practise the four skills).

- To listen to the recording, insert the CD into your CD player and it will play as normal. You can also listen to the recording on your computer, by opening your usual CD player program.
- If you put the CD directly into the CD-ROM drive, the software will open automatically.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS for CD-ROM

PC:

- Pentium III processor
- Windows 98, 2000 or XP
- 64 Mb RAM (128Mb RAM recommended)
- 800x600 screen resolution 16 bit
- 12X CD-ROM drive
- Audio card with speakers or headphones

Macintosh:

- Power PC G3 or above (G4 recommended)
- Mac OS 10.1.5
- 128 Mb RAM free for the application

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This story is recorded in full.

 These symbols indicate the beginning and end of the extracts linked to the listening activities.





Frances Hodgson Burnett

Frances Hodgson Burnett (1849-1924) was born in Manchester, England. When she was sixteen years old, she and her family moved to Knoxville, Tennessee, USA. She wrote a lot of very popular books for children. Her most famous novel, *Little Lord Fauntleroy* (1886), started a fashion in velvet suits¹ for small boys!

The Secret Garden (1911) describes how two sad, lonely children find happiness by looking after an abandoned garden. This very popular story was filmed twice, in 1949 and 1993.

1. **velvet suits** : jackets and trousers made of a soft smooth material.



A British officer in India with his Indian servants. One has a fan to keep the officer cool while the other is cutting his toenails.

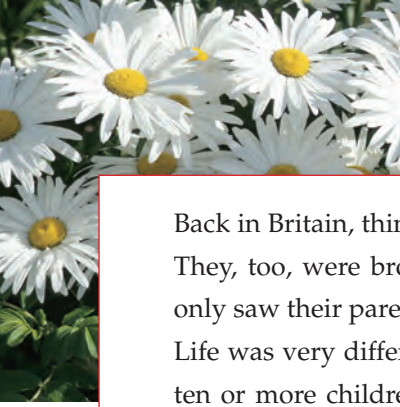
The World of The Secret Garden

At the time that Frances Hodgson Burnett wrote *The Secret Garden* in 1911, Britain controlled all of India.

Thousands of British people went to India to help govern the country. Many of them had a luxurious¹ lifestyle; Indian servants did everything for them but the British people were not always nice to them. The British children who lived in India were looked after by Indian nannies² who had to do everything that the children asked. So it was not surprising that some of these children became spoilt³ and lazy.

1. **luxurious** : comfortable and expensive.
2. **nannies** : women who were paid to look after children.
3. **spoilt** : unpleasant because they got everything they wanted or asked for.





Back in Britain, things were similar for most children of rich families. They, too, were brought up by servants and governesses, and they only saw their parents for a short time each day.

Life was very different, however, for poor families. There were often ten or more children living with their parents in small houses with only one or two bedrooms. There was not always enough food for everyone and clothes were passed down from the older children to the younger ones. Children started work at an early age to earn money to buy food and clothes for the rest of the family.



Poor children in London queuing for breakfast at a Salvation Army hostel. The Salvation Army, a Christian organisation, was started in London in 1865 to give food and help to the poor and hungry.

1 Comprehension check

Read the sentences and decide if they are true (T) or false (F). Then correct the false ones.

- | | T | F |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 When Frances Hodgson Burnett wrote <i>The Secret Garden</i> India controlled all of Britain. | ☐ | ☐ |
| 2 Thousands of British people went to live in India. | ☐ | ☐ |
| 3 Many British people lived very well there. | ☐ | ☐ |
| 4 British children looked after Indian nannies. | ☐ | ☐ |
| 5 Things were very different in Britain for rich families. | ☐ | ☐ |
| 6 Rich children in Britain saw their parents a lot. | ☐ | ☐ |
| 7 In poor families there were usually fewer children than in rich families. | ☐ | ☐ |
| 8 Poor families lived in houses with no bedroom. | ☐ | ☐ |
| 9 Younger children wore old clothes. | ☐ | ☐ |
| 10 Poor children started work after finishing school. | ☐ | ☐ |

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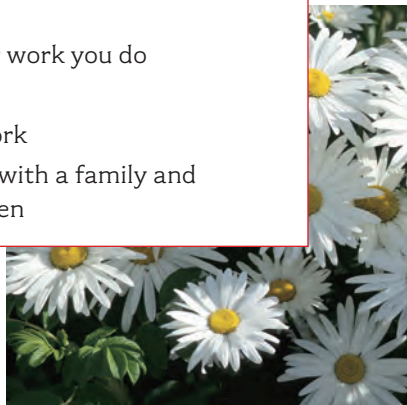
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2 Vocabulary

Match the following words (1-5) with their definitions (A-E).

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1 ☐ govern | A care for |
| 2 ☐ look after | B receive money for work you do |
| 3 ☐ lazy | C control |
| 4 ☐ governess | D not wanting to work |
| 5 ☐ earn | E woman who lives with a family and teaches the children |



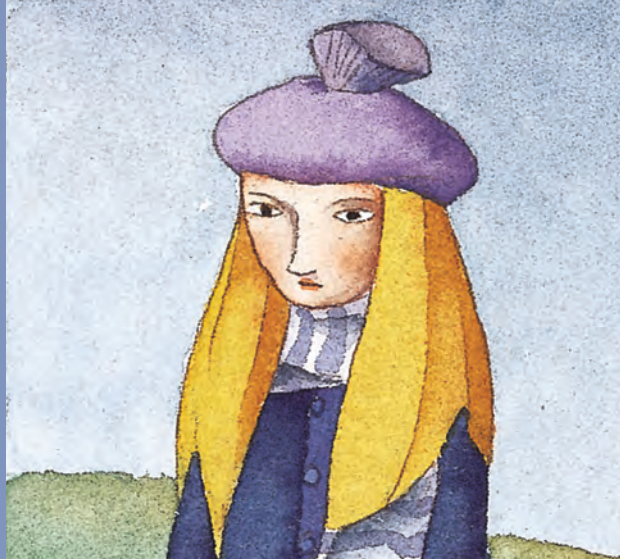
Before you read

PET

1 Listening

Listen to the first part of Chapter One. For each question, put a tick (✓) in the correct box.

- 1 Because Mary was often ill she was
 - A ☐ spoilt and rude.
 - B ☐ thin and sad.
 - C ☐ rude and thin.
- 2 Mary spent most of her time with her
 - A ☐ mother.
 - B ☐ father.
 - C ☐ nanny.
- 3 Mary was angry because
 - A ☐ there were strange cries.
 - B ☐ no one came to see her.
 - C ☐ the house was silent.
- 4 Mary was sent to
 - A ☐ Yorkshire.
 - B ☐ London.
 - C ☐ India.
- 5 Why didn't Mrs Medlock like Mary?
 - A ☐ Because Mary was rude.
 - B ☐ Because Mrs Medlock didn't like anyone.
 - C ☐ Because Mrs Medlock didn't like children.
- 6 During the journey to Yorkshire Mrs Medlock told Mary about
 - A ☐ the house and Mr Craven.
 - B ☐ the moor.
 - C ☐ India.



A Spoilt¹ Little Girl



ary Lennox was spoilt, rude and had a bad temper.² Because she was often ill she was thin and had a sad face. She complained³ a lot. No one liked her at all.

This was not really Mary's fault. She lived in India with her mother and father, but she did not see her parents very often. Mary's father was busy with his work and her mother was a very beautiful woman who loved parties and was not interested in her small daughter. She left Mary in the care of an Indian nanny,⁴ called an ayah. Her ayah allowed Mary to do anything she wanted because she didn't want Mary to cry and make her mother angry. So Mary soon became a spoilt and unpleasant young girl.

1. **spoilt** : unpleasant because she got everything she wanted or asked for.
2. **had a bad temper** : became angry quickly.
3. **complained** : said she wasn't satisfied or happy.
4. **nanny** : woman paid to look after children.

The Secret Garden

When Mary was nine years old she woke up one hot morning and felt that there was something wrong. She heard strange cries and shouts and the sound of feet outside her door, but no one came to see her. She went back to sleep.

Later, when Mary woke up again, the house was silent. She heard nothing. Mary was angry because no one came to bring her food or to dress her. Suddenly her door opened and two Englishmen came in. Mary looked at them angrily.

‘Why has everyone forgotten me?’ she asked. ‘Where’s my ayah? Where is everyone?’

‘Poor little girl,’ said one of the men. ‘There’s nobody here.’

That is how Mary discovered that her mother and father were dead and that the servants were dead, too, because of a terrible disease. That was why the house was so silent. Mary Lennox was completely alone.

There was no one in India to look after Mary, so she was sent to England to live with her uncle, Mr Craven, who lived in a big house in Yorkshire¹ called Misselthwaite Manor.

Mrs Medlock, her uncle’s housekeeper,² met Mary in London. As soon as she saw her, Mary didn’t like Mrs Medlock. But this was nothing new, because Mary didn’t like anyone.

Mrs Medlock didn’t like Mary. She thought that the little girl was bad-tempered, rude and plain³ — and she was right.

During the long train journey to Yorkshire, Mrs Medlock told Mary about the house where she was going to live. It seemed very large and gloomy,⁴ and it was on the edge of a moor.⁵

1. **Yorkshire** : a region in the north of England.

2. **housekeeper** : the most important woman servant in a rich house.

3. **plain** : not pretty.

4. **gloomy** : dark and depressing.

5. **moor** : a large area of wild, open land.

A Spoilt Little Girl

‘There’s nothing for you to do there, and your uncle is not interested in you,’ said Mrs Medlock. ‘He’s got a crooked ¹ back. He was an unpleasant young man until he got married.’



Mary listened more carefully now. She did not know that her uncle was married.

‘His wife was very pretty, and he loved her very much. When she died he became even stranger,’ Mrs Medlock said.

‘Oh, did she die?’ asked Mary.

‘Yes, and now he doesn’t like anybody. He’s away most of the time, so you must look after yourself.’

It was dark and raining when they got out of the train. They travelled to the house in a carriage, ² but Mary couldn’t see anything because of the rain and the dark.

‘What’s a moor?’ Mary asked.



1. **crooked** : [krukɪd] : not straight.

2. **carriage** :





‘It’s miles ¹ and miles of land,’ replied Mrs Medlock. ‘Very little grows on it, and nothing lives there except ponies and sheep.’

At last, the carriage stopped outside a large house. A butler ² opened a heavy wooden door.

‘Take her to her room,’ he said to Mrs Medlock. ‘Mr Craven doesn’t want to see her. He’s going to London tomorrow.’

Mrs Medlock took Mary upstairs and along many corridors ³ to a room with a fire burning in it and food on the table.

‘Well, here you are,’ said Mrs Medlock. ‘This is where you’re going to live. This room and the one next to it is where you must stay. You can’t go into the other parts of the house. Don’t forget that.’

Mary Lennox felt very lonely.

1. **miles** : a mile is equal to 1.6 kilometres.

2. **butler** : the most important man servant in a rich house.

3. **corridors** : passages in a building.

Go back to the text

PET 1 Comprehension check

For each question, mark the letter next to the correct answer – A, B, C or D.

- 1 Who liked Mary Lennox?
 - A ☐ Mrs Medlock
 - B ☐ her ayah
 - C ☐ her mother
 - D ☐ no one

- 2 Who looked after Mary?
 - A ☐ her ayah
 - B ☐ her mother
 - C ☐ her father
 - D ☐ no one

- 3 Where did Mary's uncle live?
 - A ☐ Yorkshire
 - B ☐ London
 - C ☐ India
 - D ☐ Devonshire

- 4 What was the name of Mary's uncle?
 - A ☐ Mr Medlock
 - B ☐ Mr Craven
 - C ☐ Mr Lennox
 - D ☐ Mr Misselthwaite

- 5 Who was Mrs Medlock?
 - A ☐ Mary's new nanny
 - B ☐ Mary's aunt
 - C ☐ Mary's teacher
 - D ☐ Mr Craven's housekeeper

- 6 What happened to Mr Craven after his wife died?
 - A ☐ He went to live on the moor.
 - B ☐ He became even stranger than when he was a young man.
 - C ☐ He got a crooked back.
 - D ☐ He became rich.

2 What do you think?

Would you like Mary to be your friend? Why/why not? Do you think that Mary was happy to go to Misselthwaite Manor?

.....

.....

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.....

3 Adjectives

Match the adjectives in column A with their opposites in column B.

A

mean
rich
plain
clever
hard-working
good
old
happy

B

young
bad
stupid
sad
poor
pretty
lazy
generous

4 Describing people

People thought that Mary was 'spoilt, rude and had a bad temper'. Complete these sentences. Add the names of famous people, or of people you know.

- 1 is kind, generous and friendly.
- 2 is young, pretty and rich.
- 3 is strong, handsome and brave.
- 4 is intelligent, hard-working and successful.



5 Listening

The beginning of Chapter One talks about a little girl named Mary Lennox and her life in India.

Listen to the text and for each question, fill in the missing information in the numbered space.

Mary's Life in India

Family

Mary's father was always busy with (1)

Mary's mother loved (2)

What Mary was like

Mary always did what (3)

She was a spoilt and (4) child.

Why Mary left India

The house was silent because Mary's parents and the servants were (5)

This happened when Mary was (6) years old.

T: GRADE 4

6 Topic – Houses

Mary has just arrived at Misselthwaite Manor – a very large gloomy house. Bring to class two pictures of different types of houses and use the following questions to help you talk about them.

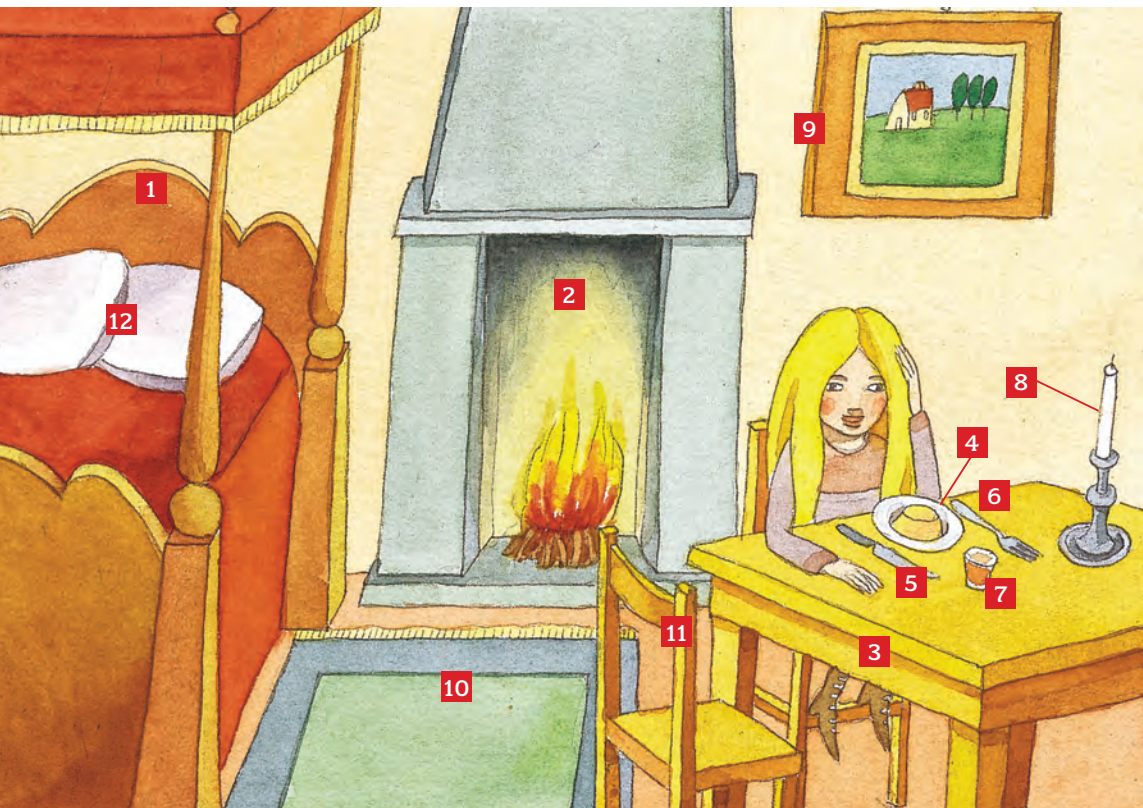
- 1 What types of houses are they?
- 2 Describe them.
- 3 Now compare them.
- 4 Which one do you like the most? Why?
- 5 Which one do you like the least?
- 6 Now describe your house. Is it similar to one in the pictures?

7 Name the objects

What are the numbered objects? Use your dictionary to help.

Example: *Number 1 is a bed.*

- Number 2
- Number 3
- Number 4
- Number 5
- Number 6
- Number 7
- Number 8
- Number 9
- Number 10
- Number 11
- Number 12



PET 8 Write a letter

Pretend you are Mrs Medlock and this is part of a letter you have received from your friend who works in another big Yorkshire manor.

I also have to look after two small children. I like them both very much. Do you have to look after children too? Do you like them?

Write your letter in about 100 words.

Say

- who Mary Lennox is
- why she came to Misselthwaite Manor
- what she is like
- if you like her

9 Summary

Put the following sentences in the correct order.

- A ☐ They travelled by train to Yorkshire.
- B ☐ She was sent to England to live with her uncle.
- C ☐ Mary's uncle didn't want to see her.
- D ☐ Mary was met in London by her uncle's housekeeper.
- E ☐ It was dark and rainy when they arrived at Misselthwaite Manor.
- F ☐ Mary Lennox was spoilt, rude and had a bad temper.
- G ☐ Everyone in the house, except for Mary, died of a terrible disease.
- H ☐ She lived in India with her mother and father.

Now write out the sentences so that you have your own summary of the story so far.



India

Mary Lennox was living in India because her father worked for the British government. Why was he there? To answer this question, we must look at the history of India.

In 1526 the Moguls – Muslim people from Mongolian and Turkish origins – came to India. They took power from the Hindu people who already lived there. In the next 200 years of the Mogul Empire ¹ some beautiful art and buildings were created.

India became a rich country. In the 17th century some European countries – Portugal, Britain, France and Holland – created companies to buy and sell things in India. But soon these companies wanted more than business. They wanted political power, too, and used force and armies to get this power.

The British East India Company became the most powerful of these companies, and had a lot of soldiers in India. In 1803 they took Delhi, the Mogul capital, but the Indian soldiers who worked for the East India Company tried to fight against it in 1857. The ‘Indian Mutiny’, ² as it was called, did not succeed. The British government sent a lot of soldiers and took control of all of India, which then became part of the British Empire.

So, in 1858, the British Raj started in India. ‘Raj’ is a word from Hindi (the Indian language with most speakers) which means the control of a country by a king or queen. Queen Victoria of Britain was made ‘Empress of India’ in 1877, and during the Raj (1858-1947) people like

1. **Empire** : an empire is a number of countries that are all controlled by the government of just one country (another example from history is the Roman Empire).
2. **mutiny** : when a group of people, usually soldiers, decide not to follow the orders of the person in control.



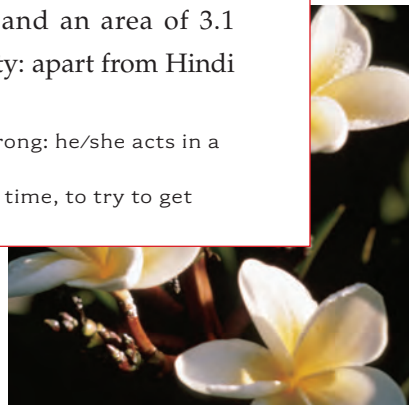
British people during the Raj walking in a park in India c. 1915.

Mary Lennox's father went to work in India.

But most Indians wanted independence. In 1920 the great pacifist ¹ Mahatma Gandhi (1869-1948) started a campaign ² for independence. Finally, in 1947, Britain created two independent states: Pakistan in the north, where most people were Muslim, and India, where most people were Hindu. In the first weeks of independence, however, over a million people were killed when Muslims and Hindus attacked each other.

In modern India you can see the effect of the British Raj in large public buildings, the education system and the wide use of English. India today is the world's largest democracy with a population of 1.1 billion (only China has a bigger population) and an area of 3.1 million square kilometres. It is a country of variety: apart from Hindi

1. **pacifist** : this person believes that violence is wrong: he/she acts in a peaceful way to try to get what he/she wants.
2. **campaign** : a number of activities, over a period time, to try to get political changes.





The Taj Mahal, near Agra in northern India, finished in about 1648. The Mogul emperor Shah Jahan built it as a place to bury his favourite wife, Mumtaz Mahal, who was the mother of 14 of his children.

and English there are another 26 official languages. It is also a country of contrasts: many people outside the cities are poor and uneducated, but India is a nuclear power, with a big information technology industry and the biggest film industry in the world.

1 Comprehension check

Look at the words and names below. Put them into the order in which they appear in the text. Can you do it from memory? Then prepare to say a sentence about each of them. Try to use a date if possible.

A ☐ Victoria

B ☐ Pakistan

C ☐ Mogul

D ☐ East India Company

E ☐ Hindi

F ☐ Gandhi

G ☐ Indian Mutiny

Before you read



1 Listening

Listen to the beginning of Chapter Two. For each question, put a tick (✓) in the correct box.

1 Mary woke up when the housemaid came into her room to

- A ☐ bring her breakfast.
- B ☐ help Mary get dressed.
- C ☐ light the fire.

2 In India, Mary spoke to her servants only to

- A ☐ give them orders.
- B ☐ say 'Please' or 'Thank you'.
- C ☐ ask them for help.

3 How many shillings a week does Martha's father earn?

- A ☐ six
- B ☐ sixty
- C ☐ sixteen

4 How old is Martha's brother Dickon?

- A ☐ two
- B ☐ twelve
- C ☐ thirteen

5 The closed garden was

- A ☐ Martha's
- B ☐ Mr Craven's
- C ☐ Mr Craven's wife's

6 Mary thought that the gardens looked ugly because

- A ☐ gardens in India are much more colourful and interesting.
- B ☐ she did not like plants.
- C ☐ it was winter and the trees had no leaves and there were no flowers.