The Secret Garden

Before Reading

BEFORE READING ACTIVITIES (PAGE 60)

ACTIVITY 1 BEFORE READING
1 Yes  2 Yes  3 No  4 Yes  5 No

ACTIVITY 2 BEFORE READING
Encourage students to speculate and to make guesses, but do not tell them the answers. They will find out as they read that the best answer is number 1. Number 2 is close, because Mrs Craven fell off the branch of a tree in the garden, and died soon afterwards.

ACTIVITY 3 BEFORE READING
Open answers. Encourage discussion of these questions and others. Help students to imagine what life would be like for a young orphaned child, suddenly transplanted into a different culture, climate, landscape, etc.

While Reading

CHAPTER 1 WHILE READING
1 Mary to herself, about her Indian servant, Kamala.
2 A young Englishman to Mary's mother, about the disease that was killing so many people in the town.
3 Another Englishman to his friend, about Mary when they found her alone in her parents' house.
4 A young boy called Basil to Mary, about her uncle in Yorkshire, Mr Craven.
5 Mrs Medlock, Mr Craven's housekeeper, to Mary, about Mr Craven.
6 Mary to herself, about the frightening sound of the wind blowing across the wild Yorkshire moor.

CHAPTER 2 WHILE READING
1 Martha Sowerby, one of the servants.
2 Martha's brother, Dickon Sowerby.
3 Ben Weatherstaff, the gardener.
4 Mary's uncle, Mr Craven, because his wife had died after an accident in the garden.
5 Mrs Medlock, Mr Craven's housekeeper, to Mary, about Mr Craven.
6 Mary to herself, about the frightening sound of the wind blowing across the wild Yorkshire moor.

BEFORE READING CHAPTER 3
Encourage students to speculate and to make guesses, but do not tell them the answers. They will find out as they read that it is the robin who shows Mary both the key and the door to the garden.

CHAPTER 3 WHILE READING
2 What . . . ? She pulled out the thick grass around lots of little green shoots.
3 Why . . . ? Because she wanted to make her own garden.
4 What . . . ? Somebody (a child) crying.

CHAPTER 4 WHILE READING
1 T
2 F Dickon brought a squirrel, a crow, and two rabbits when he came to see Mary.
3 F Mary told Dickon about the secret garden.
4 T
5 F Mary thought that her uncle was a nice man.

CHAPTERS 5 AND 6 WHILE READING
1 She followed the crying sound through the house until she found his room.
2 Because it made him remember his wife, Colin's mother, who died when Colin was born.
3 He had been ill all his life and his back was not strong. He was afraid that he would have a crooked back like his father, and he thought he was going to die.
4 Because he was building a nest.
5 She wanted to show him the secret garden, and help him get better in the fresh air.
6 Because it gave him something new to think about.
7 To see if it really was crooked, and she decided it wasn't.
8 In a wheelchair, and Dickon was going to push it.

BEFORE READING CHAPTERS 7 AND 8
Open answers. Encourage discussion and speculation. Ask students whether they think there will be a happy ending or a sad one, and which they would prefer. In fact, the first answer is the correct one.

CHAPTERS 7 AND 8 WHILE READING
1+12   2+8   3+11   4+14   5+9   6+13   7+10

When Colin first saw the beautiful secret garden, he knew at once that he was going to get better. He wanted to show Ben that he did not have crooked legs, so he got out of his wheelchair and stood up straight. After that, he walked and ran a little more each day, until he was as strong and healthy as any other boy. While the secret garden and Colin were returning to life, Mr Craven was travelling round Europe. In late summer he decided to return to Yorkshire, because in a dream he heard his dead wife calling to him. He came to the door of the garden and his son ran out, straight into his arms. Then the children told him all about the magic of the secret garden, which had made Colin well.
After Reading

ACTIVITY 1  AFTER READING
Suggested answers (other answers are possible in some places, provided the adjective is appropriate for the context):
1 When Mary arrived in Yorkshire, she was lonely because she had no friends. She only thought of herself, and was selfish and disagreeable. But playing outside in the fresh air soon made her strong and healthy, and she became more interested in other people.
2 Martha was always kind and friendly to Mary, but she was shocked when she learnt that Mary couldn’t dress herself.
3 Before he met Mary, Colin was always feeling sorry for himself. He was frightened that his back would be crooked, like his father’s, and this fear had made him ill. Meeting Mary was good for him, and gave him new things to think about.
4 Old Ben Weatherstaff was often bad-tempered with Mary, but his voice was always gentle when he spoke to the robin.
5 Dickon was a kind boy, who could make friends with wild animals.
6 Mr Craven spent his time travelling in beautiful places, but he was a sad and lonely man.

ACTIVITY 2  AFTER READING
Suggested answers:
MARTHA: Did you know, Mother, there’s a little girl who’s come to live at the Manor? Her name’s Mary Lennox.
MRS SOWERBY: Where has she come from?
MARTHA: From India. Her parents both died suddenly, so she had to come to live with Mr Craven, her uncle.
MRS SOWERBY: What’s she like?
MARTHA: She’s a very strange little girl. Very thin, with a yellow skin. And she doesn’t know how to dress herself because her servant always used to do it for her.
MRS SOWERBY: She’ll have to learn how to take care of herself now.
MARTHA: Oh yes, I told her that.
MRS SOWERBY: She must be lonely, poor child. I feel sorry for her.
MARTHA: I feel sorry for her too. And you’re right, she is lonely. I talk to her a lot when I take her meals up.
MRS SOWERBY: What do you talk about?
MARTHA: Well, I told her all about the locked garden, and why nobody’s been in it for ten years.
MRS SOWERBY: Did you tell her about Colin, too?
MARTHA: No, I didn’t. Mrs Medlock told all the servants that we mustn’t say anything about him.
MRS SOWERBY: She’ll probably find out about him sooner or later.

ACTIVITY 3  AFTER READING
Hidden sentence: A boy and a girl learnt to be happy in the garden.
Other words across: magic, hop, door, spade, horrid, seed
Other words down: cousin, nest, healthy, robin, skip, key

ACTIVITY 4  AFTER READING
1 Colin, thinking about Mary. He has just woken up the next morning, after Mary’s first visit to him during the night.
2 Mrs Sowerby, thinking about Mr Craven. She has just been to see the children in the garden, and is going to go home and write to Mr Craven, to ask him to come home.
3 Mary, thinking about Martha. She has just woken up on her first morning in Yorkshire, and is going to ask Martha who she is.
4 Ben, thinking about Colin. He is looking over the wall of the secret garden, and has just seen Colin get out of his wheelchair and stand up.
5 Mary, thinking about Dickon. She has just shown Dickon the secret garden for the first time.

ACTIVITY 5  AFTER READING
Open answers. Encourage students to look at the character development of Mary and Colin.