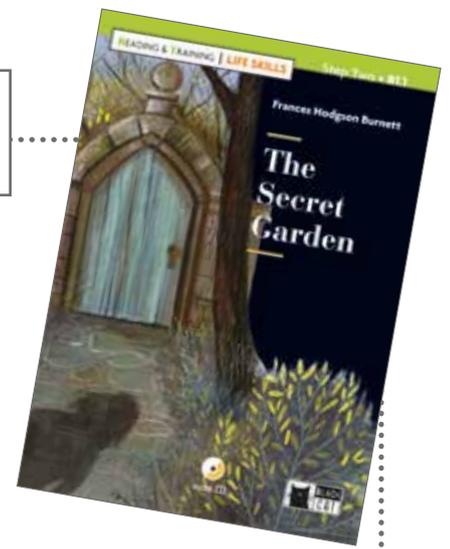


LESSON PLAN

3/4



THE SECRET GARDEN

Worksheet

Chapter 1 – Misselthwaite Manor

Mary feels sad and lonely. Mrs Medlock shows Mary her room and she goes to bed. The next morning a young housemaid called Martha comes into her room. She talks to Mary while she is working, and tells her about her brother Dickon, who is twelve years old. She also says that one of the gardens is locked up. After breakfast Mary decides to go outside and look at the gardens where Ben, the old gardener, is working.

1. Before you read – Match the words from the text to their meaning.
 - a. her job is to clean and cook in someone else's house
 - b. a small bird with a red chest
 - c. closed with a key
 - d. a person who gets everything he/she wants or asks for
 - e. to get angry quickly
 - f. what you plant in the ground that makes new plants grow
2. locked up
3. spoilt
4. to have a bad temper
5. housekeeper
6. robin
7. seeds

2. Read the first part of the extract.

The old man continued working. Mary looked at him and said, 'There's a garden over there without a door.'

'What garden?' he asked angrily.

'On the other side of the wall,' she answered. 'I saw a robin in the trees over there.'

The old man stopped working, and to Mary's surprise he smiled. He looked different when he smiled. Then a wonderful thing happened—the robin flew down.

'Here he is,' the old man laughed. 'He's a nice little bird, isn't he? He's the only friend I've got.'

'I've never had any friends,' said Mary sadly.

'Neither have I,' said Ben. 'You and I are the same. We're not good-looking and we're unpleasant.'

It was the first time that Mary ever thought about her angry face and bad temper, and she felt embarrassed. But the robin's happy song made her look at an apple tree, where he was sitting now. Ben laughed.

'Why did the robin sing?' asked Mary.

'He wants to be your friend,' replied Ben. 'He likes you.'

'Me?' said Mary, who was surprised. She went to the apple tree and looked up.

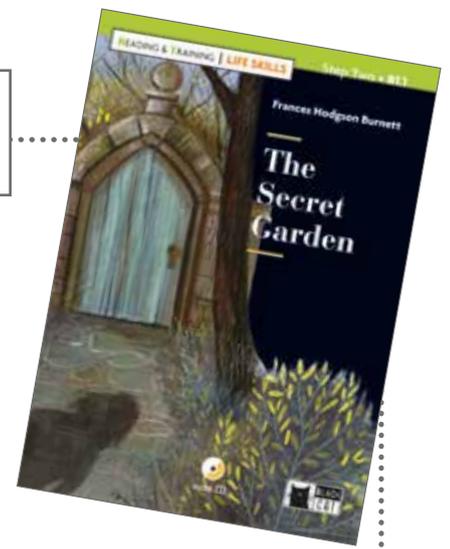
'Do you want to be my friend?' she said gently to the robin, as if she was speaking to a boy or a girl.

'Well, well, well...' said Ben quietly. 'You said that like a real child instead of an old woman. You said it almost like Dickon when he talks to the animals on the moor.'



LESSON PLAN

4/4



3. Chapter Three – A new friend

Read the second part of the text.

Mary discovers the secret garden by herself and starts to work there secretly. At night she sometimes hears someone crying in the big house, but Mrs Medlock says it is only the wind.

Early one morning after breakfast something wonderful happened to Mary: she made a new friend, Dickon. He had big blue eyes and a round, friendly face. He was wearing a brown jacket and a dark cap.

‘Hello Mary,’ he said with a friendly voice. ‘I’m Dickon, Martha’s brother.’

‘Pleased to meet you, Dickon,’ said Mary, with a shy smile.

‘I’ve brought you some flower seeds and the garden tools you need,’ said Dickon. He had a gentle smile and Mary felt that she knew him quite well. If the animals could trust him, then she could trust him, too.

‘Have you heard about the secret garden yet?’ asked Mary.

‘Yes, I’ve already heard about it,’ Dickon answered. ‘But I don’t know where it is.’

‘Come with me,’ said Mary.

Mary was careful because she didn’t want anyone to see them. She took Dickon through the door in the wall. Dickon was very surprised and said. ‘This is a strange, pretty place. It’s like a dream.’

Dickon looked around at all the plants and trees which Mary thought were dead. ‘All of these will grow,’ he said, ‘There’ll be flowers and roses everywhere in a few weeks.’

Dickon and Mary worked together to clear away weeds and dead wood. Mary didn’t know anyone like Dickon. She tried to speak in a warm, friendly voice, like Dickon’s and Martha’s.

One day she asked Dickon, ‘Do you like me?’

‘Yes, I do,’ he laughed. ‘The robin likes you, too.’

4. Look at this sentence:

‘This is a strange, pretty place. It’s like a dream.’

In pairs or small groups, comment on this sentence. Why do you think the garden was locked up ten years ago?

5. Do you think Mary finally found a friend? How has Mary changed? Do you think anyone else lives in the big house? Will Mary make other friends? What do you think will happen next?

