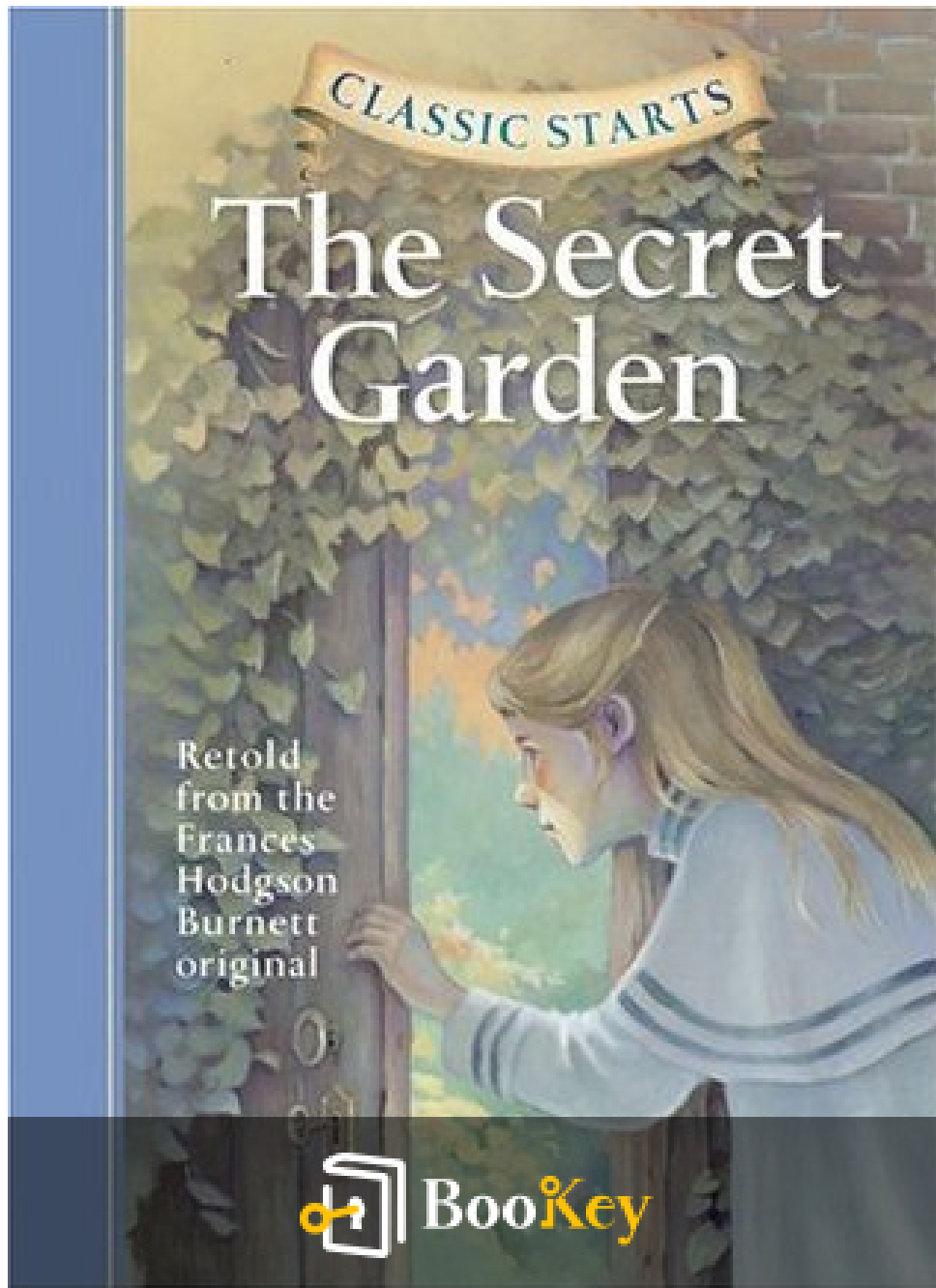


# The Secret Garden PDF (Limited Copy)

Martha Hailey DuBose



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# **The Secret Garden Summary**

Uncovering healing through nature and friendship.

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## About the book

In "The Secret Garden" by Martha Hailey DuBose, the power of nature and the resilience of the human spirit converge in a mesmerizing tale of transformation and healing. This enchanting story follows the journey of Mary Lennox, a lonely and spoiled girl who discovers a neglected garden hidden within the walls of her uncle's estate. As Mary learns to nurture the garden and herself, she embarks on a magical exploration of friendship and personal growth, unlocking the wonders of life and renewal that await beyond the confines of sorrow. With richly woven themes of hope, companionship, and the enduring strength of love, DuBose's retelling invites readers to rediscover the beauty of connection and the profound impact of nature on our lives. Dive into this timeless classic and allow your heart to bloom alongside the secret garden.

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## About the author

Martha Hailey DuBose was an accomplished author, poet, and educator known for her engaging storytelling and deep understanding of human emotions and relationships. With a background in literature and a passion for nature, DuBose often infused her writing with themes of healing, growth, and the transformative power of the natural world, reminiscent of her influences from classic children's literature. Her most notable work, "The Secret Garden," showcases her ability to craft rich, imaginative narratives that resonate with both children and adults, highlighting her belief in the restorative qualities of love, friendship, and the beauty of the environment. Through her literary contributions, DuBose has left an indelible mark on the world of children's literature, inspiring generations to explore the wonders of both nature and personal connection.

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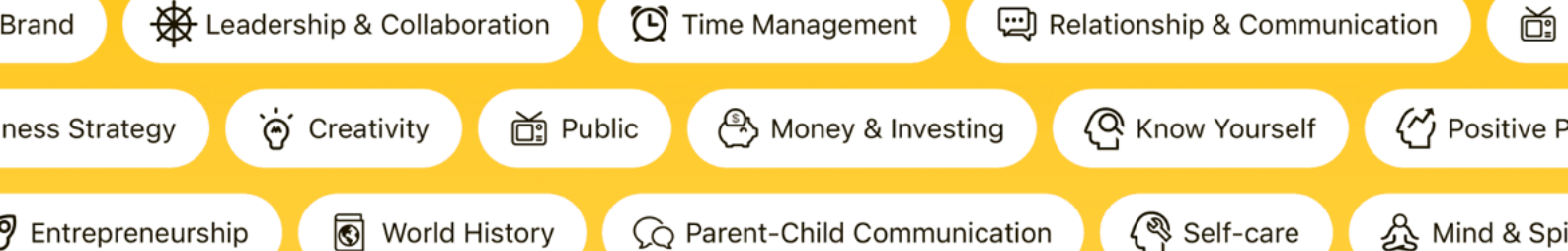
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## Chapter 1 Summary: : No One Left

In the first chapter of "The Secret Garden," we meet Mary Lennox, a lonely and neglected little girl born to parents who are more interested in their own lives than in her. Her father, a British government worker in India, is distant, while her beautiful mother cares only about social gatherings. Mary is raised by an Ayah, who, to prevent her from disturbing her mother, indulges Mary's every whim. As a result, Mary grows up spoiled and selfish, often displaying a sour demeanor and lacking any real connections with people aside from the servants.

One fateful day, at the age of nine, Mary is awakened by a servant and learns that her Ayah cannot come to her. Confused and abandoned, she ventures outside to play, overhearing a conversation between her mother and an army officer. They speak in hushed voices about a cholera outbreak, which unnerves Mary. The officer reveals that it's dire, and abruptly, Mary hears a commotion from the servants' quarters—they've all begun to flee in panic.

After two lonely days in the nursery, which she spent crying and sleeping, Mary finally ventures out for some food. She consumes biscuits and drinks a tonic that makes her drowsy, leading her to fall into a deep sleep. Upon awakening, she finds the house eerily silent. Curiously, she notices a harmless snake slithering across the floor, representing her isolation in this vast, quiet home. Soon after, heavy footsteps approach, and an army officer





enters to inform her of a tragic reality: her parents and most of the staff have died from the cholera outbreak. With haunting simplicity, the officer tells her, “There’s nobody left to come.”

This revelation marks a pivotal moment for Mary, as she discovers her profound solitude. The chapter effectively sets the tone for her journey of transformation, introducing themes of neglect, abandonment, and the potential for change that will unfold in the following chapters. Mary's initial character—a spoiled, isolated child—foreshadows the challenges she will need to confront and transcend as her story progresses.



## Chapter 2 Summary: : On the Moors

In Chapter 2 of "The Secret Garden," we follow Mary Lennox as her life takes a dramatic turn. After being taken from India, Mary arrives in England to live with her guardian, Mr. Archibald Craven, at Misselthwaite Manor. She meets Mrs. Medlock, the housekeeper, who reveals some details about her new home. Mary learns that Misselthwaite Manor is an old, grand house full of locked rooms, and it is surrounded by the vast, desolate moors. Mrs. Medlock describes Mr. Craven as a troubled man who rarely interacts with others and prefers to isolate himself, especially after the death of his wife, Mary's aunt.

During their train journey to the manor, Mary presents a disinterested demeanor, feigning boredom to mask her anxiety and discomfort. However, she begins to understand the melancholic atmosphere that surrounds her new life. When they arrive at the manor, Mary is struck by its size and gloominess, feeling small and lost amidst the grand, shadowy halls adorned with portraits and armor.

Even before settling in, Mary's sense of loneliness is palpable, worsened by Mrs. Medlock's stern instructions to avoid exploring the house. After a long journey, Mary feels miserable and isolated, knowing she has little connection to anyone in this unfamiliar place.



This chapter highlights key themes of isolation and melancholy that will be significant in Mary's journey. It sets the stage for her character development, establishing her as a lonely girl who, despite her tough exterior, is yearning for connection and belonging in her new environment.

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## Chapter 3: : A Maid Named Martha

In Chapter 3 of "The Secret Garden," Mary Lennox wakes up to the sound of a maid, Martha, tidying up the fireplace. As Mary surveys her new surroundings in Misselthwaite Manor, she finds the room gloomy and the view from the window uninviting—a barren moor that she detests. Martha, however, paints a vibrant picture of the moor, describing how it transforms in summer with wildflowers and the joyful sounds of nature, which puzzles Mary since she's used to a more reserved atmosphere in India.

Their conversation reveals more about Martha, a cheerful and talkative girl from Yorkshire who shares stories of her family and her brother Dickon, who has a special bond with animals. Mary is intrigued by Dickon and experiences a rare moment of interest in someone other than herself, hinting at her growing emotional depth.

Martha encourages Mary to go outside and play, asserting that staying indoors would be dull since the nursery offers no entertainment. Initially reluctant to brave the dreary weather, Mary is persuaded by Martha's stories

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## Chapter 4 Summary: : Gardens and a Gardener

In Chapter 4 of "The Secret Garden," Mary Lennox ventures through a little gate into a grand, yet desolate garden filled with wide lawns, winding paths, and a dry, old fountain. As she explores, she stumbles upon several walled gardens, initially believing they are quite unremarkable and ugly in the winter. Her exploration introduces her to a grumpy old gardener named Ben Weatherstaff, who seems less than pleased to see her but provides her with some information about the kitchen gardens.

Mary's curiosity drives her to discover a mysterious, locked garden, rumored to have been left untouched for ten years. While wandering, she encounters a cheerful robin, whose song lifts her spirits. This encounter sparks her interest in the locked garden, and she wonders about its history, especially why Mr. Craven, the owner, despises it.

Through a conversation with Ben, Mary reveals her feelings of loneliness, and they find common ground in their shared isolation. Ben describes the robin as a loyal friend who returned to him after a period of weakness, paralleling Mary's own need for companionship. Their interaction exposes Mary's vulnerability, and for the first time, she acknowledges her longing for connection, realizing she has never had a real friend.

The robin becomes a symbol of friendship and hope in this chapter as it



appears to want to communicate with Mary. As Ben digresses about Dickon, a character who is well-known for his rapport with animals, Mary becomes even more intrigued. However, Ben becomes curt when she presses for more details about the locked garden, suggesting it is a subject best left alone. The chapter closes with Mary feeling a mix of excitement and determination about the secrets that lie within the garden's walls, foreshadowing her evolving journey in this new environment. As the themes of loneliness, friendship, and curiosity unfold, Mary begins to show signs of transformation, hinting at her potential for growth and healing.

Aspect	Summary
Setting	Mary Lennox explores a grand, desolate garden with walled sections, wide lawns, and a dry fountain.
Main Characters	Mary Lennox and Ben Weatherstaff, a grumpy gardener.
Curiosity and Discovery	Mary is intrigued by a mysterious, locked garden rumored to be untouched for ten years.
Symbolism	The robin symbolizes friendship and hope for Mary.
Themes	Loneliness, friendship, and curiosity, hinting at Mary's potential for growth and healing.
Character Development	Mary acknowledges her loneliness and desire for companionship, showing signs of transformation.
Ending	The chapter ends with Mary feeling excited and determined about the secrets of the garden, foreshadowing her journey.



## Critical Thinking

**Key Point:** Curiosity leads to connection and transformation.

**Critical Interpretation:** Imagine stepping through an unremarkable gate into the unknown—just like Mary did when she entered the neglected garden. Her relentless curiosity not only unveils the secrets of this forgotten place but also ignites the spark of connection in her lonely heart. In our own lives, embracing curiosity can lead us to discover untapped potential and forge meaningful relationships, reminding us that every mysterious path we dare to explore might hold the keys to our growth and happiness. Just as Mary found hope through a simple robin's song, we too can find our unique pathways to friendship and healing when we venture beyond our comfort zones and open ourselves to the world around us.



## Chapter 5 Summary: : A Cry in the House

In Chapter 5 of "The Secret Garden," Mary Lennox is gradually adjusting to her new life in her uncle's mansion, finding a sense of daily routine with Martha, the maid who brings her breakfast and helps her dress. Initially, Mary continues to be a bit disagreeable and picky with her food, but she soon awakens to a newfound hunger, crediting the fresh moor air for her growing appetite. Martha encourages her to embrace the outdoors, reminding her that play can be found in the simplest of things like sticks and stones, a concept quite foreign to Mary.

As Mary explores the gardens, she becomes intrigued by a long walkway overgrown with thick ivy. One day, she spots a lively robin perched on the wall. This encounter sparks a connection; Mary instinctively talks to the bird, and their playful interaction lifts her spirits. The robin seems to lead her deeper into her imaginative exploration, and Mary dreams of a secret garden.

Determined to find this hidden place, she searches the walls and the ground without success. During a cozy evening by the fireplace, Mary listens to Martha tell a poignant story about Mr. Craven, her uncle, and his late wife, who loved the garden. After a tragic accident involving his wife, Mr. Craven developed a deep-seated hatred for the garden, further shrouding it in mystery and sadness.



The chapter takes a dramatic turn when Mary hears a strange sound, resembling a child crying nearby. She insists that it is not the wind, as Martha suggests, and her growing sense of intuition tells her there's something more going on within the house. The atmosphere becomes tense as the wind howls outside, and during their conversation, the door suddenly slams open, amplifying the mystery. Mary's belief that someone, possibly a hidden child, is crying grows stronger, while Martha tries to dismiss it as the noise of the new kitchen maid.

This chapter effectively showcases Mary's transition from a lonely, spoiled child to a more curious and empathetic girl as she begins to explore the world around her and uncover the secrets of Misselthwaite Manor. The themes of exploration, the healing power of nature, and the complexity of grief weave through the narrative, setting the stage for Mary's growing connection to both the garden and the lives intertwined within it.



## Chapter 6: : Opening Doors

In Chapter 6 of "The Secret Garden," the atmosphere is dreary as rain envelops the moor, leaving Mary stuck indoors. Curiosity about her new surroundings sparks a conversation with Martha, revealing the playful nature of her siblings, especially Dickon, who has a knack for caring for animals. Their exchange ignites Mary's longing for companionship, and her thoughts wander to the many closed doors in the mansion she's taken refuge in.

With a sense of determination, Mary decides to explore the house, intrigued by the mystery of its hundred rooms. As she wanders through hallways lined with portraits of elegantly dressed figures and magnificent decorations, she stumbles upon a room filled with beautiful ivory elephants, reminiscent of her life in India. For a moment, she indulges in her surroundings, playing with the tiny statues until she feels fatigue creep in.

However, her exploration takes a sudden turn when she hears a mysterious, childish cry that seems to call out for help. Her heart races, pushing her to find the source of the sound as she accidentally brushes against a tapestry,

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I've learned. Highly recommend!

Alex Walk

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## Chapter 7 Summary: : A New Discovery

In Chapter 7 of "The Secret Garden," titled "A New Discovery," the weather finally clears up, revealing the beauty of the moor in full sunlight for Mary. She is enchanted by the vibrant blue sky and the soft hues of the landscape, contrasting sharply with the gloomy colors she was used to. Martha shares her excitement about the changing seasons, explaining that spring is just around the corner, promising wildflowers, butterflies, and a more cheerful atmosphere. Their conversation leads to a moment of introspection for Mary, who admits she doesn't like herself very much, revealing her loneliness and her struggle with self-acceptance.

After Martha leaves, Mary finds herself pacing around the old fountain, counting her laps to feel better. She enjoys the scents of spring and the warm presence of Ben Weatherstaff, a gardener who shares with her his love of nature. Their dialogue highlights the awakening of spring and hints at new beginnings. The robin, a lively bird that Mary has formed a bond with, also appears, showing curiosity about her presence. Mary feels a sense of connection to this charming creature, speaking to it and mimicking its sounds.

As the robin flits about, Mary discovers a rusty key buried in the dirt, sparking her curiosity and sense of adventure. This key symbolizes potential and the discovery of secrets hidden within the garden, igniting Mary's desire



to explore more deeply into the mysteries of the world around her. Overall, this chapter highlights themes of self-discovery, connection to nature, and the anticipation of renewal, marking a turning point in Mary's character as she begins to embrace her surroundings and form bonds with others.

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## Chapter 8 Summary: : Something in the Ivy

In Chapter 8 of "The Secret Garden," Mary Lennox is determined to find a way into the mysterious garden she's heard so much about. After pocketing the key she discovered, she resolves to keep it with her in case she comes across the hidden door. Her desire for a secret place intensified, she grows increasingly frustrated that the entrance remains elusive.

The following day, Martha returns from her day off bursting with excitement, having shared stories about Mary with her family. Mary, in turn, offers to tell Martha about her adventurous life in India, captivating Martha's siblings with tales of elephants and tigers. As their friendship deepens, Martha presents Mary with a skipping rope—a significant gesture made possible by Martha's hard-earned wages. Despite her initial hesitance to express gratitude, Mary awkwardly thanks Martha, marking a small but important step in her emotional growth.

Encouraged to play outdoors, Mary tries skipping rope for the first time, struggling but enjoying the experience nonetheless. She skips around the garden, impressing Ben Weatherstaff, who jestingly remarks that she's not as old as she seems. As she continues to skip and grow stronger, Mary's spirit lifts, showcasing her transformation from a lonely girl into a vibrant child eager to explore.



In a moment filled with anticipation, while skipping near the ivy-covered wall, Mary is enchanted by the robin, which seems to guide her. Suddenly, a gust of wind reveals a hidden doorknob behind the ivy. Heart racing, Mary discovers a keyhole and, with the rusty key in hand, manages to unlock the door. With a mix of excitement and trepidation, she pushes the door open and enters the long-sought secret garden, marking a pivotal moment in her journey of self-discovery and friendship. This chapter emphasizes themes of curiosity, transformation, and the joy of nature, setting the stage for the magical experiences that await Mary in the garden.

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## Chapter 9: : Such a Strange Place

In Chapter 9 of "The Secret Garden," Mary explores the enchanting yet desolate garden she's discovered, which has been untouched for years. The garden, draped in bare branches and brown grass, is a mysterious paradise waiting to be revived. Mary reflects on its beauty, observing the climbing rose canes that hang like curtains and imagining all the flowers it could bloom again. Despite its neglect, she finds signs of life in green shoots poking through the earth, feeling a rush of hope and determination.

Engaging with the garden, Mary decides to take on the role of gardener, carefully freeing the little plants from dead grass and repotting bulbs that she finds, which she learns from Martha are snowdrops, crocuses, daffodils, and more. This newfound purpose ignites a spark of joy in Mary, contrasting sharply with her previous loneliness and sadness.

After a prolonged stint in the garden, she rushes back to the house for lunch, her blooming energy surprising Martha, who notes Mary's rosy cheeks and brighter demeanor. The conversation turns to gardening, and Mary learns

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## Chapter 10 Summary: : Dickon

In Chapter 10 of "The Secret Garden," Mary discovers the true magic of her hidden sanctuary as she experiences personal growth and friendship.

Rejuvenated by her time in the garden, Mary feels more alive than ever, shedding her previously unhealthy, gloomy demeanor. Her daily efforts to care for the plants bring her a sense of purpose, and her interactions with Ben Weatherstaff, the gardener, showcase her newfound appreciation for people. Their conversations reveal a warmth between them, as Mary learns about gardening and Ben's fond memories of a rose garden he once tended.

One day, while exploring the paths around the secret garden, Mary hears an enchanting whistling and stumbles upon Dickon, a boy with vibrant red hair and a deep connection to the natural world. Dickon, who brings with him gardening tools and seeds, immediately captures Mary's interest. Their initial conversation shows how easily she lets go of her shyness; Dickon's easygoing manner makes her feel comfortable. As they share details about plants, wildlife, and secrets, a delightful bond begins to form between them.

Mary, overwhelmed by her emotions, confides in Dickon about the secret garden she has "stolen." She expresses her determination to bring it back to life, asserting that no one can take it from her, much like a robin protects its nest. Dickon's gentle curiosity and acceptance encourage Mary's vulnerabilities, and when he follows her to the garden, his reaction is one of



wonder. Together, they are enveloped in the dreamlike quality of the stagnant yet beautiful space, hinting at the potential for growth and renewal, both in the garden and in Mary herself. This chapter beautifully underscores themes of friendship, personal transformation, and the healing power of nature.

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## Chapter 11 Summary: : A “Wick” Garden

In Chapter 11 of "The Secret Garden," Mary and Dickon continue to explore and revive the hidden garden. Dickon, full of excitement, observes the wild and tangled surroundings, pointing out how it's a perfect sanctuary for birds. Intrigued, Mary asks if roses will grow there, and Dickon reassures her by demonstrating that some branches are still "wick," meaning alive and full of potential.

With joy, Mary learns the art of pruning, cutting away the deadwood to uncover the living plants beneath. The two share a connection filled with hope and enthusiasm, as Dickon promises to return daily to help Mary restore the garden and grow stronger. He believes in letting the garden remain a bit wild, which resonates with Mary, who wants to keep the secrecy and magic of their hidden place alive.

Curiously, they ponder how the garden had received care even though it had been locked up for so long. Their work is interrupted by the lunch bell, and Mary is reluctant to leave, fearing that Dickon might vanish like a fairy. As they prepare to part, she asks him to keep the garden a secret, and Dickon assures her that her trust is safe with him, deepening their friendship and shared joy in the garden's revival. The chapter conveys themes of friendship, growth, and the beauty of nature as they work together to bring life back to the garden.





## Chapter 12: : Just a Bit of Earth

In Chapter 12 of "The Secret Garden," Mary is bursting with excitement after seeing Dickon, who has brought her a garden set. Although she can't disclose the secret garden's location to Martha, she feels a growing connection to nature and its magic. Mary's spirited demeanor quickly shifts as she learns from Martha that Mr. Craven, her uncle, has returned and wishes to see her. The thought of meeting him is daunting since he had previously avoided her.

When Mary finally meets Mr. Craven, she finds him to be surprisingly different from her expectations. Although he has a gloomy air about him and crooked shoulders, he's not the hunchback she envisioned. Their conversation reveals that he genuinely cares about her well-being, asking if the servants treat her well and expressing concern for her health and thinness. Their dialogue underscores a growing bond, despite Mr. Craven's apparent sorrow.

As they talk, Mary tentatively expresses her desire for a bit of earth—a

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## Chapter 13 Summary: : A Mysterious Boy

In Chapter 13 of "The Secret Garden," titled "A Mysterious Boy," Mary Lennox discovers a new secret that also reveals the backstory of the enigmatic Colin Craven, her uncle's son. One night, after struggling with her restlessness due to a storm, Mary hears crying echoing through the mansion. Driven by curiosity, she bravely navigates the dark hallways and finds a hidden door behind a tapestry. Inside, she meets Colin, a frail boy who has been hidden away, terrified of the outside world and the judgments of others.

Colin, with his striking gray eyes and thin frame, initially thinks Mary might be a ghost. As they introduce themselves, Mary learns that Colin is sick and believes he might become a hunchback, which is why he rarely sees anyone. His father has avoided him since the death of Colin's mother, leading Colin to feel unloved and unwanted. He spends his days in isolation, filled with bitterness and fear, rejecting the idea of fresh air because of the stares and attention he receives when he is wheeled out in public.

As their conversation unfolds, Colin reveals his longing to control his surroundings, expressing that everyone must cater to his whims because he believes he won't live long. This domineering attitude is a reaction to his illness, yet it also hints at his desire for love and connection. When Mary mentions the locked garden, she can see a flicker of curiosity in Colin's eyes; he understands the garden as a symbol of hope and beauty that he has



been denied.

Mary quickly realizes the importance of keeping the garden a secret. She fears that if Colin seeks to unlock it, their special sanctuary will be spoiled. Encouraged by the idea of their shared secrecy, Colin excitedly imagines the garden and what it could mean for both of them. As the conversation turns, Colin shows vulnerability when he unveils a painting of his mother, revealing his deep-seated pain over her death and his father’s apparent resentment.

In a tender moment, Mary comforts Colin by singing an Indian lullaby, a gesture that brings him peace. As he falls asleep, the connection between them deepens, creating a poignant bond filled with hope as she slips away quietly. This chapter beautifully intertwines themes of isolation, healing, and the transformative power of friendship, suggesting that secrets shared can lead to newfound strength and courage.

Chapter Title	A Mysterious Boy
Key Events	<p>Mary hears crying during a storm and explores the mansion.</p> <p>Discovers Colin Craven, her uncle's son, hidden away.</p> <p>Colin is frail, fears being judged, and believes he won't survive long.</p> <p>Their conversation reveals Colin's pride and isolation.</p> <p>Mary mentions the locked garden, sparking Colin's curiosity.</p> <p>Colin reveals pain over his mother's death and his father's</p>

Chapter Title	A Mysterious Boy
	neglect. Mary comforts Colin with a lullaby as they bond.
Themes	Isolation Healing Transformative power of friendship Importance of secrets and shared experiences
Character Development	Mary becomes more compassionate as she connects with Colin. Colin shows vulnerability and desires connection.

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## Critical Thinking

**Key Point:** The transformative power of friendship

**Critical Interpretation:** As you traverse your own life's journey, remember the profound impact that genuine friendship can have on your spirit. Just like Mary and Colin, who found solace and strength in each other's company amidst their struggles, you too can seek out and cultivate connections that inspire growth and healing. In moments of isolation or fear, opening your heart to another person can illuminate your path, unlocking doors to new possibilities and enriching your existence with shared secrets and mutual understanding. Embrace the idea that togetherness can nurture your resilience, empower your dreams, and help you bloom in ways you never thought possible.

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## Chapter 14 Summary: : Colin the Rajah

In Chapter 14 of "The Secret Garden," Mary Lennox discovers that the boy she heard crying the night before is Colin Craven, the invalid cousin she has yet to meet. When she tells Martha, Colin's nurse, about this encounter, Martha expresses worry that they could get in trouble if Mrs. Medlock, the housekeeper, finds out. Despite her fears, Mary reassures her that Colin was pleased with her visit. Through their conversation, we learn more about Colin's troubled past: he was born into grief after his mother died and has been kept in isolation due to concerns about his health. He is described as spoiled and overly protected, spending his days in bed rather than enjoying the fresh air.

When Mary is given the opportunity to visit Colin's room during the day, she is struck by its beauty and warmth. Colin, now sitting up, asserts his desires with a royal demeanor, insisting that everyone must cater to him. Mary reflects on this, comparing him to a rajah she once met in India, and describes Dickon, Martha's brother, who has a deep connection with nature. Colin expresses a longing to experience the moor, but he believes he is destined to die, a thought that Mary dislikes and challenges. She declares that if everyone believed she should die, she would fight against it—and they share a moment of laughter as they realize they are cousins.

Their playful exchange is interrupted by Mrs. Medlock and Dr. Craven,





Colin's doctor, who is alarmed to find Mary in the room. Colin uses his newfound resolve to declare that Mary must be allowed to visit him, showcasing his growing confidence and the influence of Mary's spirit on his well-being. The doctor, although concerned by Colin's excitement, agrees to let Mary stay, especially since Colin insists that her presence is beneficial for him. As they settle in for tea, Colin eagerly asks Mary to tell him more about rajahs, marking a significant shift in his character as he begins to embrace life more fully. The chapter highlights themes of healing, the importance of companionship, and the transformative power of friendship, as Colin starts to open up to new possibilities beyond the confines of his room.

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## Critical Thinking

**Key Point:** The transformative power of friendship and companionship

**Critical Interpretation:** Imagine stepping into the warmth of companionship, where every kind word and shared laughter becomes a seed of hope that can bloom into resilience and joy. Just as Mary's visit ignited Colin's spirit, so too can our connections with others lift us from our moments of isolation and despair. In embracing the bond of friendship, we discover the strength to challenge our limitations, to venture into the unknown, and to cultivate our own gardens of possibility. Let this inspire you to seek out those connections and invest in the relationships that have the potential to heal and transform your life.

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## Chapter 15: : Nest Building

In Chapter 15 of "The Secret Garden," titled "Nest Building," the story unfolds during a week of rain, which keeps Mary and Colin indoors.

Despite missing the garden and Dickon, they spend their time forming a deeper bond through games, reading, and conversation. Colin surprisingly hasn't had any of his emotional breakdowns since knowing Mary, highlighting the positive influence she has on him.

Eager to share the magic of the secret garden with Colin, Mary carefully considers how to bring him there, fearing he might not keep it a secret. She believes the garden will help him heal as it did for her. When the rain finally stops, and the sun shines again, Mary is thrilled. She awakens early, filled with a sense of wonder as she feels the warm breeze and admires the green world that has burst into life outside her window.

Dressed quickly, she rushes to the garden, where she encounters Dickon with a crow named Soot and a fox cub called Captain. Mary's initial nervousness dissipates as she joins them, captivated by the beauty of nature

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## Chapter 16 Summary: : An Argument

In Chapter 16 of "The Secret Garden," Mary Lennox finds herself caught in a fierce argument with Colin Craven, which reveals their evolving friendship and the deep insecurities underlying Colin's character. After spending a fulfilling afternoon with Dickon in the secret garden, Mary is reminded of Colin's loneliness but doesn't initially consider the impact of her choices on him. When she finally visits Colin, he's sulking in bed, feeling sorry for himself because she didn't come to see him that day.

Their interaction quickly spirals into a shouting match, each accusing the other of selfishness. Colin insists he won't allow Dickon to come visit anymore, throwing a tantrum that infuriates Mary. She defiantly declares that if he sends Dickon away, she won't visit him again. Their heated exchanges reveal both characters' stubbornness and pride, as well as Colin's vulnerability stemming from his illness and isolation.

As the argument escalates, Colin's emotional turmoil is evident when he admits to feeling destined to die due to his physical condition. However, Mary challenges his negative self-perception, insisting he won't die and accusing him of using his illness for pity. This moment of confrontation causes a shift in Colin; for the first time, he is faced with someone who refuses to coddle him.



After their tumultuous encounter, Mary storms out, feeling upset and vowing to keep secrets from Colin, such as the wonders of the secret garden. Yet, as she reflects on Colin's struggles, she acknowledges the fear and loneliness that fuel his tantrums. This leads her to decide that she will return to see him the next day, showing her growing compassion and understanding for his plight.

This chapter beautifully highlights themes of friendship, healing, and the importance of facing one's fears. It also sets the stage for deeper character development as Mary learns to balance her own feelings with those of others, while Colin begins to confront the reality of his condition and the potential for change in his life.

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## Chapter 17 Summary: : A Tantrum

In Chapter 17 of "The Secret Garden," Mary Lennox is determined to see her cousin Colin Craven after a day spent working in the garden. However, the night takes a startling turn when she wakes up to the sound of Colin's agonized screams. They signal that he is in the grips of a hysterical meltdown, which sends Mary racing to his room, feeling a mix of fear and annoyance.

When she bursts in, her frustration boils over, and instead of comforting him, she confronts Colin with a surprising fierceness. She tells him exactly what she thinks of his behavior, claiming that his screams won't get him anywhere and that everyone wishes he would just stop. Her boldness shocks Colin and, despite his panic, it manages to calm him somewhat as she challenges him by insisting he doesn't actually have a lump on his back as he fears.

Mary orders the nurse to examine Colin, who is visibly thin and frail. The nurse confirms there's no lump, just a weak back from lack of use. With this newfound knowledge, Colin begins to shift away from his previous self-pity—he begins to sound like a real boy, curious about life outside his room instead of a sickly rajah.

As the tension eases, Colin expresses a desire to join Mary outside,





suggesting that Dickon push his wheeled chair. This signals a pivotal turn in his character as he starts to embrace the idea of fresh air and adventure. After the nurse brings them tea and the adults depart, Colin confides in Mary about nearly sharing the secret of the enchanted garden.

Mary, seeing Colin's eyes filled with curiosity, promises to share her imaginative visions of the secret garden the next day. She describes the beauty of the garden in vivid detail, convincing Colin to relax and eventually fall asleep, dreaming of the wonders that await him. This chapter underscores key themes of friendship, the power of truth, and the healing nature of nature itself, setting the stage for a blossoming journey for both Mary and Colin.



## Chapter 18: : Sharing a Secret

In Chapter 18 of "The Secret Garden," Mary wakes up to find that Colin, who has been feeling ill after an emotional outburst, wants to see her. She eagerly agrees to visit him, excited to discuss their beloved secret garden. When she enters Colin's room, he is curious about her plans and is delighted to hear that she will be back soon. His enthusiasm peaks when she mentions the secret garden, revealing how much he longs for it.

Mary rushes into the garden, where she meets Dickon, who is surrounded by his animal friends, Nut and Shell the squirrels, and Soot and Captain the pets. She shares her idea with Dickon about bringing the animals to visit Colin the next day, which they both agree will be a wonderful plan. Even though she is captivated by the beauty of the garden, her thoughts return to Colin, urging her to hurry back.

Upon her return, Colin surprises Mary by sniffing the air and commenting on the sweet scent of flowers and fresh grass. Their conversation reveals their growing friendship, with Mary introducing Colin to the joy of nature

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## Chapter 19 Summary: : Colin's Visitors

In Chapter 19 of "The Secret Garden," titled "Colin's Visitors," we see a fascinating transformation in Colin. Dr. Craven arrives as usual, expecting to find a frail, miserable boy, but is astonished to find Colin sitting confidently on the sofa, engrossed in a picture book with Mary. Colin, now feeling better, asserts his desire to go outside soon, a significant shift from his previous fears. With newfound energy, he expresses excitement for fresh air, particularly because he will have company with Mary and Dickon, who will help him in his wheelchair.

The chapter captures a moment of joy and awakening as Colin dreams about the arrival of spring and imagines the sounds of golden trumpets celebrating the season. Mary encourages him to embrace the fresh air, echoing the teachings of Dickon, who believes in the rejuvenating power of nature. Colin, infused with new hope, takes deep breaths, savoring the air.

When the nurse arrives with breakfast, Colin boldly announces that he will host Dickon and his animal companions, showcasing his growing confidence. Moments later, Dickon enters, delightfully accompanied by a crow, a couple of squirrels, a loyal dog named Captain, and a baby lamb. Colin is awestruck, having never interacted with a boy or animals in this way before. Dickon, unbothered by Colin's initial shyness, gently introduces him to the lamb, which immediately bonds with Colin as it seeks



nourishment.

As the lamb snuggles against him and Dickon shares tales of his adventures on the moor, Colin becomes increasingly animated about the garden and the wonders it holds. With every tale, Colin’s excitement builds, and he eagerly declares that he will indeed see the garden, reaffirming the theme of renewal and the magic of friendship that permeates the narrative. The chapter ends with a powerful promise of adventure, as Mary insists there’s no time to waste, setting the stage for Colin's first step into the vibrant world outside.

Key Points	Description
Colin's Transformation	Colin displays newfound confidence, no longer appearing frail or miserable as he sits with Mary.
Desire for the Outdoors	Colin expresses a desire to go outside, a significant change from his previous fears.
Spring's Arrival	Colin dreams about spring and the joy it brings, inspired by Mary and Dickon's encouragement.
Hosting Friends	Colin confidently announces he will host Dickon and his animals, showing his growing self-assurance.
Introduction of Animals	Colin meets Dickon's animals, including a crow and a lamb, fostering his connection to nature.
Shared Stories	Dickon shares tales of the moor, which excites Colin about the garden and friendship.
Promise of Adventure	The chapter concludes with Mary encouraging Colin to explore the garden, signaling a new beginning.



## Chapter 20 Summary: : Going Outside

In Chapter 20 of "The Secret Garden," the story takes a vibrant turn as Colin, Mary, and Dickon come together to plan an exciting adventure—Colin's long-awaited visit to the secret garden. The children are determined to keep their escapade a secret, and they devise a plan that leads to an exhilarating moment for Colin, who has been confined indoors for so long.

Colin, now in charge of his own fate, confidently calls upon Mr. Roach, the head gardener. Initially apprehensive about Colin's notorious temper, Mr. Roach is relieved to learn that all Colin wants is to go outside and enjoy the fresh air. Colin gives the order for the gardeners to work indoors while he ventures out, marking a pivotal moment of independence for him.

As the day unfolds, the strongest footman carries Colin downstairs, and with the help of his nurse, he is comfortably settled into a wheelchair, surrounded by soft cushions and a blanket. With Mary and Dickon by his side, Colin embarks on his journey to the secret garden, filled with excitement and anticipation.

When they reach the entrance, memories of Mary's previous adventures flood back. She remembers the robin that led her to the hidden door and the moment she found the key. As she reveals the door hidden behind ivy, Colin feels a mix of anxiety and exhilaration. With a gentle push from Dickon,



they enter the garden together.

Stepping inside, Colin is overwhelmed by the beauty that surrounds him—the lush greenery, vibrant flowers, and cheerful sounds of nature envelop him in a warm embrace. This first glimpse of the garden brings a radiant glow to his face and ignites hope within him. With a joyful shout, Colin proclaims his newfound determination to get well, expressing an exuberant wish to live forever alongside his friends.

This chapter highlights themes of growth, friendship, and the transformative power of nature. Colin's journey from illness to vitality symbolizes the healing that can occur within the heart and spirit. As he steps outside for the first time, readers can feel the shift in his character, marking a significant step toward his recovery and an invitation to embrace the world around him. The secret garden truly becomes a magical place of rejuvenation for all three children, particularly for Colin, who begins to see life through a new lens of hope and possibility.



## Chapter 21: : Someone Else in the Garden

In Chapter 21 of "The Secret Garden," Colin and Mary experience a remarkable day in the garden, guided by the cheerful Dickon. Colin, pushed in his wheelchair, is enchanted by the beauty around him and becomes genuinely curious about the natural world, exclaiming that he wants to treasure every moment. When they pause under an old apple tree, Colin notices its decay but is captivated by the roses climbing over it, symbolizing life's resilience.

Their afternoon takes an unexpected turn when Colin spots Ben Weatherstaff, the old gardener, on a ladder, leading to a humorous confrontation. Ben's initial anger quickly turns to surprise upon seeing Colin for the first time since he was a baby. This marks a significant moment for Colin; filled with pride and determination, he stands up tall, defying the label of "crippled" that had been placed on him. Ben's reaction of disbelief and subsequent tears reflect the profound transformation happening within Colin.

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## Chapter 22 Summary: : The Magic

In Chapter 22 of "The Secret Garden," the magical transformation in the garden continues, showcasing the powerful connection between nature and personal growth. Colin, Mary, and Dickon, deeply influenced by their enchanting surroundings, begin to experience significant changes in their outlook and health. Inspired by the love Colin's mother had for nature, particularly tall and joyful plants, the children embrace their own journey toward wellness and strength.

Colin decides to conduct a "scientific experiment" to discover the essence of magic, comparing it to the study of electricity. He enlists Mary and Dickon to help him in this exploration. They sit in a circle, and Colin leads them in a chant that emphasizes the magic of being alive and strong. With each repetition, Colin begins to believe more in his own power and potential.

Empowered by his newfound mantra, Colin courageously attempts to walk around the garden for the first time, supported by Dickon and Mary. Despite needing to pause for rest, he manages to circle the entire garden, exclaiming with joy that the magic has worked and he has made his first scientific discovery. He dreams of surprising his father, Dr. Craven, by walking into his study and declaring that he is healthy, vibrant, and ready for life.

The excitement is palpable as Colin fantasizes about his future, vowing to





become a great athlete rather than a prizefighter, much to the amusement of Ben, who urges Colin to take up boxing. But Colin's aspirations lean towards being a scientific discoverer, showcasing his emerging identity and ambition. The chapter captures themes of resilience, the power of positive thinking, and the transformative influence of friendship and nature. As Colin gains strength and confidence, the promise of his growth mirrors the flourishing garden around them, weaving magic into the fabric of their lives.

Key Theme	Description
Transformation	Colin, Mary, and Dickon experience personal growth influenced by the magical garden.
Connection to Nature	Children embrace their journey towards wellness inspired by Colin's mother's love for nature.
Scientific Exploration	Colin conducts a "scientific experiment" to explore the magic of life, likening it to electricity.
Empowerment	Colin gains confidence through a mantra encouraging belief in his power and potential.
First Steps	Colin walks around the garden for the first time, marking a significant milestone in his recovery.
Positive Aspirations	Colin dreams of being vibrant and healthy, envisioning a future as an athlete or scientific discoverer.
Themes	The chapter emphasizes resilience, positive thinking, friendship, and the transformative power of nature.

## Critical Thinking

**Key Point:** The power of positive thinking

**Critical Interpretation:** Imagine a moment where, like Colin, you begin to believe in your own strength and potential. What if you embraced the magic of being alive, as nature does in the garden? Every positive thought you nurture acts like those vibrant plants, sowing seeds of confidence that can blossom into courage. Just like Colin, as you chant your own affirmations of strength, you too can transform your outlook on life. By consciously choosing to focus on the possibilities instead of limitations, you pave the way for not just personal growth, but also a renewed sense of purpose. The simple act of believing in yourself can lead you to step boldly into your own garden, ready to declare your health, vitality, and readiness to embrace all that life has to offer.



## Chapter 23 Summary: : Susan Sowerby Saves the Day

In Chapter 23 of "The Secret Garden," titled "Susan Sowerby Saves the Day," we see a heartwarming progression in the lives of Colin, Mary, and Dickon as they collaborate to keep Colin's improving health a secret from the manor's servants. Dickon shares with his mother, Mrs. Sowerby, how Colin and Mary are becoming healthier and happier, but they face the challenge of feigning weakness to avoid raising suspicion about Colin's condition. With a playful strategy in mind, they plan for Colin to act helpless while Mary pretends to dote on him. Mrs. Sowerby, full of support, suggests that she could provide food for the children to fuel their playacting without increasing curiosity from adults.

The next day, Dickon surprises the duo with delicious milk and fresh currant buns, bringing joy and laughter as they enjoy their feast in the secret garden. Colin marvels at Mrs. Sowerby's thoughtfulness, feeling her kindness and creativity enhance the magic around them. As the rain keeps them indoors, Mary proposes an adventurous exploration of the vast, neglected manor with its mysterious hundred rooms. Their laughter rings through the halls as they uncover treasures and curiosities, filling their imaginations with wonder.

Amid their indoor escapades, Colin finds a newfound connection to his mother, feeling inspired by her picture that no longer hides behind a curtain. This moment opens up deep emotions as he appreciates her presence as a



guiding spirit in his life. Colin clings to the hope that his father will come to adore him if he resembles her. This chapter explores themes of friendship, healing, and the power of love, illustrating how laughter and discovery can transform lives and strengthen bonds. Through the support of his friends and the nurturing spirit of his mother, Colin takes bold steps toward a brighter future, eager for the day of his father's return.

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## Chapter 24: : Homecoming

In Chapter 24 of "The Secret Garden," titled "Homecoming," the once-brooding Mr. Craven finds himself on a journey of transformation while traveling through the beautiful landscapes of Europe. After years of grief and sorrow, he takes a moment to sit by a mountain stream in Austria, allowing the serene environment and the sight of forget-me-nots to slowly lift the weight of his melancholy. For the first time in a decade, he begins to feel a sense of relaxation and hope, sparked by a poignant dream of his late wife calling out to him from a garden.

Upon receiving a letter from Susan Sowerby urging him to return to Yorkshire, he feels an unfamiliar warmth in his heart, worrying that his son Colin is unwell but determined to embrace the possibility of joy again. When he arrives back at Misselthwaite Manor, Mrs. Medlock informs him of Colin's newfound friendship with Mary and Dickon, emphasizing their time spent outside in the garden—the very same place Mr. Craven had locked away from himself and the world.

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