

# The Secret Garden: Questions

## *Test Yourself!*

Here are some questions about the story of *The Secret Garden* for you to answer.

***Remember: sometimes a question may have more than one right answer.***

You can find answers to these questions at [www.booksforlearning.com.au](http://www.booksforlearning.com.au).

Go to The Children's Classical Library page and follow the links to the Secret Garden page.



Please note: these questions are designed to accompany the adapted version of *The Secret Garden* by Books for Learning. Chapter numbers do not correspond to the original text.

## Chapter 1

1. True or False:
  - a. Mary grows up in England with her mother, father and a house full of servants.
  - b. Mary is very close to her parents.
  - c. Mary's parents die of cholera.
  - d. Mary is the only one in her house who does not die of cholera.
  - e. At first, Mary is sent to live with a clergyman and his family in England.
  - f. Mary does not play with the clergyman's children because they are mean to her.
  - g. Mary has never heard of her uncle.
  - h. Mrs Medlock does not want to talk with Mary.
  
2. Which of these is a TRUE statement about Mr Craven?
  - a. There is really nothing wrong with his back.
  - b. He was happy until he got married.
  - c. He has not been sour all his life.
  - d. He has never cared for anybody.
  - e. He spends most of his time shut up by himself at home.
  - f. He is not at home when Mary arrives.
  
3. Until she is nine years old, Mary is looked after by servants, because—
  - a. her parents are too ill.
  - b. her mother never wanted a child.
  - c. her parents are very busy.
  
4. Mary is bossy and selfish, probably because—
  - a. she was born that way.
  - b. she has not been brought up well.
  - c. she lives with the servants.
  
5. When Mrs Medlock describes Mr Craven as 'worse than ever', she means that—
  - a. he was less sour as a young man than he is now.
  - b. he is even meaner now than when he was married.
  - c. he cares for nobody.
  
6. Match each word with the most appropriate gap below.  
*unpleasant, afraid, bossy, uneasy, angry*  
Mary is—
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_ when she is with servants.
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_ when her Ayah does not come.
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_ when she hears wailing
  - d. \_\_\_\_\_ when she hears about Misselthwaite Manor.
  - e. \_\_\_\_\_ with the clergyman's family.

## Chapter 2

1. True or False:
  - a. Martha would rather not live near the moor.
  - b. Martha has never dressed a child before.
  - c. Martha is one of twelve children.
  - d. Dickon has a pony that he found on the moor.
  - e. Dickon is Martha's brother.
  - f. The secret garden was locked after Mrs Craven died.
  - g. Ben has known the robin since it was born.
  
2. Mary has never dressed herself before, because—
  - a. she is lazy.
  - b. she has been taught to let others do it.
  - c. she is selfish and spoilt.
  
3. Martha is a little frightened when Mary becomes upset, because—
  - a. she is afraid of Mary.
  - b. Mrs Medlock may get angry at her.
  - c. she is worried that Mary will not like her.
  
4. Mary becomes interested in Dickon, because—
  - a. he likes the moor.
  - b. birds come and eat out of his hands.
  - c. he has a pet.
  
5. Martha is upset that Mary will not eat breakfast, because—
  - a. her own brothers and sisters are almost starving.
  - b. she has gone to a lot of trouble to prepare it.
  - c. it is a very tasty meal.
  
6. Ben responds gruffly whenever Mary mentions the locked garden. A likely explanation for this is that—
  - a. he is not a very cheerful person.
  - b. he is old and does not understand children.
  - c. any mention of the garden makes him uncomfortable.
  
7. Match these words with the following people:  
*surly, cheerful, sour, chatty, gruff, dependent, choosy, fearful, doting*
  - a. Ben Weatherstaff
  - b. Mary Lennox
  - c. Martha

### Chapter 3

1. True or False:
  - a. Mary stays inside most of the time.
  - b. Mary starts to enjoy Martha's company.
  - c. Martha always does what Mrs Medlock orders.
  - d. The garden is locked because Mrs Craven died there.
  
2. Mary starts to feel hungry, because—
  - a. she is getting a lot of exercise.
  - b. she is not eating enough.
  - c. it is cold and windy outside.
  
3. Martha insists that the strange sound in the corridor is the blowing of the wind. Mary does not believe her, because—
  - a. she does not trust servants.
  - b. Martha looks troubled and awkward.
  - c. she is sure it is the sound of someone crying.
  
4. Mary explores the house, even though she is not allowed to, because—
  - a. she is feeling bored.
  - b. she is angry at being locked up.
  - c. she does not like to be told what to do.
  
5. Mary is upset after Mrs Medlock finds her, mainly because—
  - a. she has been caught doing the wrong thing.
  - b. Mrs Medlock has handled her roughly.
  - c. she knows that she heard someone crying.
  
6. Which word best describes each of the following statements:  
*certain, possible, likely, unlikely*
  - a. Mary hears a young person crying inside the house.
  - b. Mary's uncle used to like the garden.
  - c. Mrs Medlock always tells the truth.
  - d. Some of the rooms Mary looks into are still being used.

## Chapter 4

1. True or False:
  - a. It is wintertime at Misselthwaite.
  - b. Mary knows it would be wrong to enter the locked garden.
  - c. Mary finds the door to the garden the same day she finds the key.
  - d. There are no living plants in the secret garden.
  - e. Mary does not know anything about gardening.
  - f. Mary writes a letter to Dickon.
  - g. Mrs Medlock gives Mary pocket money.
  
2. Mary wants to find a way into the garden, because—
  - a. she wants to have a secret place of her own.
  - b. it has been shut up for ten years.
  - c. the robin lives in there.
  
3. Mary cannot ask Ben Weatherstaff about the roses in the secret garden, because—
  - a. she does not know where he is.
  - b. he does not like to be asked questions.
  - c. she does not want him to know she has been inside the secret garden.
  
4. Mary has to choose her words carefully when talking about gardening, because—
  - a. she wants her new garden to stay a secret.
  - b. she is afraid she may get into trouble if anyone finds out she has been inside the secret garden.
  - c. Mrs Medlock does not want the secret garden to be talked about.
  
5. Mary likes Dickon, and wants to meet him, because—
  - a. he knows about gardening.
  - b. he loves the moor.
  - c. she is lonely.
  
6. This chapter shows that Dickon—
  - a. is generous.
  - b. can read.
  - c. likes to get up early.
  
7. Later, Mary will say that Magic happened in this chapter, because—
  - a. she found the door to the garden.
  - b. she got to enter the secret garden.
  - c. the robin sang, and the wind blew, just when she was standing in front of the door.

## Chapter 5

1. True or False:
  - a. Dickon has red hair.
  - b. Dickon plays music on a pipe.
  - c. Dickon has many secrets.
  - d. Dickon has never heard of the secret garden before.
  - e. Mr Craven comes to see Mary.
  - f. Mr Craven gives Mary permission to enter the secret garden.
  - g. Dickon is good at spelling.
  
2. Mary is afraid to tell Dickon about the secret garden, because—
  - a. she might have to share it with him.
  - b. he might tell others about it.
  - c. she does not want to lose it.
  
3. Mary knows when it is time for her midday dinner, because—
  - a. she is hungry.
  - b. she hears a clock.
  - c. the sun is overhead.
  
4. Mary begins to shake when she meets her uncle, because—
  - a. she is afraid of him.
  - b. she wants to ask him something.
  - c. she wants to get back to the garden as quickly as possible.
  
5. When Mr Craven looks at Mary, she reminds him of—
  - a. Ben Weatherstaff.
  - b. himself as he used to be.
  - c. his wife.
  
6. Which word best describes Mary in the following situations?  
*unhappy, disappointed, hopeful, happy, awkward, nervous*
  - a. when she first meets Dickon.
  - b. when she meets Mr Craven.
  - c. when Dickon asks where her garden is.
  - d. when she goes to dinner.
  - e. when she is running back to the garden after meeting Mr Craven.
  - f. when she gets back to the garden.

## Chapter 6

1. True or False:
  - a. Mary is awakened by the sound of crying.
  - b. Colin is Mary's cousin.
  - c. Colin is a hunchback.
  - d. Colin has been expecting to meet Mary.
  - e. Mary tells Colin she has found the key to the garden.
  - f. Colin has never heard of the secret garden.
  - g. Everybody has to do what Colin wants.
  - h. Colin is usually in a bad mood.
  - i. Dickon has heard about Colin before.
  
2. Colin does not let people see him, because—
  - a. he does not like people.
  - b. they talk about his illness.
  - c. they stare at him.
  
3. Mary tries to convince Colin to keep the garden a secret, by saying that—
  - a. they would have a special place all of their own.
  - b. they could play and do gardening there.
  - c. Colin could get lots of fresh air.
  
4. Colin does not plan to tell Mrs Medlock about Mary's visit to his room, because—
  - a. she will be angry.
  - b. he wants to have another secret.
  - c. he does not care what she thinks.
  
5. Martha is full of fear when Mary tells her about the meeting with Colin, because—
  - a. everyone in the house is afraid of Colin.
  - b. Colin is always having tantrums.
  - c. she thinks she will be blamed and lose her place at Misselthwaite.
  
6. After a while, Mrs Medlock is glad that Colin has met Mary, because—
  - a. he is much happier.
  - b. his tantrums have stopped.
  - c. it will make him well.
  
7. Place these words in the appropriate gaps:  
*never, always, occasionally, frequently, rarely*
  - a. Colin \_\_\_\_\_ goes outside.
  - b. The servants are \_\_\_\_\_ allowed to talk about Colin.
  - c. Colin \_\_\_\_\_ has tantrums.
  - d. Mr Craven \_\_\_\_\_ visits his son.
  - e. Colin \_\_\_\_\_ expects to get his way.

## Chapter 7

1. True or False:
  - a. Springtime has arrived.
  - b. Colin has a crooked back.
  - c. Colin is quite thin.
  - d. Dickon's lamb is called Captain.
  - e. Dickon keeps the lamb wrapped in a small blanket.
  - f. The lamb's mother is dead.
  - g. Dickon brings four pets into Colin's room.
  - h. Dickon stays in Colin's room for the rest of the day.
  
2. Colin has a tantrum, because—
  - a. Mary does not come to see him.
  - b. he feels a lump on his back.
  - c. he is feeling ill.
  
3. Mary suddenly feels sorry for Colin after his tantrum, because he—
  - a. is afraid.
  - b. felt a lump on his back.
  - c. looks so pathetic.
  
4. Mary tells Colin she has found the key to the garden, mainly because—
  - a. she decides she can trust him.
  - b. telling him will help him get better.
  - c. she thinks it will be fun to share the secret with him.
  
5. Who thinks of taking Dickon's pets to Colin's room?
  - a. Mary
  - b. Dickon
  - c. Colin
  
6. Match each of these words with the appropriate gap below:  
*furiously, desperately, kindly, carefully, generously, enthusiastically*  
Mary—
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_ runs to tell Colin about the springtime.
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_ examines Colin's back.
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_ tells Colin to stop his tantrum.
  - d. \_\_\_\_\_ asks Colin to keep the garden a secret.
  - e. \_\_\_\_\_ tells Colin he will not die.
  - f. \_\_\_\_\_ tells Colin that she has found a way into the garden.



## Chapter 8

1. True or False:
  - a. At first the fresh air makes Colin feel ill.
  - b. Colin helps Mary and Dickon with the gardening straight away.
  - c. Colin visits the garden for several months before he starts to walk.
  - d. Dickon holds Colin's hand as he walks around the garden.
  - e. It is very painful for Colin to be carried downstairs.
  
2. Colin never stands on his legs, because—
  - a. he is too ill.
  - b. they are too thin and weak.
  - c. he does not think he can.
  
3. Colin starts to believe in Magic, because—
  - a. new things are growing everywhere.
  - b. he is feeling better.
  - c. he can walk.
  
4. Colin does not want people to know he is getting better, because—
  - a. he does not like people whispering and asking questions about him.
  - b. he wants to surprise his father when he is fully well.
  - c. it might get people's hopes up for nothing.
  
5. Colin and Mary do not ask Mrs Medlock for more food when they are hungry, because—
  - a. they have food of their own.
  - b. they do not want anyone to know that Colin is getting well.
  - c. they do not want to look too healthy.
  
6. Colin wishes his father would come home, because—
  - a. he is sick of pretending to be ill.
  - b. he wants to tell his father what has happened.
  - c. he is starting to look too healthy.
  
7. Match each of these words with the appropriate gap below:  
*hoping, happy, eager, determined, afraid*  
Colin is—
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_ to get well.
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_ to keep his recovery secret.
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_ to stand on his feet.
  - d. \_\_\_\_\_ to keep visiting the garden.
  - e. \_\_\_\_\_ to walk on his own.

## Chapter 9

1. True or False:
  - a. Mr Craven sees the secret garden in his dream.
  - b. Mr Craven knows where to find the buried key.
  - c. Colin rushes out of the garden to greet his father.
  - d. Mr Craven hardly recognizes Colin.
  - e. Colin wants to be an athlete.
  
2. At first, the beauty of nature does not touch Mr Craven, because—
  - a. he is too sad.
  - b. he will not let it.
  - c. he does not want to look at it.
  
3. In his dream, Mr Craven hears the voice of—
  - a. Colin.
  - b. his wife.
  - c. Mary
  
4. Mr Craven returns home, because—
  - a. of his son.
  - b. of the dream.
  - c. he is homesick.
  
5. For many years Mr Craven has not wanted anything to do with Colin, because the boy—
  - a. reminds him of his wife.
  - b. is an invalid.
  - c. has a nasty, hysterical, half-insane temper.
  
6. Colin stands up while he tells his father the whole story, because—
  - a. he is sick of sitting down.
  - b. he is excited.
  - c. he is proud that he can stand.
  
7. Match each of these words with the appropriate gap below:  
Mr Craven is—  
*astounded, lost, moved, wandering, glad, bewildered*
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_ in dark thoughts.
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_ in Europe.
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_ to be coming home.
  - d. \_\_\_\_\_ to hear voices in the garden.
  - e. \_\_\_\_\_ by Colin's story.
  - f. \_\_\_\_\_ to see Colin healthy and alive.

## Topics for Discussion



1. What would it feel like to be Mary at the start of this story, with no parents, sitting on a train and heading for Misselthwaite Manor? Try to describe what her thoughts and feelings might be.
2. At the start of this book, Mary is quite selfish and cut off from others. What helps her to become happy and interested in others? See if you can identify at least five things.
3. If you discovered a secret garden, what would you want to do inside it? Would you want to keep it secret?
4. Why is Dickon able to be so friendly with the wild animals?
5. Is it right for Mary to enter the secret garden without permission? Try to think of reasons both for and against her decision.
6. Should people feel sorry for Colin, or is he just spoiled and selfish?
7. Why do you think Mary can make Colin settle down when nobody else can?
8. Colin used to think that fresh air would make him sick. Explain why he suddenly wants to breathe it in.
9. What is the Magic that the children talk about?
10. Colin starts to believe that if he thinks good thoughts, good things will happen. Do you agree? Can you think of any examples of this?
11. Why has Mr Craven been sad for so long? Is it just because his wife died, or is there some other cause as well?
12. What do you think of the ending to this story? Is it a good ending? Is it believable? How did you feel after reading it? Explain why you felt this way.
13. Stories are not necessarily just for entertainment. Often they have a kind of message, or something to teach their readers as well. Have you learnt anything from this story? What do you think is its most important message?