

# The Secret Garden

## Reading Guide

by David Kohl

For the book by Frances Hodgson Burnett



LOGOS PRESS  
Elementary Literature Series

# Suggestions For Use

This literature guide is designed to be completed by a fifth grade student over the course of one semester. Students may certainly read more than the five books contained in this guide if they are so inclined. Five required books would be a reasonable goal for a school semester, but a lot depends on how much time - if any - you spend on projects, how much time daily you devote to reading, and what else you do in your reading program. For best results, parents may read and discuss the books and the questions with their students.

Books on the fifth grade literature list vary greatly in degree of difficulty. Your students may find some books harder to grasp than others.

Questions fall into three basic levels: literal, inferential, and evaluative; or, as someone put it, “on the lines”, “between the lines”, and “beyond the lines”. Some literal level questions have one right answer, but most questions have more possibilities.

Our typical reading period is about an hour long. First someone reads aloud to the class for 15 minutes from a book not on the literature list. It could be related to something we are studying in history, or it could be just for fun. For the remaining 45 minutes students read and answer the comprehension questions. If they finish early, they read a book of their choice.

Some editions of some books have no chapter numbers, so you may have to number them yourself.

A typical weekly cycle includes four days of new assignments; the fifth day is a catch-up day for students who need the extra time, or a free reading day for those who don't.

I require thorough, accurate answers in complete sentences, and I grade on content - which should include style - and mechanics. The questions should be thought of as more short essay than short answer.

Here are the four vocabulary steps used throughout this guide:

## **Vocabulary: The Four Steps**

- A. Find the vocabulary word; write it in context.
- B. Guess the meaning from context; write it.
- C. Write the dictionary definition next.
- D. Finally, use the word in a sentence of your own.

Enjoy your books!

David Kohl  
Moscow, ID  
January 2002

**The Secret Garden**  
by Frances Hodgson Burnett

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Chapters 1 (There's No One Left) and 2 (Mistress Mary Quite Contrary)**

1. What is the book's setting? (time and place) Be specific.

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2. Give examples of how Mary Lennox acted and treated people.

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3. Do you think her mean behavior is related to how she was brought up? Explain why or why not.

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4. Write down the dictionary definition of **cholera**.

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5. "Mistress Mary Quite Contrary," though somewhat cruel for a nickname, was appropriate for Mary Lennox. Explain why. (Look up contrary if you need to.)

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6. Why do you think Uncle Archibald Craven is such a sour, uncaring man?

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# **Answer Key**

## **The Secret Garden**

### **Chapters 1 (There's No One Left) and 2 (Mistress Mary Quite Contrary)**

1. What is the book's setting? (time and place) Be specific.

*The book opens in India, in the days when the British ruled there. Her family seems well-to-do.*

2. Give examples of how Mary Lennox acted and treated people.

*Mary beat and kicked the woman who came instead of her Ayah. She planned to call Saidie, "Pig! Pig! Daughter of Pigs!" She was so bad the English governesses quit.*

3. Do you think her mean behavior is related to how she was brought up? Explain why or why not. *opinion*

4. Write down the dictionary definition of **cholera**.

*Will vary according to the dictionary.*

5. "Mistress Mary Quite Contrary," though somewhat cruel for a nickname, was appropriate for Mary Lennox. Explain why. (Look up contrary if you need to.)

*Contrary means "unwilling to accept control." Mary was "as tyrannical and selfish a little pig as ever lived," so she's definitely contrary.*

6. Why do you think Uncle Archibald Craven is such a sour, uncaring man? *opinion*