



# The Secret Garden



*Retold from the Frances Hodgson Burnett  
original by Martha Hailey*

*Illustrated by Lucy Corvino*



STERLING CHILDREN'S BOOKS  
New York

## What Do *You* Think?

Questions for Discussion.



**H**ave you ever been around a toddler who keeps asking the question “Why?” Does your teacher call on you in class with questions from your homework? Do your parents ask you questions at the dinner table about your day? We are always surrounded by questions that need a specific response. But is it possible to have a question with no right answer?

The following questions are about the book you just read. But this is not a quiz! They are designed to help you look at the people, places,

and events in the story from different angles. These questions do not have specific answers. Instead, they might make you think of the story in a completely new way.

Think carefully about each question and enjoy discovering more about this classic story.

1. At the beginning of the story, Mary always did whatever she wanted and had no friends. Why do you think she acted this way? What advice would you have given her?

2. Mrs. Medlock tells Mary that her uncle is “not going to bother about you,” and that she will have to look after herself. How does Mary react to this? How would you feel if you were Mary?

3. Martha asks Mary if she likes herself. What do you think she meant by that? Do you ever have times when you don’t like yourself?

4. Loneliness makes people behave differently. How are each of the characters affected by their loneliness?

5. Do you think the robin could really understand what Ben and Mary were saying? Do you believe that animals have special powers? Did the robin actually lead Mary to the key to the secret garden?

6. How do you imagine the secret garden looks?

7. Mary says that Dickon “talks about living things—not about being sick and dying.” Why do you suppose this kind of attitude is important?

8. Colin says, “Magic is in me. Magic is making me well.” Do you believe in magic? Who or what is the source of the magic that is making Colin healthy?

9. In what ways are each of the children like the garden? Is Mr. Craven like the garden?

10. Have you ever dreamed of discovering a secret garden or room or land of your own?