

Beginner



A1 (Breakthrough)

R A I N B O W S

The Secret Garden

Frances Hodgson Burnett



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Frances Hodgson Burnett

The Secret Garden

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The Secret Garden

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The Author

Frances Hodgson Burnett



Frances Hodgson, born in Manchester (England) in 1849, emigrates to the U.S.A. with her family at the end of the American Civil War (1860-1865). She lives in Knoxville, Tennessee. She comes from an English industrial city and Knoxville looks like¹ a green paradise because it is in the American countryside. When her parents die, she starts writing stories to get money to live.

She marries Swan Burnett when she is 23 and becomes a very famous writer. Her first success is *That Lass O'Lowrie's* (1877), a book about a family who works in a mine². Ten years later, her novel *Little Lord Fauntleroy* (1886) becomes a classic for children: the book is very popular and a lot of mothers dress³ their sons like the hero of the story.

Her public and private life is very busy: her plays, novels⁴ and stories are very popular; she divorces her first husband in 1898, re-marries in 1900 and divorces again two years later.

After 1902, she divides her time between England and Long Island, New York. In her splendid English home she has a rose garden, where she writes her famous book, ***The Secret Garden*** (1912). It is a story of courage and friendship with a happy ending. Her novels also include *The Little Princess* (1905) and *The Lost Prince* (1915). She dies in 1924 in Long Island. Over forty books are published in her lifetime.

1. looks like: is similar to.

2. mine: a system of tunnels in the ground for the extraction of minerals by digging.

3. dress: to put clothes on.

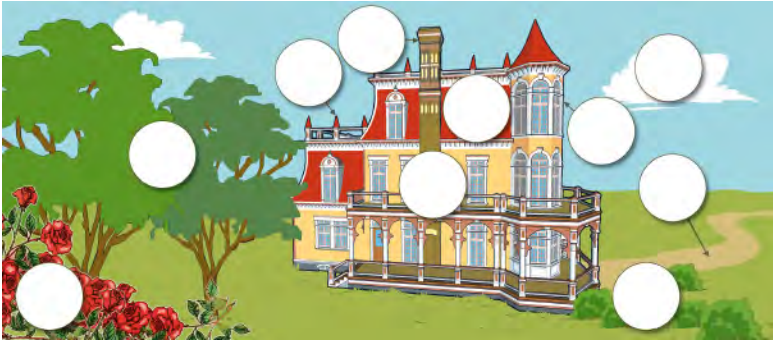
4. novel: a long printed story about imaginary characters and events.



BEFORE READING

1 Match the words in the box with the objects in the picture. Write letters in the circles.

a. bush • b. chimney • c. clouds • d. manor • e. pathway •
f. pinnacles • g. roof • h. rose-garden • i. trees • j. windows




2 Answer these questions in a personal way.

- a. Where do you live, in a house or in a flat?
- b. How many rooms are there?
- c. Is there a garden or a park near your house?
- d. Do you ever go there?
- e. Have you got any brothers or sisters?

3 Put the words below into the right group.

aunt • boy • father • girl • husband • mother • nephew •
niece • uncle • wife

husband 


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wife 

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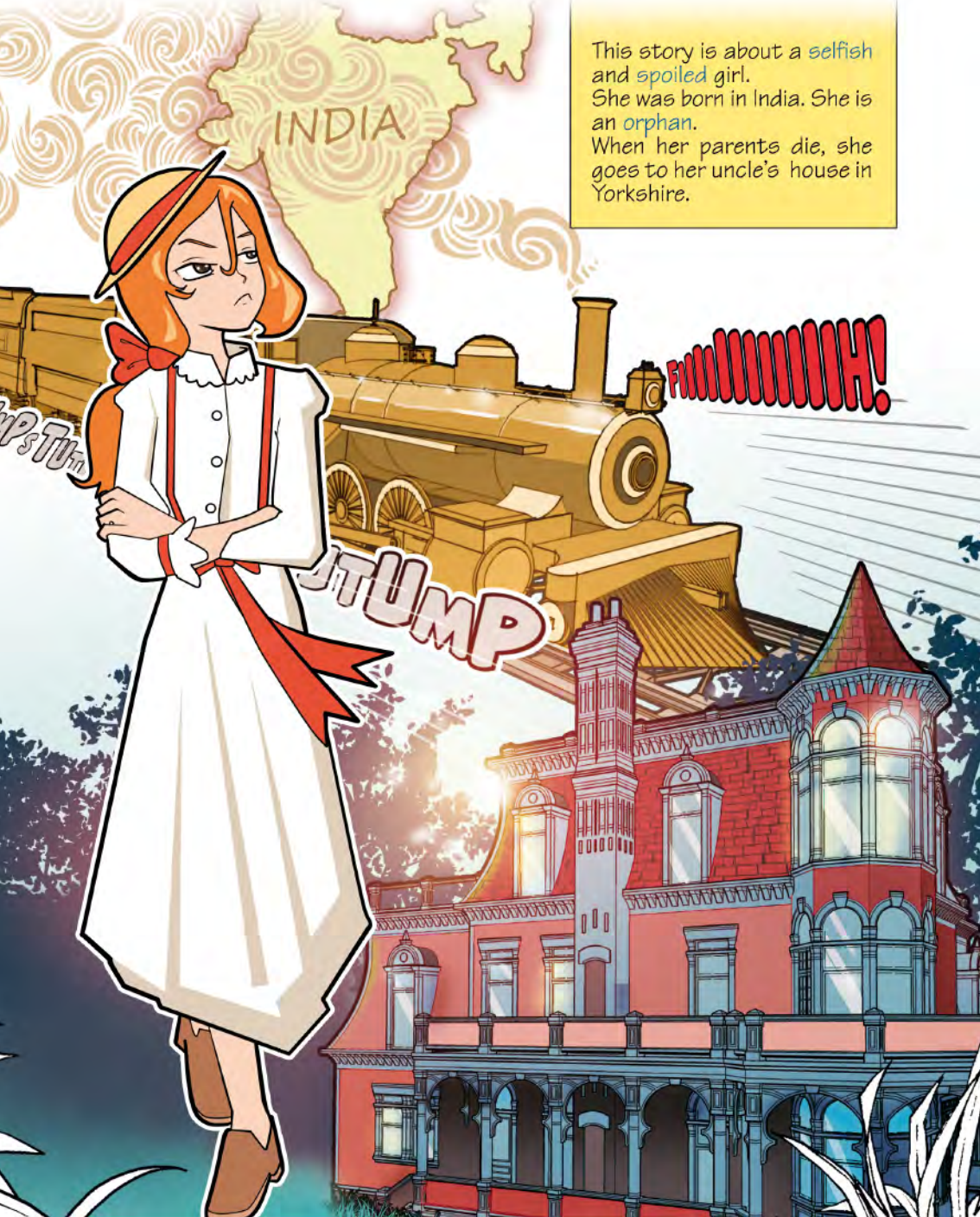
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The Secret Garden

Miss Mary Quite Contrary

This story is about a **selfish** and **spoiled** girl. She was born in India. She is an **orphan**. When her parents die, she goes to her uncle's house in Yorkshire.



It is a great **desolate** house, on the windy **moorland**. It is 600 years old and there are about 100 rooms. There are gardens and trees around it.



Hil My name's Mary Lennox. This is my new house, Misselthwaite Manor.

Hello, my name's Mrs Medlock. I'm the **housekeeper** at Misselthwaite Manor.

I look after this spoiled, thin girl, but I don't really like her very much.



I work for Mr Archibald Craven. He's a **hunchback** and a **lonely widower**.



My wife is **dead** and now I live in the **west wing** of the manor.



This is my **maid**, Martha. She is a **cheerful** young woman. She has a **rosy face**.

She is very different from the servants in India; she is **helpful** but she isn't **servile**.

This is the room where Mary sleeps and spends her time. It is cold and gloomy. She must not go into other rooms in the manor. They are locked.

Hello!
I look after Miss Mary,
I make her breakfast and
I tidy up her room.



One winter morning Mary is bored, as usual.

I don't want porridge for breakfast!

Why don't you go and play in the gardens? One of them is locked but you can see the others!



Why is one garden locked? Is there a secret?

Listening



Listen to the descriptions and match them with the words below.

- | | | |
|---------|----------|-------------|
| 1. | 2. | 3. |
| 4. | 5. | 6. |
| a. rose | b. manor | c. gardener |
| d. maid | e. robin | f. spade |

Writing

- 8 Write a short description (about 50 words) of Misselthwaite Manor. Use the words below.

Yorkshire • moorland • 600 years old • windy • desolate • trees • 100 rooms • gardens

Start like this: *Misselthwaite Manor is in Yorkshire. It is a*

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- 9 GAME. Two minutes for a video! Watch the video “How to make porridge” on **YouTube** and circle the words you hear.

apples • brown sugar • butter • fork • glass • oat • oil • oven • salt • saucepan • water • wooden spoon



YORKSHIRE FOOD

If you go to Yorkshire, you must eat some of the local food! Why don't you have a piece of **parkin** (a sweet ginger¹ cake) or maybe you prefer a piece of **Yorkshire gingerbread** (a strange form of gingerbread with some crystallised ginger in the middle)?

Do you like cooking? Then, you can make a good **Yorkshire pudding** in your kitchen! You only need a few ingredients:

- some eggs
- a cup of flour²
- a glass of milk
- a pinch of salt.

Now you are ready to start: mix eggs and flour, add milk slowly and a pinch³ of salt. Wait 25-30 minutes; then bake⁴ the batter⁵ for about half an hour. Serve it with roast beef and some potatoes. Your golden-brown pudding will be a success!

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1. <i>ginger: a spice to give an aromatic flavour, it's an orange colour.</i></p> <p>2. <i>flour: white or brown powder made from grain used for making bread, cakes, pasta, etc.</i></p> | <p>3. <i>pinch: very small quantity.</i></p> <p>4. <i>bake: to cook in the oven.</i></p> <p>5. <i>batter: the liquid mixture of all the ingredients.</i></p> |
|--|--|



Yorkshire pudding with roast beef and potatoes