

◆◆◆ **THE SECRET GARDEN** ◆◆◆

COURSE PLAN METHODOLOGY: *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett is represented by the abbreviation **SG**. Each weekly assignment is summarized in the first lines of the week's daily course plan. The specific daily assignments are outlined in the following lines indicated by the **MON, TUES, WED** and **THUR** abbreviations. **The chapter study questions, chapter vocabulary and glossary are located in the Elementary Literature Study Question booklets available for purchase from Kolbe Academy.** Answers should be given in complete written or oral sentences. We suggest reading the weekly written assignment to the student at the beginning of the week. The student should write the assignment down on a note card (to be used as a bookmark) so that he can think about the assignment as he reads. The written assignments are suggested to be started on Thursday after the reading is done and completed by the following Monday. As the teacher, be sure to review the final exam **now** to ensure all concepts are covered with your student as he reads the book.

All the Final Exam questions will be taken from the notes listed in these course plans and the Study Questions in the Elementary Literature Study Question booklet. Each week also includes a "memory gem." If the student repeats the phrase a couple of times a day each week, he will improve his memory skills, increase his repertoire of phraseology, and prepare for one of the parts of the final exam at the same time. Encourage the student to pay attention as he reads the quotation in the text, so he understands the context. He can also earn extra credit by knowing these quotations for the final.

Parent Notes: The author has the children doing magic in the sense that they are repeating positive phrases and calling growth, progress, and good things magic. The *Afterword* is both a short biography of Frances Hodgson Burnett and a professional critique of *The Secret Garden*. The *Afterword* is valuable as a teaching tool in that the critique is very well written. However, it was written primarily for an adult audience. Its language is significantly more difficult than that of the story, and it does illustrate a scandal that happened in the course of the author's life. If you choose to have your child read the *Afterword*, you might want to preview it first. We have listed information from the *Afterword* as extra credit.

The Secret Garden is a delightful book where the two protagonists metamorphosis from useless, spoiled creatures to happy, productive people who want to participate in life. The work shows how positive thinking and simple common sense can overcome serious obstacles and produce miracles.

Characters:

Mary Lennox, a sickly, disagreeable-looking nine-year-old child

Mr. and Mrs. Lennox (Mem Sahib), parents of Mary who do very little to take care of their only child

Sadie the Ayah (nanny), a native of India who takes care of Mary Lennox

Rev. and Mrs. Crawford, people who temporarily take care of Mary Lennox while she is waiting to go to England

Crawford Children, five rowdy children who enjoy fighting and teasing

Mr. Archibald Craven, Mary's uncle. He is very wealthy and very depressed.

Mrs. Medlock, Mr. Archibald Craven's head housekeeper

Mr. Pitcher, Mr. Archibald Craven's man servant

Martha Phoebe Sowerby, a rustic servant in Mr. Archibald Craven's house.

- Ben Weatherstaff**, a gardener in Mr. Archibald Craven’s household
- Dickon**, Martha’s 12-year-old brother who is wonderful with animals
- Betty Butterworth**, the scullery maid
- Colin Craven**, Mary’s invalid cousin
- Dr. Craven**, Colin’s personal physician
- Soot**, Dickon’s crow
- Captain**, Dickon’s fox cub
- Nut and Shell**, Dickon’s squirrels

Geographical Locations:

Google Earth is a free program the can breath life into the study of geography: <http://earth.google.com/>
India, England, Yorkshire

WEEK 1	
<p>Memory Gem: “It’ll do thee good to wait on thysen a bit. My mother always said she couldn’t see why grand people’s children didn’t turn out fair fools—what with nurses an’ bein’ washed an’ dressed an’ took out to walk as if they were puppies.”</p>	
SG	<p>Read Chapter 1 - Chapter 5. Have the student look up all the vocabulary words for Chapters 1-5 in the glossary prior to reading. The student may want to make his own crossword puzzle with his own clues for ten of the words either by hand or by using Puzzlemaker at the following link: http://www.puzzlemaker.com/CrissCrossSetupForm.html. Study questions may be completed as the student reads or at the end of the week when reading has been completed.</p> <p>Written assignment: What was wrong with the way Mary Lennox was being raised by her parents? (minimum, 1 paragraph)</p>
MON	<p>Read Chapter 1 and answer Study Questions. Chapter 1. Mary Lennox is a little girl whose parents never gave her the time of day. They, as well as most of their household in India, died of Cholera, but Mary survived. Because her nanny’s main job was to keep Mary out of sight, people almost never saw her, and when the cholera hit, she was completely forgotten.</p>
TUES	<p>Read Chapter 2 and 3 and answer Study Questions. Chapter 2. Mary travels to England with a woman who has no interest in her. Mary is met by Mrs. McCready who also has no real interest in her and tells her that her uncle has no interest in her either. She will lead a lonely life in a 600-year-old house that has lots of gardens and one hundred rooms. Chapter 3. Mary rides in a fine carriage for a very long time. She learns that a moor is a very large tract of wild land where nothing grows but scrub brush.</p>
WED	<p>Read Chapter 4 and 5 and answer Study Questions. Chapter 4. Mary is now in culture shock. She was accustomed to having everything done for her and bossing and abusing the servants. Now things are different. Here people treat her more like equals, though they are servants and do the menial labor. She is sent out to play but she is most attracted to the secret garden that has been closed to the world for the past ten years. She finds the wall that encircles it but no door to go inside. She makes friends with a robin and learns about the manor from Martha and Ben. Chapter 5. As Mary goes about her days, she speaks with Ben, the only person who is ever outdoors with her. She learns that the secret garden was Mr. and Mrs. Craven’s private garden; they alone tended it and enjoyed it. She also learns that Mrs. Craven died from an injury she suffered in that very garden.</p>