

# The Secret Garden

## Chapters 6–11

by Frances Hodgson Burnett

### Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

**Practice words:** defiantly, exultantly, fretful, indignantly, languid, mantle, obstinate, perennial, reverent, wistfully

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#### PRE-READING ACTIVITY

Vocabulary Preview ..... 2

Answer Key — Preview ..... 3

**Caution:** share only if self-checking

#### OPTIONAL POST-READING QUIZ

Vocabulary in Context ..... 4

Answer Key — In Context ..... 5

**Caution:** do not share with students

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#### About the Pre-Reading Activity (open-dictionary; ungraded or completion grade):

Students preview 10 words from the upcoming reading, each in a sentence that supports understanding. They choose the best meaning from 3 choices.

#### About the Optional Post-Reading Quiz (use after reading, or skip):

Same words, now in real excerpts from the text, with questions that build reading and analytical skills.

#### Vocabulary Sections for this Book:

Section 1 · Chapters 1–5 · Mary Lennox leaves India for England

**Section 2 · Chapters 6–11 · Searching for the secret garden**

Section 3 · Chapters 12–15 · Mary asks for a bit of earth

Section 4 · Chapters 16–21 · A contest of wills with Colin

Section 5 · Chapters 22–27 · Secret afternoons in the garden

**Bold = this section.** Other sections are available at [verbalworkout.com](https://www.verbalworkout.com).



[verbalworkout.com](https://www.verbalworkout.com)  
(all resources free)

# Vocabulary Preview

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_

*Read each prompt. Then choose the best meaning for the bold word.*

1. She stared **defiantly** at the teacher and would not say sorry.

- A. with puzzled confusion
- B. with quiet embarrassment
- C. with bold resistance

2. She raised her arms **exultantly** as she crossed the finish line first.

- A. with utter exhaustion
- B. with triumphant joy
- C. with quiet relief

3. The **fretful** baby kept the whole house awake all night.

- A. irritable and peevish
- B. feverish and unwell
- C. restless and full of energy

4. She frowned **indignantly** when the clerk shoved ahead of her in line.

- A. with quiet sadness
- B. with anger at unfairness
- C. with puzzled confusion

5. She felt **languid** in the heavy afternoon heat.

- A. anxious and on edge
- B. faint and dizzy
- C. sluggish and listless

6. A thick **mantle** of green moss clung to the old stone wall.

- A. a covering layer
- B. a small patch or clump
- C. a tangled, messy web

7. Despite all our pleading, the **obstinate** man stuck to his plan.

- A. proud and boastful
- B. selfish and greedy
- C. stubborn and unyielding

8. She planted **perennial** herbs along the edge of the garden path.

- A. living for many years
- B. prized for their strong scent
- C. needing rich soil to thrive

9. The visitors fell silent and **reverent** as they entered the ancient temple.

- A. showing deep respect
- B. showing nervous fear
- C. showing quiet boredom

10. She gazed **wistfully** at the old photograph of her childhood home.

- A. with mild impatience
- B. with yearning, sad longing
- C. with quiet satisfaction

### Reading Helpers

*(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)*

**curtains and fountains of roses** — masses of climbing roses hanging and cascading everywhere

# ANSWER KEY

## Vocabulary Preview

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| #  | KEY |
|----|-----|
| 1  | C   |
| 2  | B   |
| 3  | A   |
| 4  | B   |
| 5  | C   |
| 6  | A   |
| 7  | C   |
| 8  | A   |
| 9  | A   |
| 10 | B   |

# Vocabulary in Context

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_ Score \_\_\_\_\_ / 10

Read each excerpt carefully. Then choose the best answer to each question.

**1** *"It was another cry, but not quite like the one she had heard last night; it was only a short one, a fretful childish whine muffled by passing through walls."*

As it is used in the passage, the word "fretful" most nearly suggests that the crying child sounds...

- A. peevish and discontented
- B. frightened and panicked
- C. weak and gravely ill

**2** *"'Could I ever get there?' asked Mary wistfully, looking through her window at the far-off blue."*

The passage most strongly suggests that Mary asks her question because...

- A. she yearns to reach the far-off moor
- B. she resents being kept indoors
- C. she is afraid of the open moor

**3** *"Remembers thee!" said Weatherstaff indignantly. "He knows every cabbage stump in th' gardens, let alone th' people."*

It can reasonably be inferred that Weatherstaff answers "indignantly" because he...

- A. is delighted by Mary's question
- B. is offended that Mary doubts the robin
- C. is unsure if the robin recalls her

**4** *"It was bare of flowers because the perennial plants had been cut down for their winter rest, but there were tall shrubs and low ones which grew together at the back of the bed ..."*

According to the passage, the "perennial plants" were cut down because each year they...

- A. bloom once and then die
- B. stop growing for good
- C. die back and grow again

**5** *"In India she had always been too hot and languid and weak to care much about anything, but in this place she was beginning to care and to want to do new things."*

Which statement about Mary's life in India is best supported by the passage?

- A. She was restless and angry
- B. She was too listless to care
- C. She was eager to try new things

**6** *"... their thin gray or brown branches and sprays looked like a sort of hazy mantle spreading over everything, walls, and trees, and even brown grass ..."*

The passage most strongly suggests that the "hazy mantle" is...

- A. a heap of fallen leaves
- B. a thick fog over the garden
- C. a cloaklike covering of branches

**7** *"She knew she felt contrary again, and obstinate, and she did not care at all."*

In context, the word "obstinate" emphasizes that Mary is...

- A. stubborn and set in her ways
- B. gloomy and full of regret
- C. quick to lose her temper

**8** *"... and then Mary stood and waved her hand round defiantly."*

Which statement is best supported by Mary's waving her hand "defiantly"?

- A. She warns Dickon to stay away
- B. She hesitates to reveal the garden
- C. She boldly claims the secret garden

**9** *"Mary touched it herself in an eager, reverent way."*

It can reasonably be inferred that Mary touches the wood "reverently" because she...

- A. feels deep respect and wonder for it
- B. wants to hurry Dickon along
- C. is afraid the branch will snap

**10** *"'There's a lot of work to do here!' he said once, looking about quite exultantly."*

Which statement is best supported by Dickon's looking about "exultantly"?

- A. He is overwhelmed by the work
- B. He is overjoyed to revive the garden
- C. He fears the garden cannot be saved

# ANSWER KEY

## Vocabulary in Context

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| #  | KEY | NOTE                                                                                                 |
|----|-----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1  | A   |                                                                                                      |
| 2  | A   |                                                                                                      |
| 3  | B   |                                                                                                      |
| 4  | C   |                                                                                                      |
| 5  | B   |                                                                                                      |
| 6  | C   | 'Mantle' is figurative here — the tangled branches form a cloaklike covering, not a literal garment. |
| 7  | A   |                                                                                                      |
| 8  | C   | Event comprehension.                                                                                 |
| 9  | A   |                                                                                                      |
| 10 | B   | Event comprehension.                                                                                 |

#### Teacher Context: Chapters 6–11

Mary investigates the crying and explores the manor and grounds, befriendng a robin that helps her find the buried key and then the hidden door into the secret garden. She meets Dickon, Martha's animal-charming brother, and the two begin to bring the neglected garden back to life. The break falls before Chapter 12 because the next section shifts from finding the garden to Mary's campaign to claim and tend it.