The Secret Garden

By: Frances Hodgson Burnett

234 pages

 The main character is Mary Lennox. She was born in India. Her parents were wealthy and did not care about Mary. She had servants hat would take care of her and she became very spoiled. She could be called a brat. If she didn’t get her way, she would throw a fit. She did not have friends and was often alone except for her servants. Because she stayed inside so much, she was pale and sickly. Dickon is another main character. He is quiet and really good with animals. Colin is another main character. He has been stuck in bed for years. His mother had died and his father was so sad, he traveled so he wouldn’t have to be at home with the memories of his wife.

 In the beginning of the story, Mary was extremely rude and always wanted her way. But one day, an epidemic hit India and it killed her parents and all her servants. She was left all alone in the house and she wasn’t found for days. They took her to a priest’s house until they could find a relative to take care of her. They finally found an uncle, Archibald, in England that could take her. She had never met him.

 She was extremely rude to everyone in the house. Her uncle liked to be alone and did not want to be bothered with Mary. She was told to stay in her room. A maid, Martha, would come to her room to bring her food and to help her get dressed and to fix her hair. Even though Mary was disrespectful to her, Martha would continue to talk to Mary and tell her stories. She told her about a garden that was hidden by growing roses. The roses made walls. Archibald’s wife had made it and it was her favorite place to be. She sat on a tree branch in the garden and fell to her death. That made Mary’s uncle, Archibald, so upset that he locked the garden and hid the key. Mary was intrigued by the story and by Martha. Over time, Mary became nicer and healthier, she decided she wanted to explore outside. She comes across soil that had been dug up. She found the key to the locked secret garden! She found the door. She wanted to restore the garden so she asked Martha for some garden tools. The garden tools were delivered by Martha’s brother, Dickon. They become friends quickly and Mary shows him the garden.

When she spends time in the garden, Mary often hears crying. One night in her room, she hears the crying again. She followed the sound to a hidden room. Inside is a boy that is her age. His name is Colin and he is Uncle Archibald’s son, Mary’s cousin. He was stuck in bed because he had a problem with his spine. Mary starts to spend time with Colin and tells him stories about Dickon and the secret garden. She decides that Colin has to go outside to get fresh air and to see the secret garden. She gets Dickon to help sneak Colin out and bring him outside in his wheelchair. It was Colin’s first time outside in years.

 While in the secret garden, the gardener, Ben, spies them in the garden. He got angry and told Colin that he needed to be outside because he is “crippled.” Colin got upset and watned to prove Ben wrong. So he stood up and began to walk, slowly. They were all shocked that he could walk.

 Colin practices walking every day in the garden with Mary and Dickon. His father, Archibald, was traveling during this time. Archibald had a dream while he was away about his wife telling him to come to the garden and then he receives a letter from Martha. He immediately left to come home. He walks past the secret garden and hears voices inside. He walked into the garden and is shocked to see that they had brought the garden back to life. He was also shocked to see his son running around. They all headed back to the house, smiling.