



Secret Garden

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The Secret Garden: Summary



- **Mary Lennox** is a spoiled child who goes to live with her uncle in England on a large estate in **Yorkshire** after the death of her parents in India. While exploring the park around his uncle's house, he discovers a mysterious secret garden and his life changes, thanks also to **Dickon** and **Colin**, future friends.
- A story of friendship and hope, where Mary learns the importance of taking care of herself and others.



The Secret Garden: Autobiography



- ***FRANCES HODGSON BURNETT - AUTOBIOGRAPHIC THEMES IN THE "SECRET GARDEN" AND THEOSOPHY***
- **Frances Eliza Hodgson Burnett** was born in **1849** in Manchester, England. Her father died very young and her mother had to move with her five children to Tennessee in 1865. Her family was very poor but Frances was an **excellent writer** and she began earning money by writing stories for women's magazines.
- After her marriage to the doctor **Swann Burnett**, the author returned to **Europe** and began to devote herself to writing children's books. Its success comes in **1911** with the publication of the "**Secret Garden**" which represents a strongly autobiographical text. The character of little Colin was, in fact, based on the figure of his son **Lionel** sick with tuberculosis and who died at the age of only fifteen in 1892.

The Secret Garden: Autobiography



- The narration appears very slow and the presentation of the characters shows us how their gestures, their lives and their actions are all characterized by the expectation of something that can lead them to **revelation** or **salvation**. Almost as if they were crystallized in a dimension that does not allow them to express the best part of their personality. This can be traced back to the author's interest in **Theosophy**, a type of religious thought that believes that all religions must teach truth through contact with a higher, almost **supernatural dimension**. One aspect of Theosophy resides in the concept of spiritual energy and inner strength provoked or stimulated by contact with Nature. Almost a revelation, a "**magic**" like the one that leads one of the characters, **Colin** to escape.



The Secret Garden: Geography



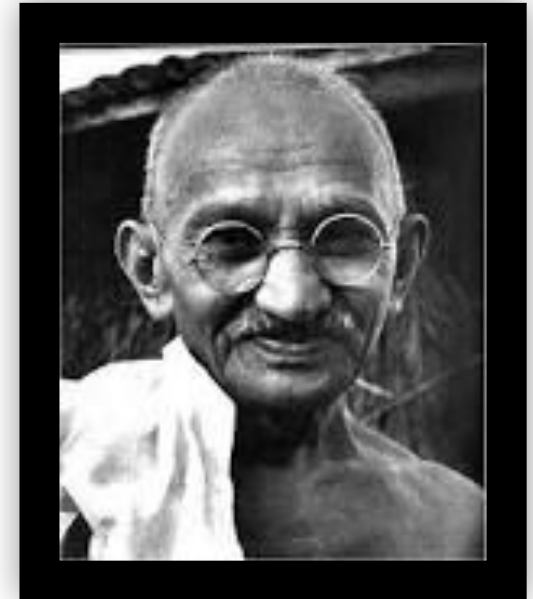
- ***THE YORKSHIRE MOORSE***
- **Yorkshire** Heath is one of the largest moorlands in the **UK**, but that's not the only reason that makes it so popular.
- Another reason for the region's popularity is the North York Moors National Park which stretches nearly **900km** across Scarborough, Wchitby and Kirkbymoorside. This area is full of its flowering heather fields which decorate the hills in a beautiful purple color.
- The moorland offers people incredible routes from **Kirkbymoorside** to York. Many tourists consider York one of the main cities to visit while traveling to the UK.



The Secret Garden: History



- **India** was one of the first countries to obtain independence, led by **Gandhi**, began to oppose British rule with the method of passive resistance, at the end of the **Second World War**, England granted independence to India (15 August 1947).
- Gandhi was murdered by a Hindu fanatic who accused him of being too sympathetic to Muslims.
- Gandhi's successor was **Nerhu**, who created a Western-style parliamentary republic in India. He abolished castes, favored industrial development, but neither he nor his successors were able to solve the problem of great **poverty**, also due to the strong demographic growth of the country.



Mahatma Gandhi

The Secret Garden: Art



- ***POOR CHILDREN AND RICH CHILDREN IN THE VICTORIAN SOCIETY***
- In this theme we can see the condition of children in the **Victorian age**. The author lived through poverty during her childhood and found herself having to work at a young age to support her family. He therefore knew firsthand the problems linked to the youthful condition of the time. Then, however, in his novels he decided to present also by contrast the condition of rich children and the great contradictions of the time. Even in the secret garden the characters, mostly children, are presented in contrast: two **rich** children who meet two **poor** children.



Queen Vittoria

The Secret Garden: Art



- ***Rich and poor children in Victorian society.***
- In the Victorian age, the incident between rich and poor in **England** was very common. We can deduce this from **William Powel Frith's** painting "**Poverty and Wealth**" which very well represents the contrast that existed at that time.
- ***Reading of the work "For Better for Worse"***
- It can be seen that the scene is ideally divided into two parts: on the left there are many trees, **nature** and, therefore, a simple and poor environment, while on the right there is a stately building. On the left we find the poor, dressed in dark and unkempt clothes.
- The child has no shoes and his face is covered, the mother is pale and exhausted and holds a newborn in her arms. Their gaze turns to the rich, who wear elegant and **refined clothes**.



The Secret Garden: Curiosity



- **BRITISH GARDEN**
- An author with a passion for gardening, she grew up between **Plandome Park** and **Maytham Hall** in Kent where she lived from to **1907** and partly provided her with the model for **Misselthwaite Manor**, the famous one hundred room, where our little protagonist will live. These gardens are for her like an earthly **paradise**, a privileged place that often frames her stories.



A formal garden with a central pond, manicured hedges, and various plants. The garden is well-maintained with a central pond surrounded by a low stone wall. The pond is surrounded by a green lawn. In the background, there are tall, dark green hedges and several trees. The overall scene is a classic formal garden.

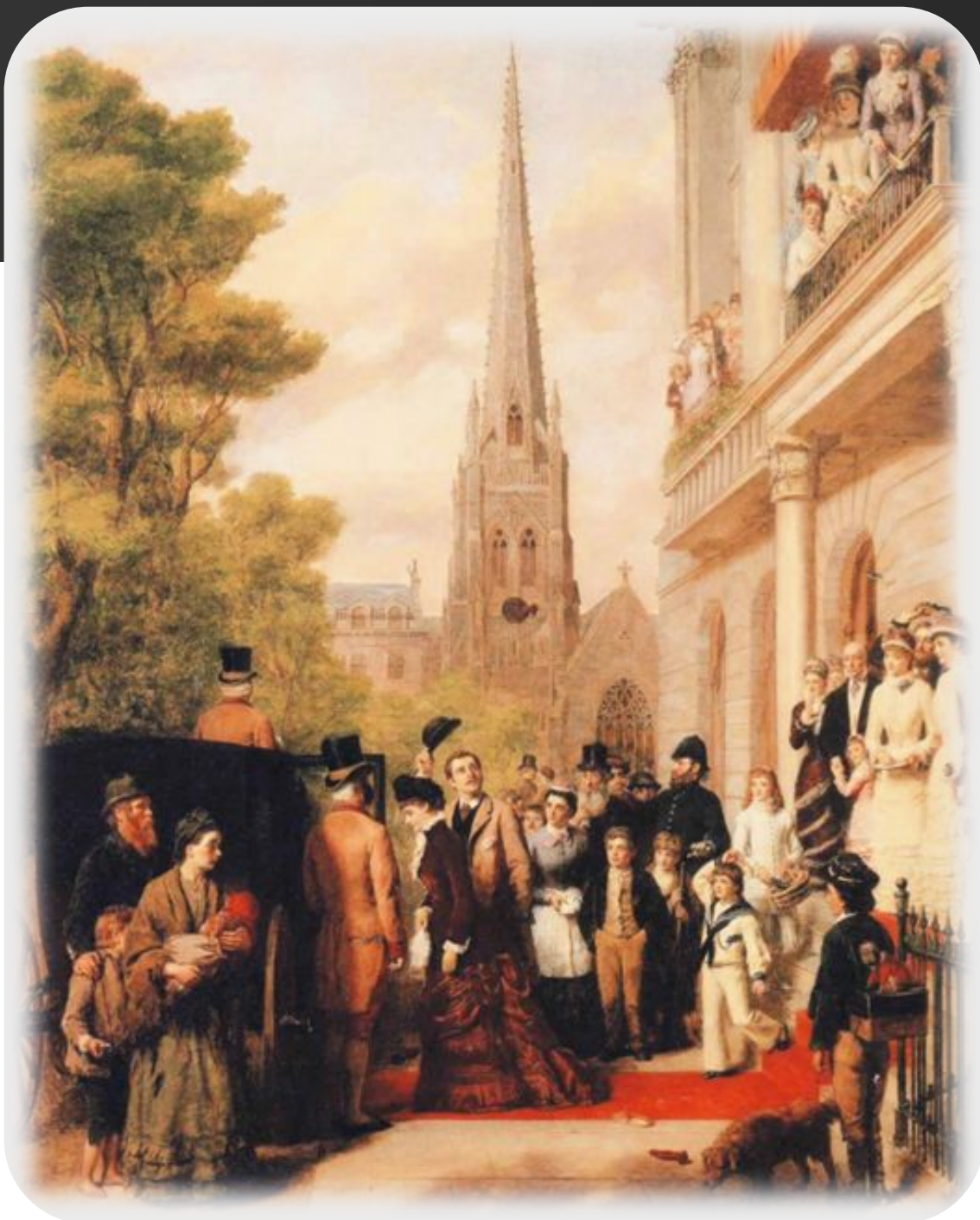
The end

Thank you for watching!

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Poverty and Wealth

By William Powell Frith