

Tasks for chapter 7 (The Secret is Told)

Work in pairs of two. Read and dramatise the dialogues.

I: Mary and Dickon (Pupils see the whole text)

Dickon: I couldn't stay in bed on a morning like this. Look at th' garden.

Mary: Look at all the new shoots and the robin building a nest.

Dickon: We musn't watch too close. He's too busy for visitin' an' gossipin.

Mary: I have met Colin. He thinks he is very ill and cries at night believing he will die.

Dickon: If we could get him out here, he'd forget about lumps growing on his back. We'd just be two lads and a little lass lookin' on at th' springtime. It'd do him more good than doctor's stuff.

II: One-sided dialogue. (Each character only sees his or her part.)

<i>Student A reads Dickon's part.</i>	<i>Student B reads Mary's part.</i>
Dickon: I couldn't stay in bed on a morning like this. Look at th' garden.	Dickon:
Mary:.....	Mary: Look at all the new shoots and the robin building a nest.
Dickon: We musn't watch too close. He's too	Dickon:
busy for visitin' an' gossipin.	Mary: I have met Colin. He thinks he is
Mary:	very ill and cries at night believing
Dickon: If we could get him out here, he'd	he
forget about lumps growing on his	will die.
back. We'd just be two lads and a	Dickon:
little lass lookin' on at th'	
springtime.	
It'd do him more good than	
doctor's stuff.	

I:Colin's tantrum (Pupils see the whole text)

Colin: I won't let that boy come if you stay with him instead of me! You're selfish for not being with me.

Mary: What are you? You're the most selfish person I know.

Colin: Well, I'm going to die!

Mary: I don't believe it. You only want people to be sorry for you. But they're not! You're too nasty. I was going to tell you about Dickon and his fox and crow, but I shan't now.

Colin: (*screams*) There are lumps on my back. There are lumps growing!!

Mary: Somebody must stop him. He deserves a beating for being so selfish. He's upsetting everyone in the house.

(*to Colin*).

Stop! I hate you! You will scream yourself to death in a minute, and I wish you would.!

If you scream again, I shall scream louder.

Colin: I can't stop. I've felt a lump coming on my back.

Mary: Turn over and let me look. There is not a lump as big as a pin. Don't you ever talk about it again.

II: One-sided dialogue (*Pupils see only his or her role*)

<i>Student A reads/acts the role of Colin</i>	<i>Student B reads/acts the role of Mary</i>
Colin: I won't let that boy come if you stay with him instead of me! You're selfish for not being with me.	Colin: Mary: What are you? You're the most selfish person I know.
Mary:	Colin:.....
Colin: Well, I'm going to die!	Mary: I don't believe it. You only want people to be sorry for you. But they're not! You're too nasty. I was going to tell you about Dickon and his fox and crow, but I shan't now.
Mary:	Colin: (<i>screams</i>).....!!
Colin: (<i>screams</i>) There are lumps on my back. There are lumps growing!!	Mary: Somebody must stop him. He deserves a beating for being so selfish. He's upsetting everyone in the house. (<i>to Colin</i>).
Mary:	Stop! I hate you! You will scream yourself to death in a minute, and I wish you would.!
Colin: I can't stop. I've felt a lump coming on my back.	If you scream again, I shall scream louder.
Mary:	Colin:.....
	Mary: Turn over and let me look. There is not a lump as big as a pin. Don't you ever talk about it again.

To the teacher : A more challenging variation is to give the pupils only the roles of student A or B in writing and ask them to dramatise with only one of the roles written down.