

Using the film of the book

Activity 1

(to be carried out before the students have seen the whole film)

Show the students the scene where Mary wakes up in the night and hears somebody crying and she leaves her bed and find Collin crying in his bed. Pause the video after Collin says “Who are you?” Make the students guess how the conversation goes between Mary and Collin. Discuss their ideas and play the next few seconds of the clip and compare. Put the students into pairs. Play a few more seconds of the film. Pause it and the students continue the dialogue as they think it will progress.

**Activity 2. Compare the book and the film. Are there any differences?
Describe.**

Below you will find a summary of the chapters and the main plot of the Ladybird edition of the novel *The Secret Garden*.

1. Mary Lennox: Mary's life in India, her parents' death and her departure for England and Misselthwaite Manor in Yorkshire where she is taken by the housekeeper Mrs Medlock. She is told about the owner of the manor, her uncle who has a crooked back and since his wife's death has lead a life away from other people.

2. The Gardens: Mary meets the housemaid Martha, and little by little she starts to like her. She learns from Martha that one of the gardens is locked up but that she can wander through the others. She meets Ben, the gardener, and sees the robin for the first time.

3. Robin shows the way. The day it is raining Mary starts exploring the house looking for the child who is crying. Mrs Medlock tells her off. The robin seems to show her the rusty key in the soil. Martha's mother gives Mary a skipping rope.

4. Dickon: Mary finds the door to the secret garden and the key fits the lock. She enters the garden, finds it untidy and starts weeding. Dickon brings garden tools and seeds to the secret garden. They weed and prune it together. Mary is taken to see her uncle and she asks to have a bit of land, which he gladly gives her.

5. Colin: Mary hears a child crying at night and finds Colin in his bed. He tells her that he is ill and that he is going to die. Mary tells him about the gardens.

6. Rainy days; Mary tells Martha about Colin. She learns from Martha that Colin has not been allowed to walk since he was born. Mary tells Colin about Dickon. She spends the week with Colin as it is raining. He starts to cheer up.

7. The Secret is Told: The sun is shining again. Dickon and Mary see that the sprouts are coming up and want to show Dickon the garden. Colin is angry with Mary for spending the day with Dickon. Mary and Colin have a row where Mary calls Colin selfish. In the night she hears Colin having a tantrum, and she tells him that she hates him. She looks at Colin's back and tells him that there are no lumps there and that he is forbidden to ever talk about them again. Colin learns about the secret garden.

8. I shall live forever and ever: Dickon brings his animals with him to see Colin. They take Colin into the garden. Ben calls Dickon a cripple lad, and this makes Colin decide to try to stand straight. Colin believes he will get well and strong because of the magic that has happened.

9.Magic: Every day Colin practises walking in the secret garden and keeps this a secret.

Colin's father comes home from his travels and has an urge to go to the secret garden. There Colin runs into his arms - no longer a cripple. Happy ending.

Activity 3

On the next page you find 15 words taken from the film. Give each student a copy. Discuss meanings and possible context for these words. The pupils watch the film. They should not write anything at this stage. Ask pupils to work in pairs. They should now look at their copy and try to recall the context for the words on their copy. Ask them to write down next to the words the context of the word as they remember it. Finally the students pool their information. The teacher together with the class may want to produce a written record of the contextualised words on the board.

List of words from the film:

Sullen

Contrary

Housekeeper

Guardian

Improve

Disrespect

To cast a spell upon

Box your ears

Native

Shut the garden up

Skipping rope

Robin

Keep a secret

Swing

Selfish

Cripple

Make magic

In charge

Spoilt

Boarding school