

Design Your Secret Garden: *The Secret Garden* Companion Activity

Did you read *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett and feel inspired to relish the great outdoors? We completely understand! Through this story, Frances Hodgson Burnett does a beautiful job highlighting the interconnectedness of nature with our own personal wellbeing. Through this activity, we hope to inspire you to create your own “secret” garden and gain an appreciation for the bond we can share with the environment. Don’t own the book, but want to read it? Visit your local library or the library at Temple University’s Ambler Campus to check it out!

**Questions to Consider:**

Before jumping in, take some time to discuss *The Secret Garden* with family members or friends who have also read the story. Below are some questions you might consider during the discussion.

1. Consider the story’s main characters, Mary and Colin:
  - a. How is Mary described at the beginning of the story?
  - b. How is Colin described at the beginning of the story?
  - c. How does Mary change, or develop, as the story progresses?
  - d. How does Colin change, or develop, as the story progresses?
  - e. What are some factors that you think contribute to the changes in both Mary and Colin by the end of the story?
2. Describe the secret garden that Mary discovers. This can be a description of the garden when Mary first finds it, or at any point in the story.
3. What is your favorite thing about the secret garden in the story?
4. What impact does the secret garden have on both Mary and Colin? Why do you think this is?
5. Based on what you have learned from this story, why is our connection to nature so important? What are the benefits of spending time in nature?



<b>Other Elements I Want</b>	
Plants will certainly make your garden look beautiful, but is there anything else you would like to include in your garden? Fencing, bird feeders, statues? What other elements will help you reach your gardening goals?	
Element Name & Description	I want this element in my garden because...

<b>Garden Design</b>
Using the space below, draw a picture of what you want your garden to look like.

Interested in making your garden come to life? We encourage you to do so! Surrounding ourselves with nature not only has benefits to us but benefits the other living beings we share our environment with. Come visit us at the Ambler Arboretum, and we would be happy to give you tips on getting started!