

# CHAPTER 1

Mary was not a nice girl. She was not pretty. She was unkind. She was selfish. It was not her fault. Her mother was selfish. She never took care of Mary. Her father was always busy. He worked for the Government. No one loved her.

Mary lived in India. She had a **maid**. Her maid took care of her. Every morning, her maid was there. One day, she was not there.

Mary's mother was there.

"They are sick," a man said. Her mother was scared.

"We are too late. We must go to the hills," her mother said.

"What's wrong?" Mary asked.

"Many people are **sick**. They are dying," her mother said. Everyone was busy. They did not look after Mary. Mary fell asleep. She woke up. No one was there. The house was empty. Everyone was dead.

Her mother was dead. Her father was dead. Mary did not care.

"You cannot stay here," they told her.

**maid** (n) a female servant

**sick** (adj) not well; ill



*She was upset and angry. They sent her to England.  
Her uncle lived there.*

She was upset and angry. They sent her to England. Her uncle lived there. His name was Mr. Craven. He owned a **manor**. It was in Yorkshire. It was called Misselthwaite Manor.

Mrs. Medlock was the housekeeper. She came to get Mary. Mrs. Medlock did not like children. She did not like Mary. Mary did not like Mrs. Medlock.

“You will not see your uncle. He is a sad man. He has a bad back. He loved your aunt. She died. He is always sad. He will not see anyone,” Mrs. Medlock said. Mary said nothing. She did not care. She did not like England. It was too cold. It was too dark.

Misselthwaite Manor was a lonely place. It was on the moor. The manor was very big. It had many rooms. They were all locked. Mrs. Medlock had the keys. She took Mary to her room.

“You will go outside in the day. You will stay here at night. You will not go anywhere else,” Mrs. Medlock said.

“Why?” Mary asked.

“Everyone is busy. We won’t take care of you. You will eat here. You will sleep here. You will play outside,” Mrs. Medlock said.

“Where is my uncle?” Mary asked.

**manor** (n) a large house on an estate (a large piece of land)

“He is busy,” Mrs. Medlock said. Mary didn’t know her uncle. He was married to Mary’s aunt. Her aunt was her mother’s twin sister.

Mrs. Medlock gave Mary food. Mary ate her food. She went to bed. She was cold. She was tired.

“I miss India,” Mary thought, “I don’t like this place.”

## CHAPTER 2

Mary woke up. It was morning. There was a maid in the room. She was very friendly. Her name was Martha.

“Dress me,” Mary said.

“You can dress yourself,” Martha said.

“No I can’t. My maid always dressed me,” Mary said.

“You will need to learn,” Martha said. Mary tried to get dressed. Martha had to help her.

“I have twelve brothers and sisters. They get dressed on their own. Are you 9 years old? My brother is 12 years old. His name is Dickon. You have to go and play outside. Go on the **moor**,” Martha said.

“No. It is cold. It is wet. There is nothing there,” Mary said.

“Dickon is out there,” Martha said.

“I will go and play on the moor,” Mary said.

“There is something else. Something to look for,” Martha said.

“What is that?” Mary asked.

“The secret garden. It has a big wall. There is a door in the wall. It is locked,” Martha said.

“Why is the garden locked?” Mary asked.

**moor** (n) a large area of open land that is not good for farming and usually covered with grass and bushes



*She saw a man. He had a spade.*

“It was Mrs. Craven’s garden. She died. Mr. Craven locked the garden,” Martha said.

Mary went outside. She walked around the manor. She found a big wall. It was covered with ivy. She could not find a door. She saw a man. He had a **spade**.

“Good morning,” Mary said.

“Who are you?” the man asked.

“I am Mary. Who are you?” Mary asked.

“I am Ben. I am the gardener,” he said.

**spade** (n) a garden tool with a flat blade and a long handle

# COMPREHENSION CHECK

## Test 1

Are the following sentences **TRUE (T)** or **FALSE (F)**?

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1. Mary lived in India. T / F
2. Martha was Mary's sister. T / F
3. Martha's mother did not like Mary. T / F
4. Dickon found the garden. T / F
5. Colin was Mary's cousin. T / F
6. Martha was scared of losing her job. T / F
7. Colin was not sick. T / F
8. Colin walked to the Secret Garden. T / F
9. Mr. Craven is Colin's father. T / F
10. Misselthwaite Manor was Colin's home. T / F

## Test 2

**Who said this in the story?** *Mary, Mrs. Medlock, Dickon, Colin, Mr. Craven, Ben*

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1. "Everyone is busy. We won't take care of you."  
.....
2. "I will go and play on the moor."  
.....
3. "I want to meet your mother. I want to meet Dickon."  
.....
4. "Why is it a secret?"  
.....
5. "Do you want anything? Books? Toys?"  
.....
6. "You will tell me a story!"  
.....
7. "Shut up!"  
.....
8. "You are the sick boy, Colin."  
.....
9. "Maybe it is magic."  
.....
10. "I want to see Colin. How is he?"  
.....



### Test 3

**Answer the questions below.**

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1. What is the name of Mr. Craven's house?
2. What did Martha tell Mary to look for?
3. What did Martha's mother give to Mary?
4. What was following Dickon?
5. What does Mary say Colin looks like?
6. Who was waiting for Mary in the Secret Garden?
7. Who was laughing at Colin and Mary?
8. Who looks over the wall of the Secret Garden?
9. Who does Doctor Craven want to write to?
10. Who writes to Mr. Craven?

### Test 4

**Put the list in order by entering the numbers 1 to 10 in the gaps below.**

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- a. \_\_\_ Mary met Ben in the garden.
- b. \_\_\_ Dickon got a wheelchair for Colin.
- c. \_\_\_ Mary told Martha, "Dickon is beautiful."
- d. \_\_\_ Dickon and Mary planned to bring Colin outside.
- e. \_\_\_ Colin believed in magic.
- f. \_\_\_ Mrs. Medlock came to get Mary.
- g. \_\_\_ Mary got angry with Colin.
- h. \_\_\_ Mr. Craven came to the secret garden.
- i. \_\_\_ Mary found the door to the secret garden.
- j. \_\_\_ Mary met her uncle.

# GRAMMAR CHECK

## Test 1

Write the negatives of the sentences as in the example.

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Example:        She likes scary movies.  
                  *She **doesn't like** scary movies.*

1. They spend their holidays in Italy.

.....

2. He studies computer science at university.

.....

3. She arrives home at 6 p.m. every day.

.....

4. Ben works until late.

.....

5. Colin believes in magic.

.....

6. He shares a flat with his friends.

.....

7. She writes poems.

.....

8. He listens to pop music.

.....

9. Nick feels sick today.

.....

10. We play football every Sunday.

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