

The Secret Garden

by Frances Hodgson Burnett

Frances Hodgson Burnett's beloved story follows a lonely, neglected girl who discovers a hidden garden and transforms both it and herself, celebrating the healing power of nature and friendship.

Rank #12

Power Words

#	WORD	DEFINITION
1	awakening	v. 1. to wake from sleep; 2. to make sharply aware; n. the act of waking <i>"Each morning brought a new awakening shoot, pale green and trembling, pushing through the cold Yorkshire soil."</i>
1	disagreeable	adj. not pleasant or enjoyable; causing discomfort. <i>"Mary had always been disagreeable and sour, yet the garden coaxed something gentler slowly out of her."</i>
1	flourishing	v. grow vigorously; to reach a desired level of accomplishment <i>"By midsummer the once-dead garden was fully flourishing, rioting with colour from wall to mossy wall."</i>
1	instinctively	adv. acting on instinct without thinking about it. <i>"Mary instinctively knelt beside the small green spike, knowing without being told that something precious grew there."</i>
1	melancholy	n. a deep feeling of sadness or sorrow. <i>"Archibald Craven remained melancholy and distant, unable to enter any room that reminded him of his lost wife."</i>
1	neglected	adj. not cared for or given attention. <i>"The neglected garden had been locked and forgotten for ten years, its door hidden beneath a curtain of ivy."</i>
1	overgrown	adj. covered with plants or grass that have grown too tall. <i>"The overgrown roses still clung to the old stone walls, alive beneath their tangle of grey and withered stems."</i>
1	rejuvenate	v. to make someone or something feel young again. <i>"The open air and digging seemed to rejuvenate Colin in ways that no doctor's remedy had ever managed."</i>
1	restorative	adj. able to make something strong and healthy again <i>"The Yorkshire air proved deeply restorative, bringing colour to Colin's pale cheeks within a fortnight of going out."</i>
1	reverently	adv. in a way that shows deep respect. <i>"The children spoke reverently of the garden's magic, as though the very soil were something sacred and alive."</i>
1	solitary	adj. being alone or without companions. <i>"Mary had lived a solitary existence in India, surrounded by servants yet beloved by absolutely no one at all."</i>
1	stubbornly	adv. tenaciously unwilling or marked by tenacious unwillingness to yield <i>"Colin stubbornly refused to leave his room until Mary described the garden in such vivid detail he wept."</i>
1	tentatively	adv. in a way that is not definite or certain. <i>"Mary tentatively pushed the door open, half expecting the garden to vanish like something from a dream."</i>
1	transform	v. to change completely in form or appearance. <i>"Dickon had the rare gift to transform any wild or frightened creature into a willing and trusting companion."</i>
1	vigorously	adj. demanding strength or energy; very active <i>"Colin dug vigorously at the earth, astonished by the strength that had quietly grown inside his own thin arms."</i>