

	Mary is sent to England to live with her uncle, Mr Archibald Craven. She has never met him before but hears that he is a bad-tempered man with a crooked back, who lives in a large house in Yorkshire, in the north of England. Since the death of his lovely young wife ten years ago, he has spent his time alone.
	There is one thing that puzzles Mary. She sometimes hears the mysterious sound of crying but nobody else will admit they can hear it. One night she goes to a lonely bedroom where she finds Colin, Mr Craven's son, who she didn't know existed. Mr Craven doesn't see Colin because he is a reminder of his dead wife. A doctor has made Colin believe that he will die or grow up with a crooked back, so he spends all his time in bed and cannot walk. The doctor is Colin's uncle who will inherit money if Colin and his father die.
	Mary finds the secret garden but cannot see the entrance. She meets the surly but kind gardener, Ben, who makes her realise how ugly and disagreeable she is. Ben introduces Mary to his only friend, a robin, who shows Mary the key and the hidden door to the garden, which she enters. It is the loveliest, most exciting place she has ever seen. She decides to restore the garden.
	Colin's father dreams one night that his wife is calling him to the garden. He returns to England and visits the garden for the first time in ten years. Colin runs towards him looking healthy, happy and strong. Father and son fall into each other's arms in the garden which has been restored to its former beauty.
	Mary is born in India to rich parents who spend little time with her. Instead she is brought up by her Indian maid, Kamala; who does everything. Mary has a thin angry face and is selfish and disagreeable. One day, a terrible illness sweeps through the house, leaving both her parents dead. Mary is left alone and only finds out about their deaths by accident.
	Colin and Mary become good friends and she tells him all about the secret garden. However, one day they have an argument. Mary shouts at Colin, looks at his back and declares there is nothing wrong with him. This is an important moment for Colin. Dickon and Mary secretly take Colin to the garden in his wheelchair. Colin stands up for the first time and eventually learns to walk.
	Mary is now much more agreeable and becomes friends with Martha, and Dickon who supplies her with seeds for the garden. She meets Mr Craven and decides that he is a kind but very unhappy man.
	When Mary arrives at the cold dark house she is rude and aggressive. However, one kind servant, Martha, is friendly to her. She explains that Mary's new life will be very different and she will now have to look after herself. Mary is miserable until Martha talks about her large family who are poor but happy. Mary is especially interested in her twelve year old brother, Dickon, who loves animals. Martha also tells Mary about a secret garden which has been locked since the death of Mrs Craven.