

The Secret Garden

LEVEL 6

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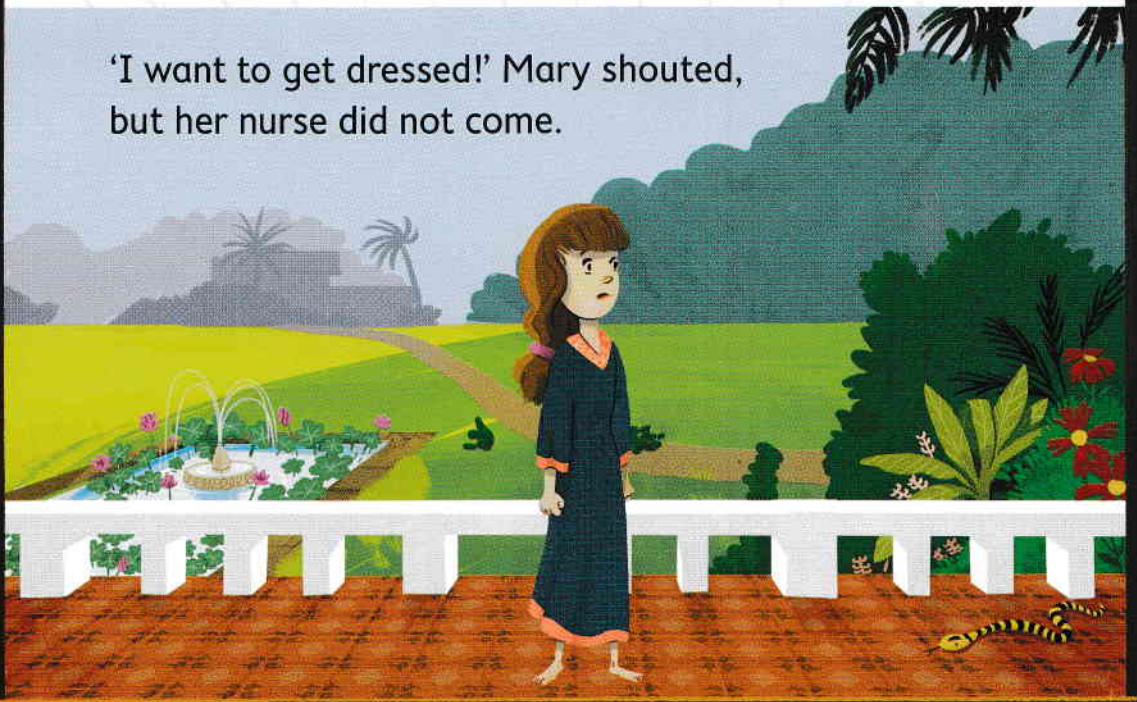
Series Editor: Melanie Williams



Alone in India

Mary Lennox woke up early. It was a hot day. Every day was hot in India so there was nothing strange about that. It was also strangely silent. There was no sound from the kitchen, and no smell of cooking.

'I want to get dressed!' Mary shouted, but her nurse did not come.



There were dishes on the table from last night's meal. Mary felt nervous and afraid. Where were her parents? She seemed to be alone in the house. Then she noticed a little snake which moved quietly across the floor.

A new life in England

Mary waited a long time before her father's friend found her.

'Why has no-one come?' she asked.

'My dear child,' he answered. 'There's no-one here. Everyone was terribly ill in the night. I'm so sorry, but your parents are dead.'

This news was impossible to believe.

'What will happen to me?' she asked.

'You'll go to England on a ship. Your uncle, Mr Craven, lives there. He'll look after you,' said her father's friend.



A few weeks later Mary arrived in London on a cold winter's day. She felt lost, alone and unhappy.



Mary's uncle sent Mrs Medlock to take Mary home.

On the train Mrs Medlock talked a lot, but Mary tried not to listen. She did not like this woman who worked for her uncle.

'What do you know about your uncle's house?' asked Mrs Medlock.

'Nothing,' answered Mary.

'Then I'll tell you. It's a lonely place, far from anywhere else. It's big and has a park and gardens all round. Once it was a happy place, but after your aunt died everything changed. Mr Craven, your uncle, doesn't like being there so he doesn't often visit.'