

## The Secret Garden

*It was the sweetest, most mysterious-looking place any one could imagine. The high walls which shut it in were covered with the leafless stems of climbing roses which were so thick that they were matted together. Mary Lennox knew they were roses because she had seen a great many roses in India. All the ground was covered with grass of a wintry brown and out of it grew clumps of bushes which were surely rosebushes if they were alive. There were numbers of standard roses which had so spread their branches that they were like little trees. There were other trees in the garden, and one of the things which made the place look strangest and loveliest was that climbing roses had run all over them and swung down long tendrils which made light swaying curtains, and here and there they had caught at each other or at a far-reaching branch and had crept from one tree to another and made lovely bridges of themselves. There were neither leaves nor roses on them now and Mary did not know whether they were dead or alive, but their thin grey or brown branches and sprays looked like a sort of hazy mantle spreading over everything, walls, and trees, and even brown grass, where they had fallen from their fastenings and run along the ground. It was this hazy tangle from tree to tree which made it all look so mysterious. Mary had thought it must be different from other gardens which had not been left all by themselves so long; and indeed it was different from any other place she had ever seen in her life.*

*"How still it is!" she whispered. "How still!"*

## Reading Week 5

### Monday

Read the text.

Draw the garden using the description in the text to help you.

Can you then label the garden? You are using your retrieval skills to help you make choices about what you are drawing.

### Tuesday

Re– read the text again.

#### Vocabulary

Pick out any words which interest you and you would like to find out more about. Here are few that we found:

Stems

Hazy

Mantle

Tangle

Could you then write the words and the definitions on different pieces of paper. Mix them up and then tomorrow can you remember how they match up?

### Wednesday

Match up the vocabulary and definitions from yesterday.

#### Inference and deduction

1. Do you think the garden was cared for and looked after?
2. Pick two words to describe the garden. Why have you chosen these?

For example: Interesting—it was different to any place she had ever seen in her life.

3. Do you think Mary will tell anybody else about the garden?
4. The garden is hidden. Do you agree? Why?

### Thursday and Friday

Create a mind map about how Mary must be feeling now she has found the garden.

1. *'The walls were high'* - what does this show about the garden?
2. How did Mary know they were roses?
3. *'made lovely bridges of themselves'* - why do you think the plants and flowers were able to grow out of control and freely?
4. Give three reasons why Mary might have found the garden mysterious.
5. What do you think might happen next? Why?
6. *"How still it is!" she whispered. "How still!"* - What does Mary mean by this?