



Tickets: thalian.org

910-251-1788

or

CAC box office 910-341-7860

THE SECRET GARDEN

SPRING VERSION

Book and Lyrics by:
Marsha Norman

Music by:
Lucy Simon

Based on the novel by:
Frances Hodgson Burnett

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Teacher Resource Guide and Lesson Plan Activities

Featuring general information about our production along with some creative activities to help you make connections to your classroom curriculum before and after the show.

The production and accompanying activities address North Carolina Essential Standards in Theatre Arts, Goal A.1: Analyze literary texts & performances.

Look for this symbol for other curriculum connections.



About the Musical

The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett tells the story of Mary Lennox and her search for friendships and happiness. As a very young girl Mary is sent to England to live at Misselthwaite Manor with her widowed uncle Archibald Craven after her parents die suddenly of cholera. The Manor is a large, mysterious place with locked doors, strange noises, interesting people and even a Secret Garden for Mary to explore.

On Stage

April 22-May 1, 2016

Hannah Block Historic USO/ Community Arts Center, 120 South 2nd Street
Friday & Saturday at 7:00 PM and Sunday at 3:00pm

Thalian Association Community Theatre

Thalian Association Community Theatre was founded in 1788, to provide arts education & bring the excitement of the performing arts to Wilmington, North Carolina & produces five major productions annually on the Main Stage at historic Thalian Hall. In fact, Thalian Hall was proudly named for our organization in 1858. Our mission is to present quality live theatre that illuminates the human experience for the citizens of Wilmington, New Hanover County and beyond. We teach life skills through theatre education and provide an outlet for artists and technicians to develop and exercise their crafts. Established over 35 years ago Thalian Association Youth Theatre is an extension of Thalian Association Community Theatre non-profit organization & is dedicated to the enrichment of arts education for our community's youth. We offer academy classes (in drama, voice, playwriting, story telling & theatrical makeup) that are aligned with the National Standards for Arts Education. Through generous support from: PPD, Cape Fear Rotary, Wilmington East Rotary an affiliate of the North Carolina Community Foundation, Landfall Foundation, and the Dan Cameron Family Foundation, we provide six ongoing Community Outreach Scholarship Classes to children in the Youth Enrichment Zone. We want to turn out great theatre artists as well as great doctors, lawyers, teachers and bankers. Thalian Youth Theatre is about developing collaborative & thoughtful members of our community.

Free Tickets for Teachers!

Teachers are welcome to attend our **Thursday, April 21st preview performance, at 7:00 PM**. Additional tickets may be purchased for \$6.00 per person. Reservations are required. Contact: reservations@thalian.org

From Page to Stage

Frances Hodgson Burnett

Born in Manchester, England on November 24, 1849, Frances Eliza Hodgson was the oldest daughter in a family of two boys and three girls. After her father's death when she was three years old, the Hodgsons experienced severe financial difficulties. As a young girl, she would write little stories on pages of old notebooks, as she was unable to afford proper writing materials. In 1865 the family moved to Tennessee where they lived in a log cabin and the teenage Frances set up a little school. She began submitting stories to women's magazines and in a time when most women did not have careers, Frances Eliza Hodgson was a literary success.



In 1873 she married Dr. Swan Burnett and they had two sons (Lionel, born 1874, and Vivian, born 1876) but the marriage was not a happy one. Her younger son, Vivian, wanted something for little boys to read, so Frances wrote "Little Lord Fauntleroy" and modeled the main character after him. In 1890 tragedy struck when her eldest son, Lionel, died of influenza. Frances and Swan separated and finally divorced in 1898, and she went on to remarry Stephen Townshend. Frances moved to Long Island, New York in 1901 and there began to write her two most famous stories, "*A Little Princess*" and "*The Secret Garden*", inspired by her poor childhood and her love for gardening. Frances Hodgson Burnett died on 29 October 1924.

Over the course of her life, Burnett wrote more than forty books, for both adults and children. While her adult novels are considered to be quite sentimental, her children's books have withstood the fickleness of literary fashions. *The Secret Garden*, the story of how Mary Lennox and her friends find independence as they tend their garden, has been described as one of the most satisfying children's books ever written. Frances Hodgson Burnett died of congestive heart failure on October 29, 1924.



Marsha Norman

Born September 21, 1947, Marsha Norman is an American playwright, screenwriter, and novelist. She received the 1983 Pulitzer Prize for Drama for her play *'night, Mother*. She wrote the book and lyrics for such Broadway musicals as *The Secret Garden*, for which she won a Tony Award and the Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Book of a Musical, and *The Red Shoes*, as well as the libretto for the musical *The Color Purple* and the book for the musical *The Bridges of Madison County*. She is co-chair of the playwriting department at The Juilliard School.

Lucy Simon

Lucy Simon is the composer of the musical *Zhivago* which had its premiere at La Jolla Playhouse. She made her Broadway debut in 1991, as the composer of *The Secret Garden*, for which she received Tony and Drama Desk nominations, the Drama Logue Award and a Grammy nomination for the recording of the score. She received two Grammy Awards for her In Harmony albums, which she co-wrote and produced. Ms. Simon wrote songs for the film *A Simple Wish* and contributed songs for the long-running review *A... My Name is Alice*. She began her professional career at the age of 16 with her sister Carly as part of The Simon Sisters.

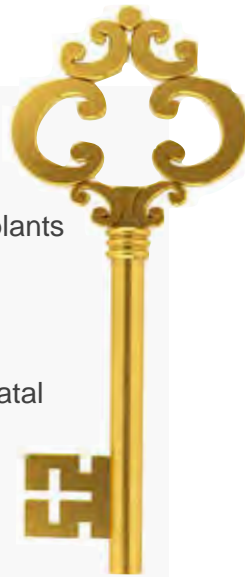


Playwrights are people who write plays. They write lines of dialogue for the actors to speak. The dialogue gives us information about the story, the characters, and the way the characters feel about one another and their situation. the way the actors deliver (speak) their lines also tell you a lot about the character; something that makes the character convincing or believable.

Directors have the final say on all artistic aspects of a production, and are in charge of everything that happens on stage. This person must be a mixture of educator, diplomat, artist, mind reader and drill sergeant.

Actors experiment with different ways to deliver their lines before they decide which best works to both the story and shed light on the character.

Vocabulary Enrichment



Fill in the word, that matches the definition

1. _____ - damp, old smell
2. _____ - English prairie lands, rolling hillsides that grow some wild grasses and plants
3. _____ - an expression on someone's face that looks upset
4. _____ - a person hired to care for children; usually a live-in babysitter
5. _____ - Indian expression for nanny
6. _____ - a disease in the intestines caused by bacteria in food or water, usually fatal
7. _____ - a large home similar to a castle
8. _____ - sickly, weak
9. _____ - very firm, not usually kind
10. _____ - without expression, dull sounding,
11. _____ - aristocratic titles once given by the king

Lord & Lady

Moor

“sour”

Ayah

Nanny

Stern

Flatly

Manor

Musty

Frail

Cholera

Research & Write the definitions for the following words

1. Befriended _____
2. Ushered _____
3. Displeased _____
4. Intrusion _____
5. Alcove _____
6. Charm _____
7. Rajah _____
8. Fretfully _____
9. Guardian _____
10. Arthritis _____

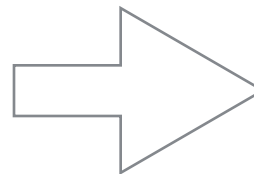
Writing Prompts

Choose a character from the play that went through a change between the beginning and end of the story.

1. In the first box, list traits the character displays at the beginning of the play.
2. In the last box, list traits the character displays towards the end of the play. Differences may be in how the character acts, how they treat others, or an emotional change.
3. Now go back to the middle, arrow box. What caused this character to change?
4. List people, events, decisions, and anything else you can think of that may have impacted this character.

Characteristics with we first meet the character

Factors that influence a change in personality



Characteristics of “changed character”



North Carolina Essential Standards, Information and Technology Standards 2.TT.1.1: Use a variety of technology tools to gather data & information.
Common Core Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy RL.9. Compare and contrast the adventures and experiences of characters in stories.

The Characters:

MARY LENNOX - an orphan girl of about 10

COLIN CRAVEN - a sickly boy of about 10

SPIRITS: Albert & Rose Lennox (Mary's Parents)

LILY CRAVEN – Colin's Mother

BEN WEATHERSTAFF – The Head Gardener

ARCHIBALD CRAVEN – Mary's Uncle, Colin's Father

DR. NEVILLE CRAVEN – Archibald's brother

MRS. MEDLOCK – Archibald's housekeeper

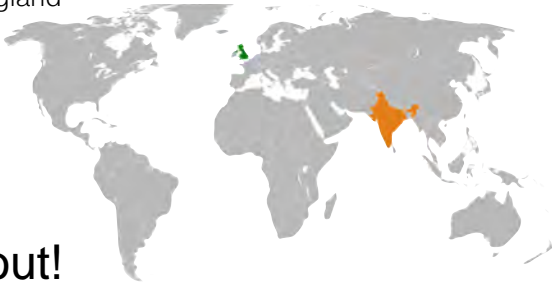
MARTHA – a housemaid

DICKON – Martha's brother, a magical boy

MRS. WINTHROP – headmistress at Aberdeen School

The Setting:

1906, Colonial India And Misselthwaite Manor In North Yorkshire, England



Map it out!

Find India on a globe or map. Then find England on this same map. Mary would have probably had to travel by sea from India to England.

- Trace the route she might have taken and the land forms traveled over.
- Identify Yorkshire, on the map of England.
- How do you think the climate affects the way people live, their activities, their actions and their moods.
- How do you think climate affects the types of vegetation that grow in certain areas..



North Carolina Essential Standards in Social Studies: 1.G.1: Use geographic representations, terms and technologies to process information from a spatial perspective. 3.G.1.2 Compare the human & physical characteristics of places.

What's that you say?

The Yorkshire dialect (the way Dickon, Ben, Martha, and Mother talk) appears a lot in *The Secret Garden*.

Using your skimming and scanning abilities, look through the book of *A Secret Garden*, and pick out the words that are 'odd' or different and try to find out what they mean from the context (what is going on and what else they are saying).

Write a dictionary of the dialect explaining what the Standard English word would be (ie formal English).

Do you know someone who speaks with a different accent than you? Do you use different words to describe the same objects, or pronounce them differently?

Listening for Lines

When you attend *The Secret Garden*, listen for these lines and for how they are delivered & observe what that tells you about how the characters feel.

"At first people refuse to believe that a strange new thing can be done, then they begin to hope it can be done, then they see it can be done--then it is done and all the world wonders why it was not done centuries ago."

"It made her think that it was curious how much nicer a person looked when he smiled. She had not thought of it before."

"Nothing in the world is quite as adorably lovely as a Robin when he shows off and they are nearly always doing it."

"Of course there must be lots of Magic in the world, but people don't know what it is like or how to make it. Perhaps the beginning is just to say nice things are going to happen until you make them happen. I am going to try and experiment."



North Carolina Common Core Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy: R.L.1.2: Retail stories, including key details, and demonstrate understanding of their central message and lesson.

Musical Numbers:

"There's A Girl"
"The House Upon the Hill"
"Hot Like Me"
"I Heard Someone Crying"
"A Girl in the Valley"
"It's A Maze"
"Show Me The Key"
"A Bit of Earth"
"Wick"
"Come to My Garden"
"Come Spirit, Come Charm"
"Hold On"
"Letter Song"
"How Could I Ever Know"
"Finale"

Mary Lennox discovers more than a garden.
She learns to love and take care of something.



Diagramming Sentences

Underline the noun that is the subject of every sentence. There may be more than one!

Circle every verb that shows the action in each sentence. One sentence can have more than one verb!

Place a check mark beside to every adjective.

Place parentheses around every preposition.

- Mary Lennox always said that what happened at that moment was Magic.
- One of the nice little gusts of wind rushed down the walk.
- Suddenly the gust of wind swung aside some loose ivy trails.
- She jumped toward it and caught it in her hand.
- She had seen something under it—a round knob which had been covered by the leaves hanging over it.
- It was the knob of a door.
- She put her hands under the leaves and began to pull and push them aside.
- Mary's heart began to thump and her hands to shake a little in her delight and excitement.
- It was the lock of the door which had been closed ten years.
- She put her hand in her pocket, drew out the key and found it fitted the keyhole.
- She put the key in and turned it.
- She took a long breath and looked behind her up the long walk to see if any one was coming.
- She held back the swinging curtain of ivy and pushed back the door which opened slowly—slowly.
- Then she slipped through it, and shut it behind her, and stood with her back against it, looking about her and breathing quite fast with excitement, and wonder, and delight.
- She was standing inside the secret garden.



North Carolina Common Core Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy: R.L.1.2: Retell stories, including key details, and demonstrate understanding of their central message and lesson.

Questions for Discussion

- Upon Mary's first encounter with Dickon, it sounded as if he liked her and was not the least afraid she would not like him, though he was a common moor boy, in patched clothes and with a funny face and a rough, rusty-red head. As she got closer to him she noticed that there was a clean fresh scent of heather and grass and leaves about him, almost as if he were made of them. What is significant about this? Are there any other motifs that seem to be connected specifically to Dickon?
- Did you sense Colin's deceased mother's spirit present in the play? If so, where and when did you sense it the most? Who does she employ as her "agents" of goodwill?
- Why does Mary respond so well to Martha? What characteristics of Martha's personality are responsible for awakening the gentleness hidden in Mary? Compare Martha's treatment of Mary to Mary's treatment of Colin. Does it have the same effect on Colin as it does on Mary?
- Explain to students that people often need to move to a new place to live, as Mary did. Ask students to share whether their family has had to move, and why. Discuss the feelings they had, and compare them to Mary's feelings.



Common Core Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy: SL2: Ask and answer questions about key details in a text read aloud or information presented orally or through other media; RL7: Make connections between the text of a story or drama and a visual or oral presentation of the text, identifying where each version reflects specific descriptions and directions in the text.

Authors often use Literary Devices and Figurative Language to tell stories. List examples of each, that you noticed in *The Secret Garden*.


Onomatopoeia	A single word that sounds like the thing that it refers to.	Six burgers were sizzling on the grill.	
Metaphor	A form of comparison that directly compares two unlike things with the same quality.	My baby sister is a doll.	
Simile	A form of comparison in which one thing is compared to another unlike thing by using the words "like" or "as".	My brother is as good as gold.	
PERSONIFICATION	Speaking of something that is not human as if it had human abilities and human reactions.	My bed was calling me.	
Alliteration	The repetition of a single letter or in a combination of letters.	She sells seashells by the seashore.	
Hyperbole	A great exaggeration used to emphasize a point, and is usually for expressive or comic effect.	An apple a day keeps the doctor away.	

 North Carolina Essential Standards, Information and Technology Standards 2.TT.1.1: Use a variety of technology tools to gather data and information.

Dickon, planted several vegetables in his garden, including the potato. How nutritious are potatoes?

Research

- Where did the potato originate?
- What is the best type of soil for potatoes? Why?
- How long does it take for potatoes to grow?
- What types of problems do growing potatoes encounter?
- How can one prevent or remedy these problems?
- A Ladybug chews it's food side to side, not up & down.

 North Carolina Essential Standards, Information and Technology Standards 2.TT.1.1: Use a variety of technology tools to gather data and information.

Make Your Very Own "Secret Garden"



Bring your garden indoors and make a terrarium. A terrarium is a miniature ecosystem contained in a jar. With a good balance of plants, soil, nutrients and water in your terrarium, you will be able to seal it up & watch it grow & thrive for quite a long time. You could even include a small key just like the one Mary found in the *Secret Garden*!



Rhyme Time

Write 3 words that rhyme with each word.

Flowers	Plant	Swing	Wall
Bloom	Robin	India	Key
Potato	Bug	Boat	Garden