

FROM THE PRODUCER OF **HARRY POTTER & PADDINGTON**



COLIN FIRTH JULIE WALTERS AND INTRODUCING DIXIE EGERICKX

a sky original

THE SECRET GARDEN

UNLOCK YOUR IMAGINATION

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In cinemas and on **sky cinema** October 23



The Secret Garden, a Sky Original, in cinemas and on Sky Cinema October 23, tells the story of Mary Lennox (Dixie Egerickx), a 10-year-old girl sent to live with her uncle Archibald Craven (Colin Firth), under the watchful eye of Mrs. Medlock (Julie Walters) with only the household maid, Martha (Isis Davis) for company. The film is set in 1940s England at Misselthwaite Manor, a remote country estate deep in the Yorkshire moors.

Mary begins to uncover many family secrets, particularly after chancing upon her cousin Colin (Edan Hayhurst), who has been shut away unwell in a wing of the house. Whilst exploring the grounds of the Misselthwaite Manor, Mary discovers a wondrous garden and meets a local boy Dickon (Amir Wilson) who helps her fix stray dog Hector's injured leg using the garden's restorative powers. The three children adventure deep into the mysteries of the garden - a magical place that will change their lives forever.



The Secret Garden by Manchester-born novelist Frances Hodgson Burnett was first published as a magazine serial, and then in book form in 1911. It's now widely regarded as a classic of English children's literature, but it was originally marketed at adult readers - its enduring popularity owes much to its cross-generational appeal.

"The story clearly has a power which attracts us back to it, again and again," says producer Rosie Alison. "There is something so simple yet universal about the concept of a secret garden - and a lonely child in a wintry house finding that hidden garden, a lost place with the power to restore and heal her life through nature, and friendship."

The book has been adapted into numerous plays, a Broadway musical, four television series, and four films. Now, 27 years after the last film version, a whole new generation of children can discover the mystery and magic of Mary's story. At a time when we need connection, imagination and the beauty of nature more than ever, The Secret Garden invites families to escape together into an enchanted world.

Being the birthplace of the author, Manchester Central Library has mirrored the universal appeal of this timeless novel. Following refurbishment in 2014 they transformed the children's library into a secret garden. With the use of digital technology and projections of animals and wildlife, The Secret Garden inspired library follows an environmental, sustainable theme which children and families would want to revisit and explore again and again, in a space that they can reflect and linger.



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Watch it with your family and friends and use this reader's guide to further explore the magic and unlock your imagination. Visit - www.sky.com/watch/the-secret-garden to find out more

QUIZ

Test your memory! How closely were you watching?

1. What kind of food does Mary refuse to eat for breakfast when she arrives at Misselthwaite Manor?
 - a) Bacon and eggs
 - b) Porridge
 - c) Cornflakes
2. What kind of bird does Mary see in the garden?
 - a) A crow
 - b) A kingfisher
 - c) A robin
3. What does Mary take from her aunt's bedroom?
 - a) A string of pearls
 - b) A lock of hair
 - c) A silver brooch
4. Who is Hector the dog named after?
 - a) Mary's father
 - b) Dickon's father
 - c) Colin's father
5. Where does Mary find the letters between her mother and Grace?
 - a) In a robin's nest
 - b) Under the floorboards
 - c) Inside a rocking horse
6. Colin's mother had a favourite place in the garden. Where was it?
 - a) The pond
 - b) The swing
 - c) The tallest tree

Answers: 1b, 2c, 3a, 4b, 5c, 6b





After you've watched the film, chat together about your reactions. You might want to choose a few of these questions to guide you.

- What did you like most about the film? Which parts did you find scary, funny or exciting?
- How do you think Mary felt when she had to leave India and come to Misselthwaite Manor? Have you ever started again somewhere new, like a new home or a new school?
- When in the story do you think Mary might have been lonely? Who else in the story feels lonely, and what helps them feel connected again? How do you stay connected with your friends and family at times when you can't be together?
- Mary, Colin and Dickon learn that they can talk to each other about the things that make them sad or worried, and the things that make them happy. Why does it help to talk about our feelings with people we trust?
- What does Mary learn from being in the garden, and from becoming friends with Colin, Dickon and Hector the dog? How can our friends help us become braver and kinder?
- Is there an outdoor place that you love - maybe a garden, park, forest or beach? What do you love about it, and how do you feel when you're there?
- Did watching **The Secret Garden** make you want to read the book? What makes reading magical?



ACTIVITY: MY DREAM GARDEN

You'll need:

- A big sheet of paper
- Pens, pencils or paints
- Magazines with lots of pictures
- Scissors and glue
- Your imagination!

It's Mary's imagination which makes the Secret Garden a truly special place. In this activity, you're going to dream up a garden of your own.

Where would be your perfect place to escape and have adventures? Think about what it would look like and feel like there. Who or what might be in the garden? This could be trees and plants, friends and family, animals, places to explore...

The garden can be as big and as imaginative as you like. You can paint or draw your garden, or you could cut and stick pictures from a magazine. (You might want to ask an adult to help you with this.)

Display your finished artwork where it can be admired - maybe in the window of your house or load on social media, using the hashtag **#TheSecretGarden** and tag **@SkyTV**



ACTIVITY: GROWING TOGETHER

Plants are like people – they need love and care to help them thrive. In this activity, kids and grown-ups alike can grow a plant and a friendship at the same time.

You'll need:

- Easy-to-grow seeds. You might want to try pansies, sweet peas or snapdragons
- Terracotta or plastic pots
- Compost
- Sticky labels
- Pens, pencils or paints

Choose a friend or friends who you'd like to give a small gift to. This could be an old friend or someone new you're just getting to know.

Plant your seeds. Fill the pot about three-quarters full with compost. Make a small hole with your finger or a pencil, pop in a seed, and cover it up.

Find out what your plant needs and write on your first label. There will probably be some instructions on the seed packet, or you could ask an adult to help you find guidance online. In the autumn and winter your seedling will need to be kept snug and warm inside. How much water does it need? Where in the house should you keep it?

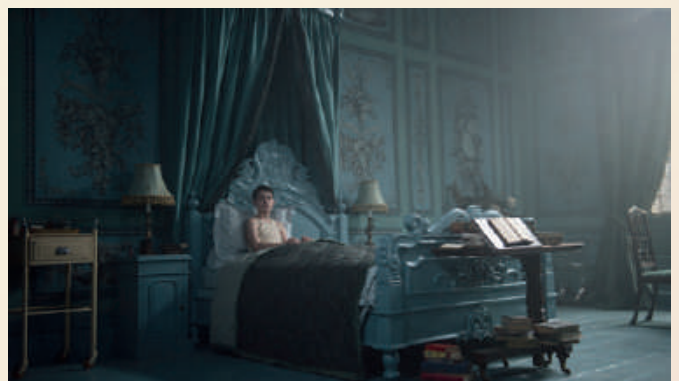
Now on a second label, write about the kind of friendship that will help you grow best! Do you need your friend to be a good listener? Maybe you really like the fun things you do together, or you appreciate being able to talk about your problems.

Stick the labels to your plant pot. You could also add some colourful decorations.

<p>I'm a plant!</p> <p>My name is: Pansy</p> <p>You can look after me by: Putting me on a sunny windowsill in a warm room.</p> <p>Giving me a bit of water every day.</p>	<p>I'm a person!</p> <p>My name is: Mary</p> <p>You can look after me by: Listening to the stories I make up.</p> <p>Running around in the garden with me.</p> <p>Making me laugh.</p>
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Make sure you keep yourself and others safe by using hand sanitiser and social distancing when you hand over your gift.

Explain the activity you've been doing – and ask how you can be a good friend to them in return!





Libraries
Connected

Libraries are at the heart of communities, reflecting and responding to local needs. Maintaining and building on the power of libraries is at the core of Libraries Connected's mission and our members represent every library service in the UK. We take a leading role in the development of public libraries, through sharing best practices, advocating for continuous improvement on behalf of local people, and leading the debate on the future of the public library service. Our vision is an inclusive, modern, sustainable and high-quality public library service at the heart of every community in the UK. We believe modern public libraries should be the cornerstone of the community and should deliver a diverse spectrum of local needs around information, learning, literacy, employment and digital skills, health, culture and leisure. For more information visit www.librariesconnected.org.uk

Manchester was the busiest library in 2019/20. They look forward to welcoming future generations of young Mancunians to enjoy the library and explore reading for pleasure as they plan to refurbish the library in 2021. For more information visit www.manchester.gov.uk/libraries

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