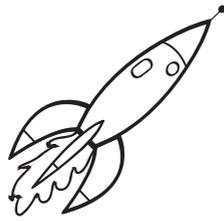


Explorers 5



Teacher's notes for the Comprehension Test: *The Secret Garden*

- Do this test after you have read the whole book with the class.
- Ask the children to fill in their name and the date at the top of the page.
- Tell the children that this is part of *The Secret Garden* story.
- Ask them to read the text silently.
- Remind them to look at the picture, too.
- If there are any words they have forgotten, tell them not to worry. Tell them to read everything they can.
- When they have finished reading the text, ask them to read each question one at a time.
- Do not give any help.
- Then ask them to read the three possible answers that are given.
- Ask them to underline which answer they think is correct.
- Do not allow the children to talk or to copy each other's work.
- Collect the test papers, mark the scores and fill in the results on the class record sheet.

Explorers 5



Comprehension Test: *The Secret Garden*

Name _____

Date _____



Martha held up a white dress. 'Now, Miss Mary, put this on. I'll help you with the buttons.' While she did up Mary's buttons, Martha talked about her family. 'In our house, all the children look after themselves. There are twelve of us! The young ones play on the moor all day. My brother Dickon is twelve. He loves animals. He's made friends with a pony on the moor! He gives it bits of bread, and it lets him sit on its back.'

Then Martha said, 'Now, put your coat on and go and play outside for a while.'

'But it's so cold!'

'There's a lot to see,' said Martha. 'And there's one little garden ... well, it's always locked. No one's been in it for ten years. When his wife died, Mr Craven locked it up. Then he buried the key.'

Mary walked up and down the winding paths, and looked at the tall trees and the wide lawns. She came to a garden with high walls round it. She went in through a green door. She saw an old man leaning on a spade. He didn't look very pleased to see her.

'What is this place?' she asked him.

'It's the kitchen garden, Miss,' he said crossly. He continued digging.

On the other side of the ivy-covered wall, a little bird was sitting in a tree. He was not like an Indian bird. His chest was bright red. While Mary was watching, he started to sing. He sounded so friendly that Mary smiled.

Maybe this bird lived in the locked-up garden. Maybe the garden was on the other side of that wall. But why was it locked?

Mary went back to the old man.

'I saw a little bird with a red chest – in the secret garden,' she told him.

A smile appeared slowly on his cross, old face. He whistled – and the bird flew to him.

'What sort of bird is he?'

'Don't you know? He's a robin! He's the only friend I've got,' the old man said.

'What's your name?' Mary asked.

'I'm Ben Weatherstaff, the gardener,' the old man replied.

Choose and underline the correct answer.

1. Who put on a white dress?
a) Mary b) Martha c) Ben
2. How many children are there in Martha's house?
a) ten b) eleven c) twelve
3. Who is Dickon?
a) Martha's son b) Mr Craven's son c) Martha's brother
4. What did Dickon make friends with on the moor?
a) a robin b) a pony c) a fox
5. What was the weather like?
a) cold b) warm c) hot
6. When did Mr Craven lock the little garden?
a) last year b) five years ago c) ten years ago
7. What did Mr Craven do with the key to the little garden?
a) He lost it. b) He put it in his pocket. c) He buried it.
8. Mary walked down some paths. What were they like?
a) windy b) winding c) straight
9. What sort of walls did the garden have round it?
a) high b) long c) low
10. Who did Mary see in the garden?
a) Dickon b) Mr Craven c) Ben, the gardener
11. Was the old man pleased to see Mary?
a) Yes b) No c) I don't know

Teacher's notes for the Word Recognition Test: *The Secret Garden*

- Do this test after you have read the whole book with the class.
- Ask the children to fill in their name and the date at the top of the page.
- Tell the children that the words all come from *The Secret Garden* book.
- Tell the children to listen to each sentence that you read. Read the first sentence to the class and stress the word in bold print. Say the word in bold print again, on its own, when you have finished the sentence.
- Ask the children to choose which word they think it is from the three possible words they are given for that sentence.
- Ask them to underline the word of their choice. (If they make a mistake and want to change their mind, tell them to cross out the wrong answer and underline the correct answer.)
- Repeat this procedure with each sentence.
- Make sure the children know which number sentence you are reading each time.
- Do not give any help.
- Do not allow the children to talk or to copy each other's work.
- Collect the test papers, mark the scores and fill in the results on the class record sheet.

Test sentences and words

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| 1. Mary thought the house was very strange . | strange |
| 2. Mary was a lonely child. | lonely |
| 3. The weather was very hot. | weather |
| 4. Do you remember your last birthday? | remember |
| 5. The plant in the garden grew very tall. | plant |
| 6. When you whisper you speak quietly. | whisper |
| 7. Mary was always happy and cheerful . | cheerful |
| 8. I am a sensible child. | sensible |
| 9. My favourite colour is yellow. | favourite |
| 10. Mr Craven was astonished to see Colin walking. | astonished |

Word Recognition Test: *The Secret Garden*

Name _____ Date _____

Underline the correct word.

1. a) strong b) string c) strange
2. a) alone b) lonely c) only
3. a) weather b) water c) wetter
4. a) remain b) remember c) remove
5. a) plan b) plant c) planet
6. a) whisper b) whisker c) whistle
7. a) careful b) cheers c) cheerful
8. a) sense b) sensible c) suitable
9. a) flavour b) fortunate c) favourite
10. a) astonish b) astonished c) astonishing