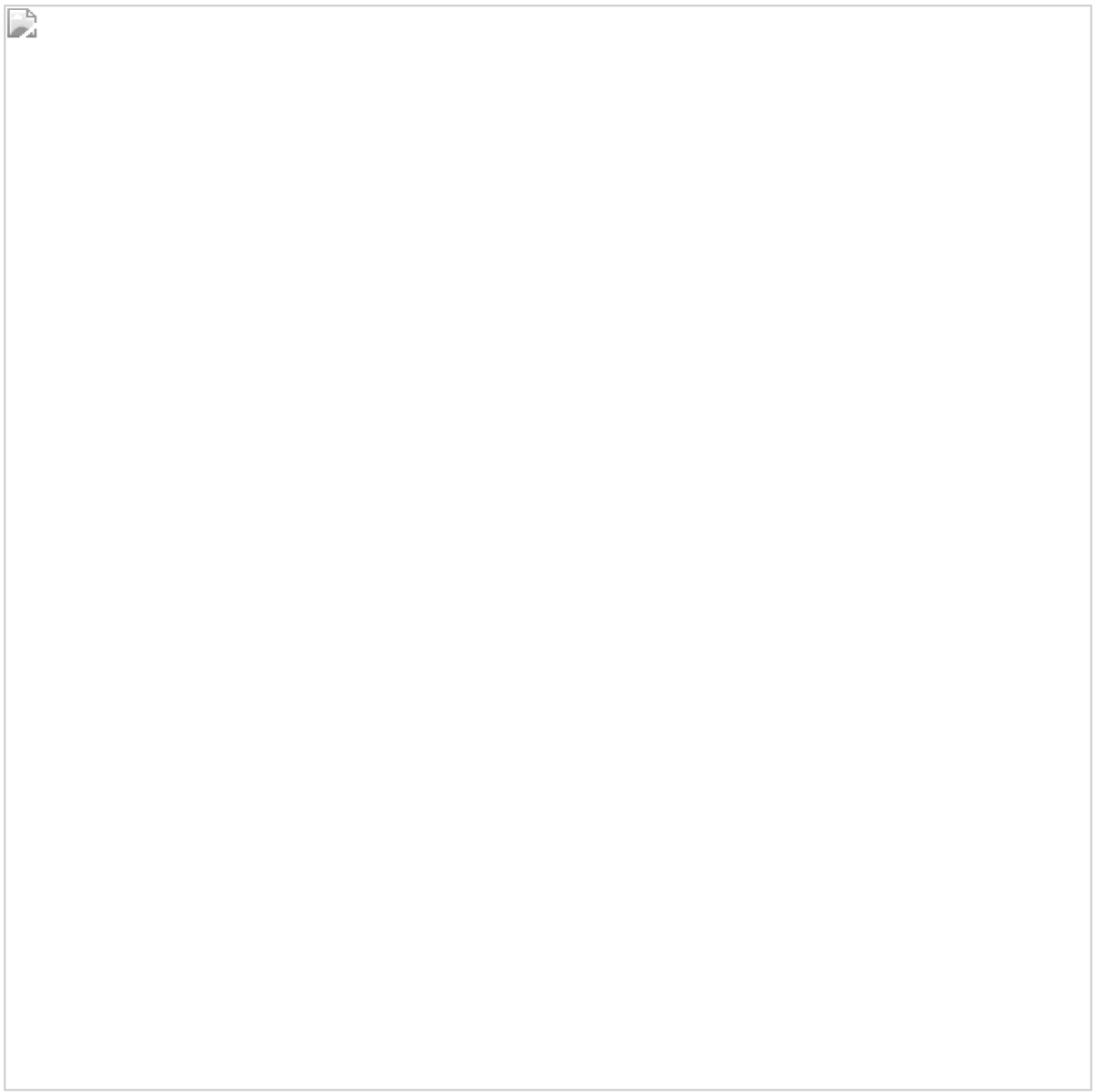
COLORING THE CLASSICS

The Secret Garden

A Lonely Girl, a Locked Door, and a Garden Coming Alive

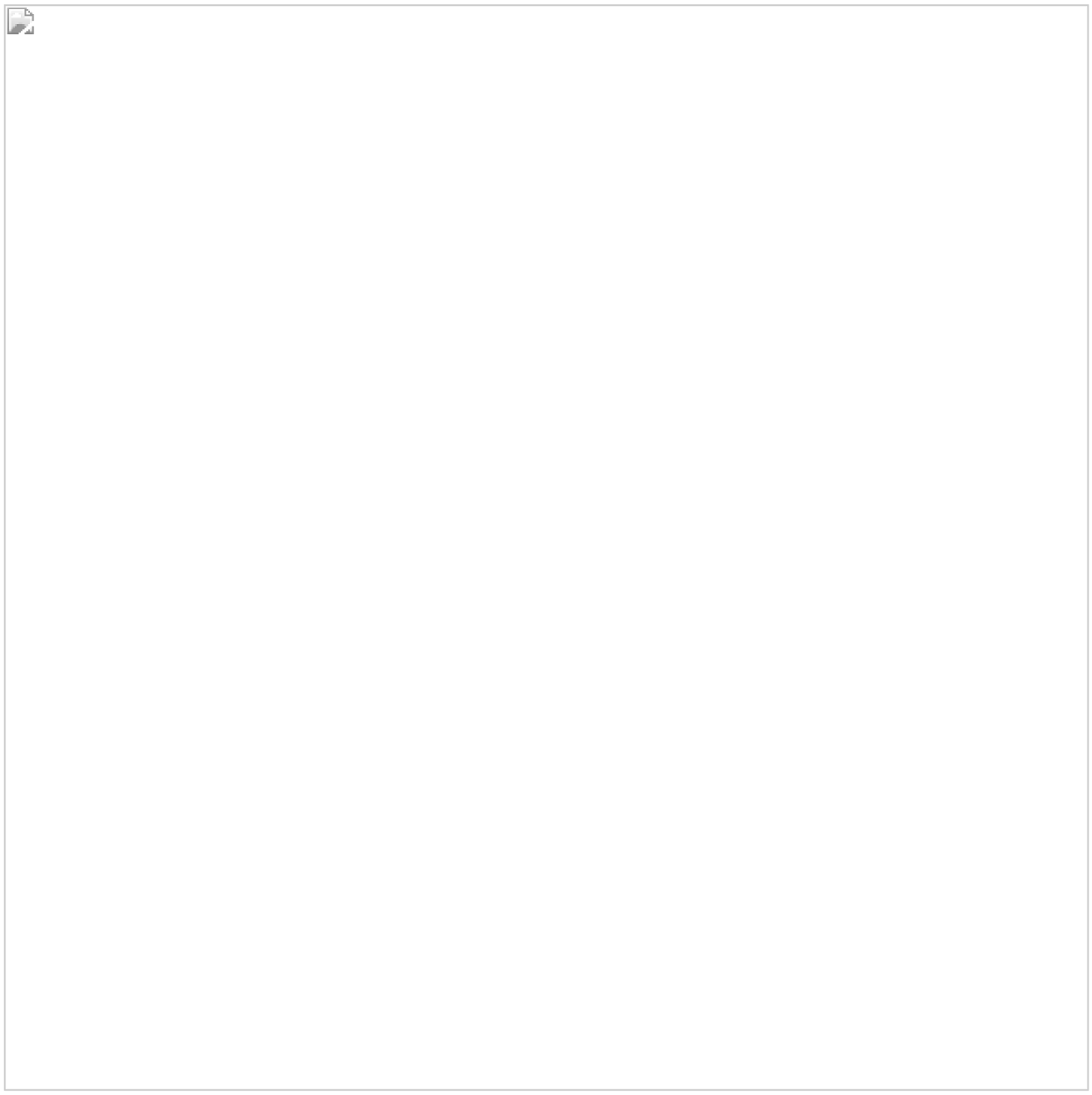


TALK ABOUT IT

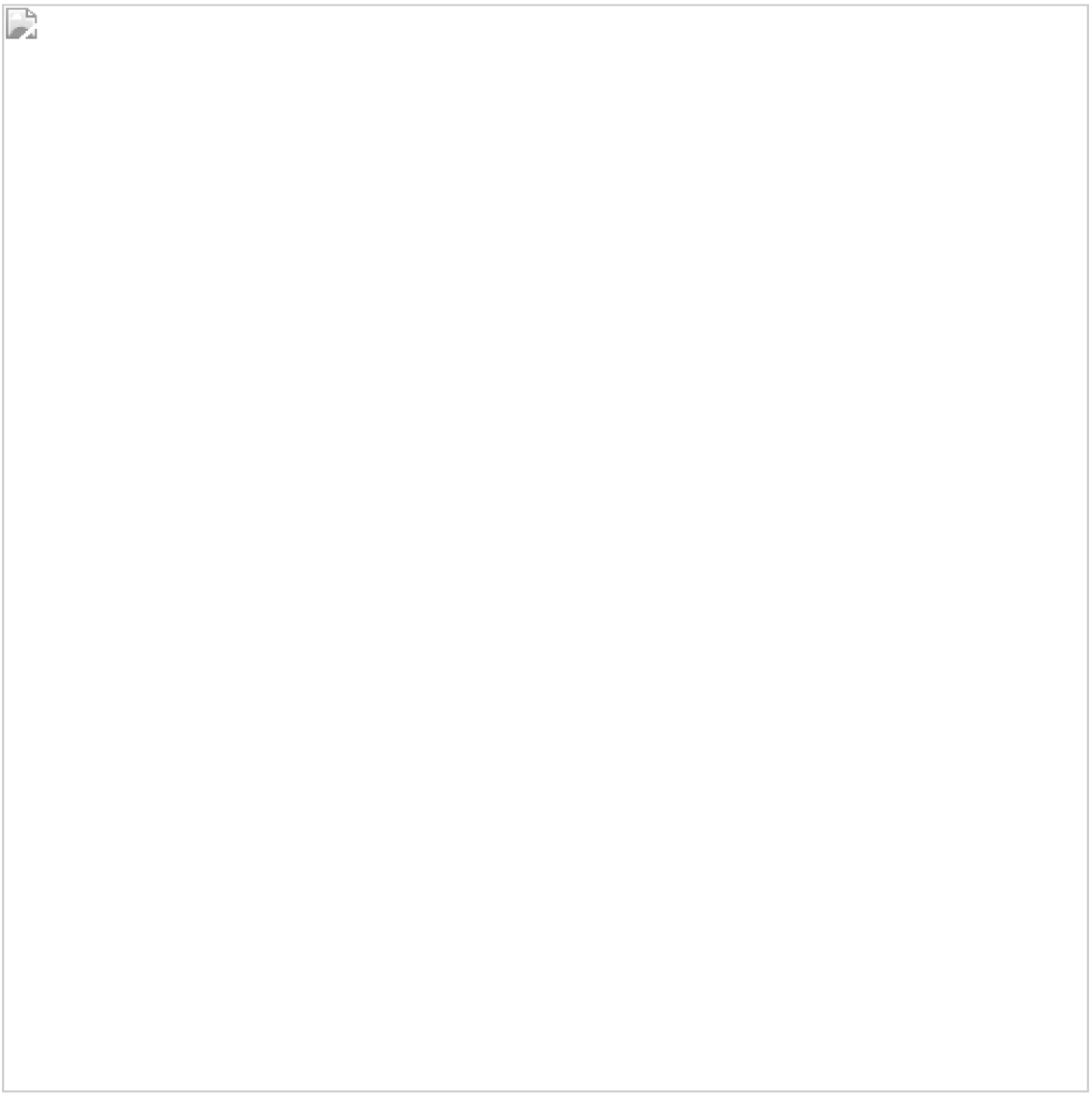
Have you ever planted a seed? What happened to it?

This book belongs to _____

The Secret Garden · another picture



Mistress Mary



Mary Lennox was nine, with a thin little face and a sour look. In India, servants gave her whatever she wanted so she would not fuss. Her mother was busy with parties and her father with work. Nobody had ever really played with Mary, so she did not know how to play with anyone.

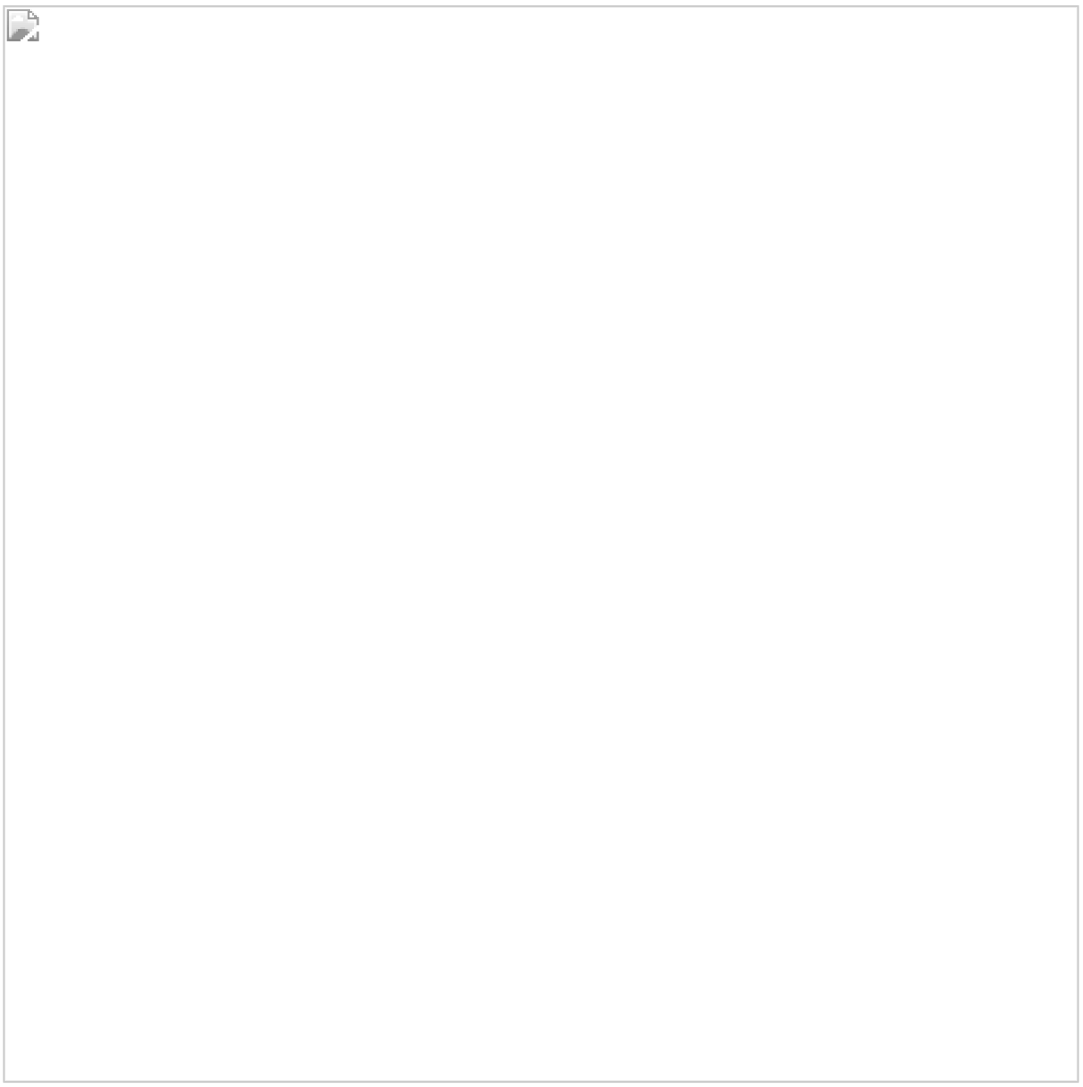
She was bossy and cross, and the other children sang at her, “Mistress Mary, quite contrary.”

Then a terrible sickness came. When it was over, Mary’s mother and father were gone, and Mary was found all alone. “There is nobody left to come,” said the officer who found her.

TALK ABOUT IT

Mary had lots of things but nobody to play with. What do you think she needed most?

Mistress Mary · another picture



Think about it

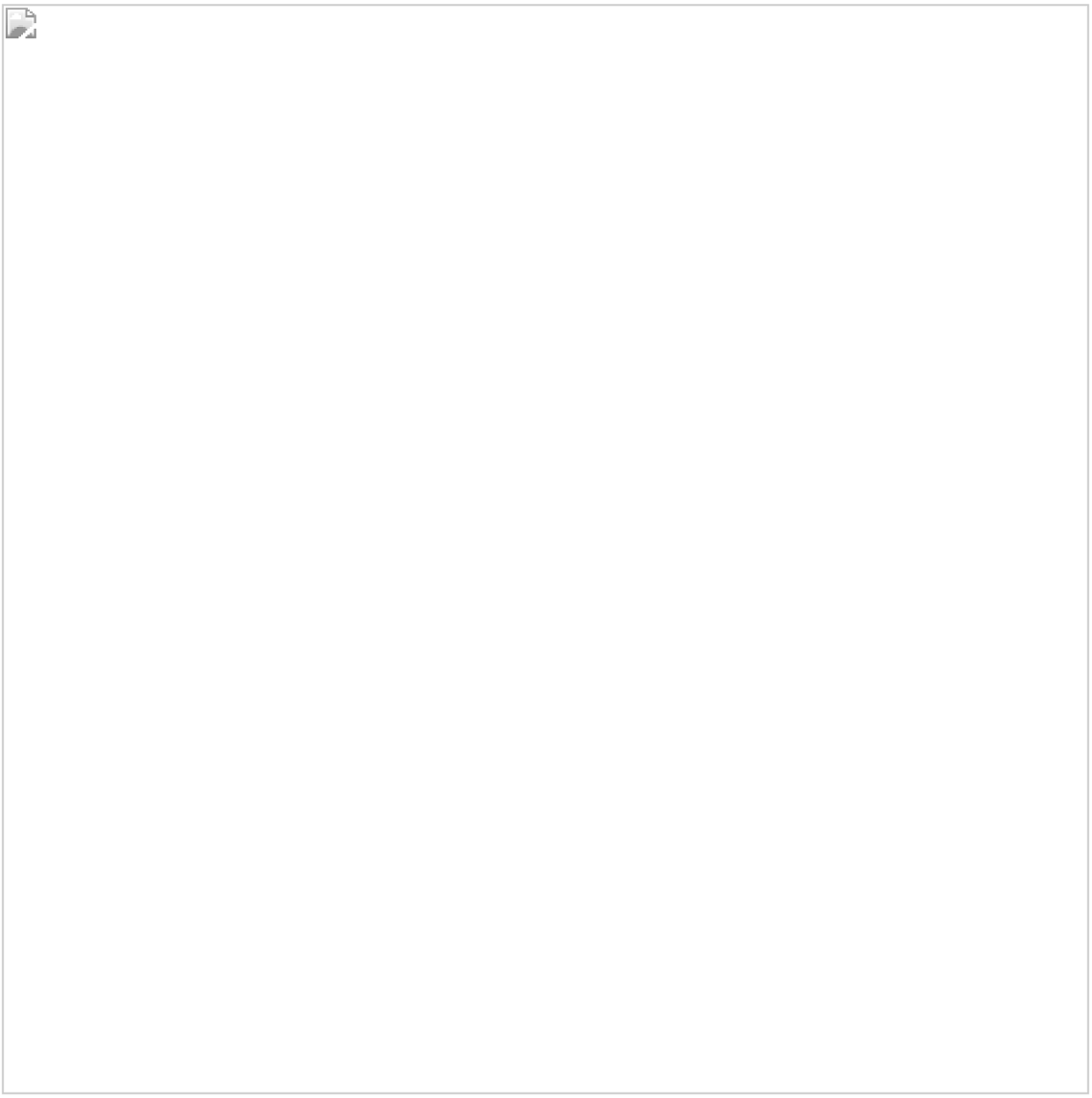
1. What did the other children sing at Mary?

- ○ “Mistress Mary, quite contrary”
- ○ “Mary had a little lamb”
- ○ “Happy birthday, Mary”

2. Did Mary know how to play with other children?

- ○ No, nobody had ever played with her
- ○ Yes, she had many friends
- ○ She played with her brother

Across the Moor



Mary was sent across the sea to England, to live with her uncle, Mr. Archibald Craven. A stern housekeeper named Mrs. Medlock met her at the train.

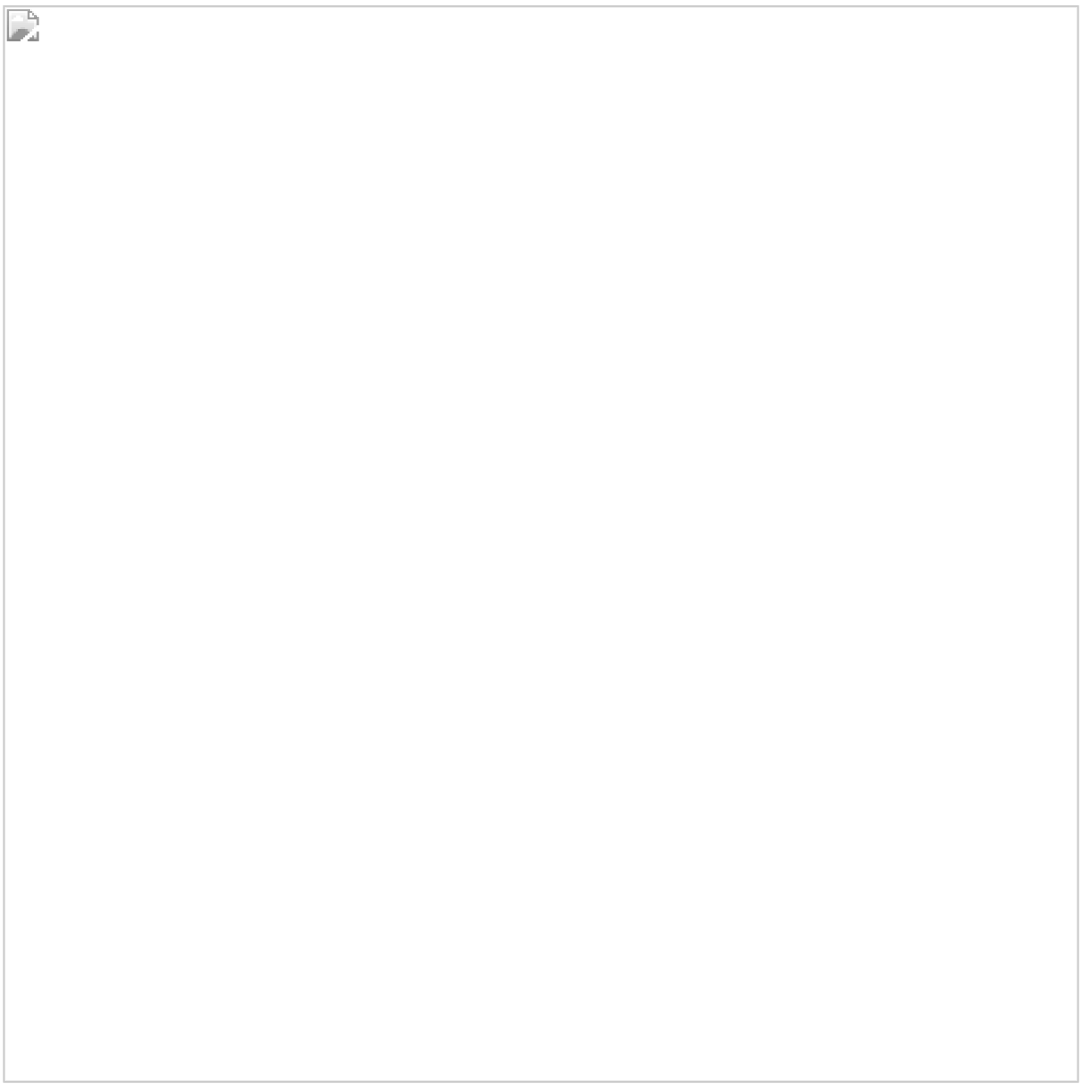
They rode through the dark across the wide moor, a wild, empty land of heather and wind, to Misselthwaite Manor, an enormous old house with nearly a hundred rooms, most of them locked.

Mr. Craven was a sad man who stayed away and wanted to be left alone. Mrs. Medlock told Mary to keep to her own rooms. So Mary was alone again, in a big strange house.

TALK ABOUT IT

How do you think it would feel to arrive at a huge house where you knew nobody? What would help?

Across the Moor · another picture



Think about it

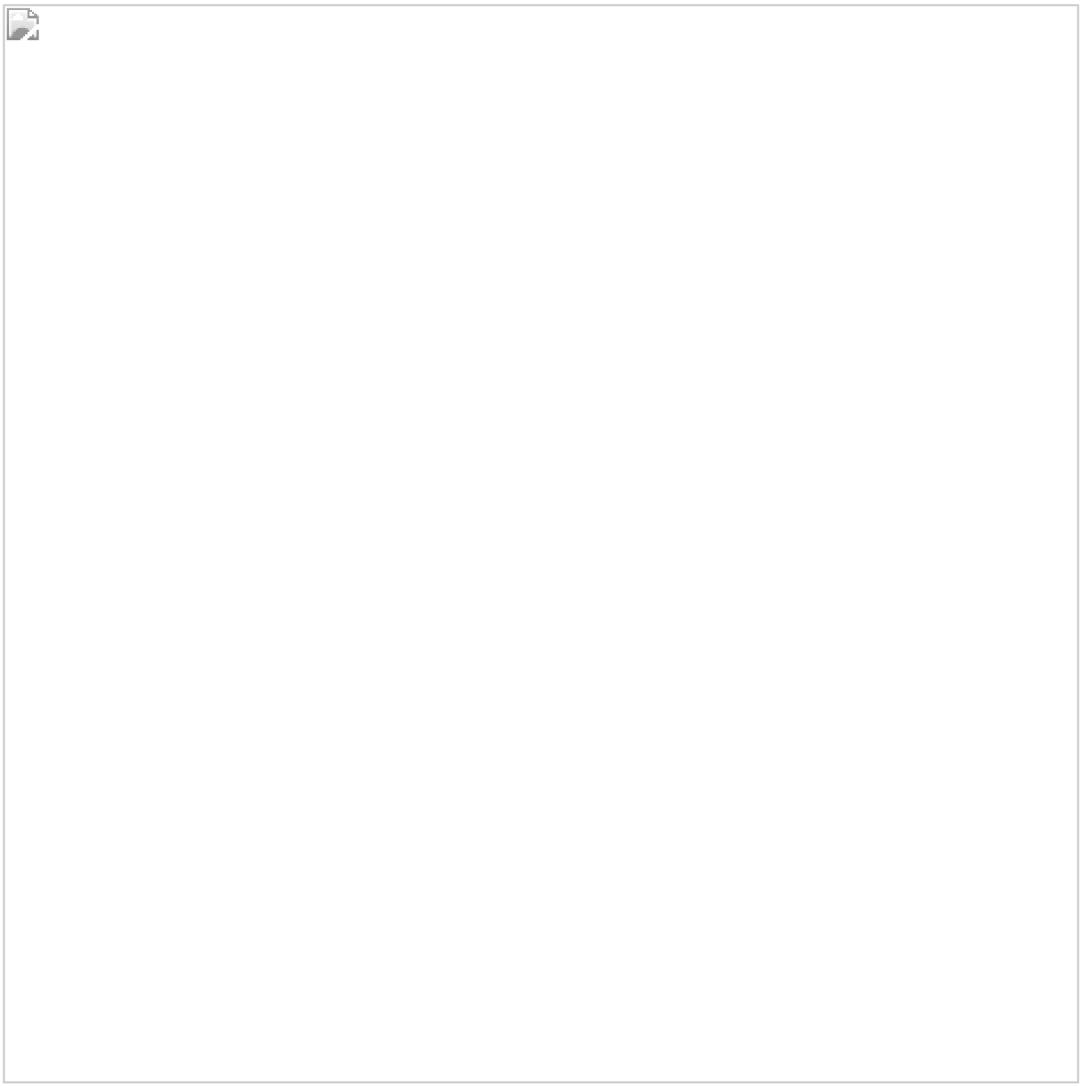
1. Who was Mr. Archibald Craven?

- ○ Mary's uncle
- ○ The gardener
- ○ Mary's teacher

2. What is a moor?

- ○ A wide, wild, open land of heather and wind
- ○ A big city
- ○ A deep forest

Martha



In the morning a cheerful housemaid named Martha came to light the fire. She was one of twelve children in a little cottage on the moor.

Her brother Dickon, Martha said, could charm wild animals, so ponies and birds and foxes came right up to him.

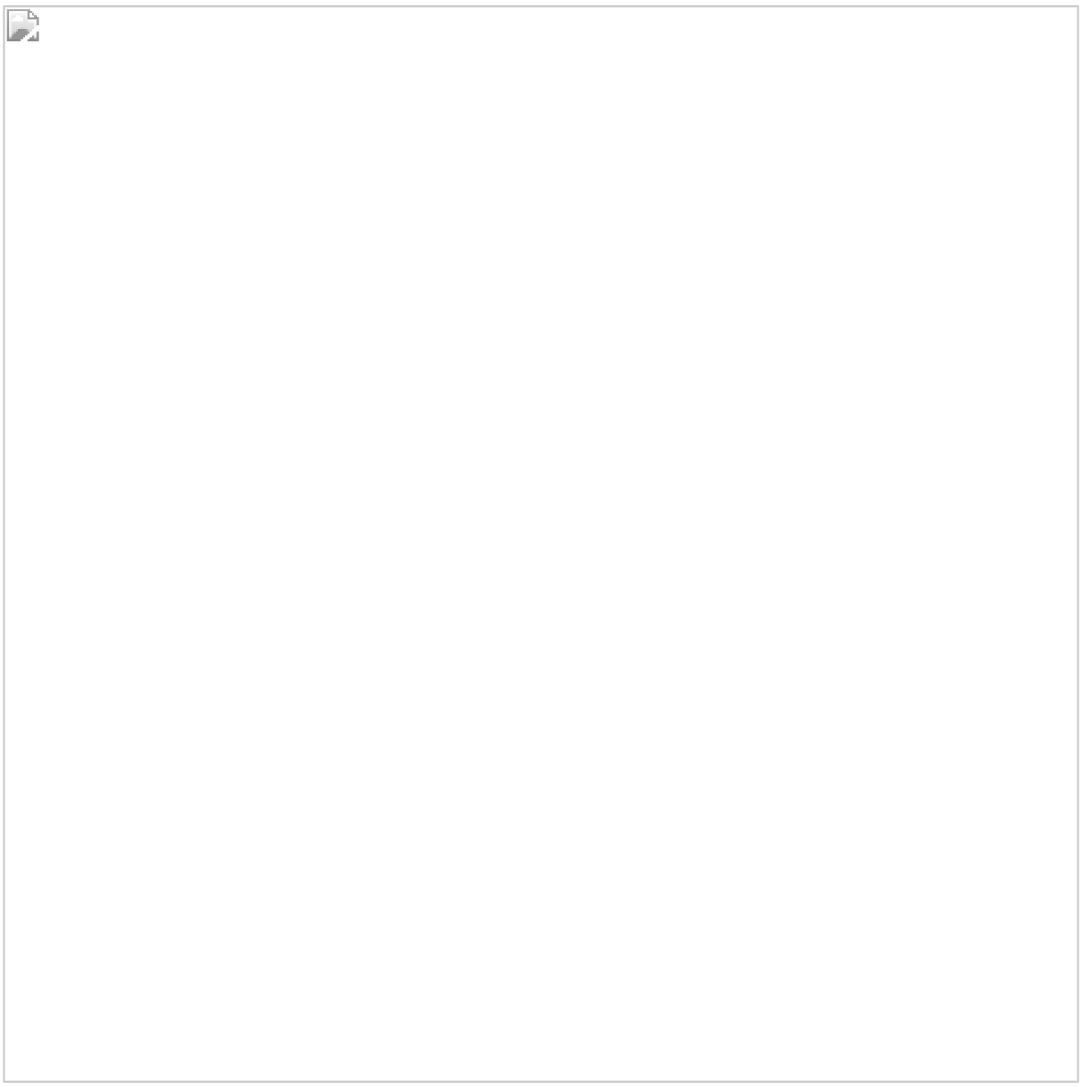
Martha told Mary a secret. There was a walled garden that Mrs. Craven, Mary's aunt, had loved. When she died, Mr. Craven locked the door and buried the key. Nobody had been in it for ten years.

Martha's mother sent Mary a skipping-rope, bought with Martha's own wages. Mary had never had one. She skipped and counted, and her cheeks turned pink.

TALK ABOUT IT

Martha's family didn't have much money, but they sent Mary a present. Why do you think they did that?

Martha · another picture



Think about it

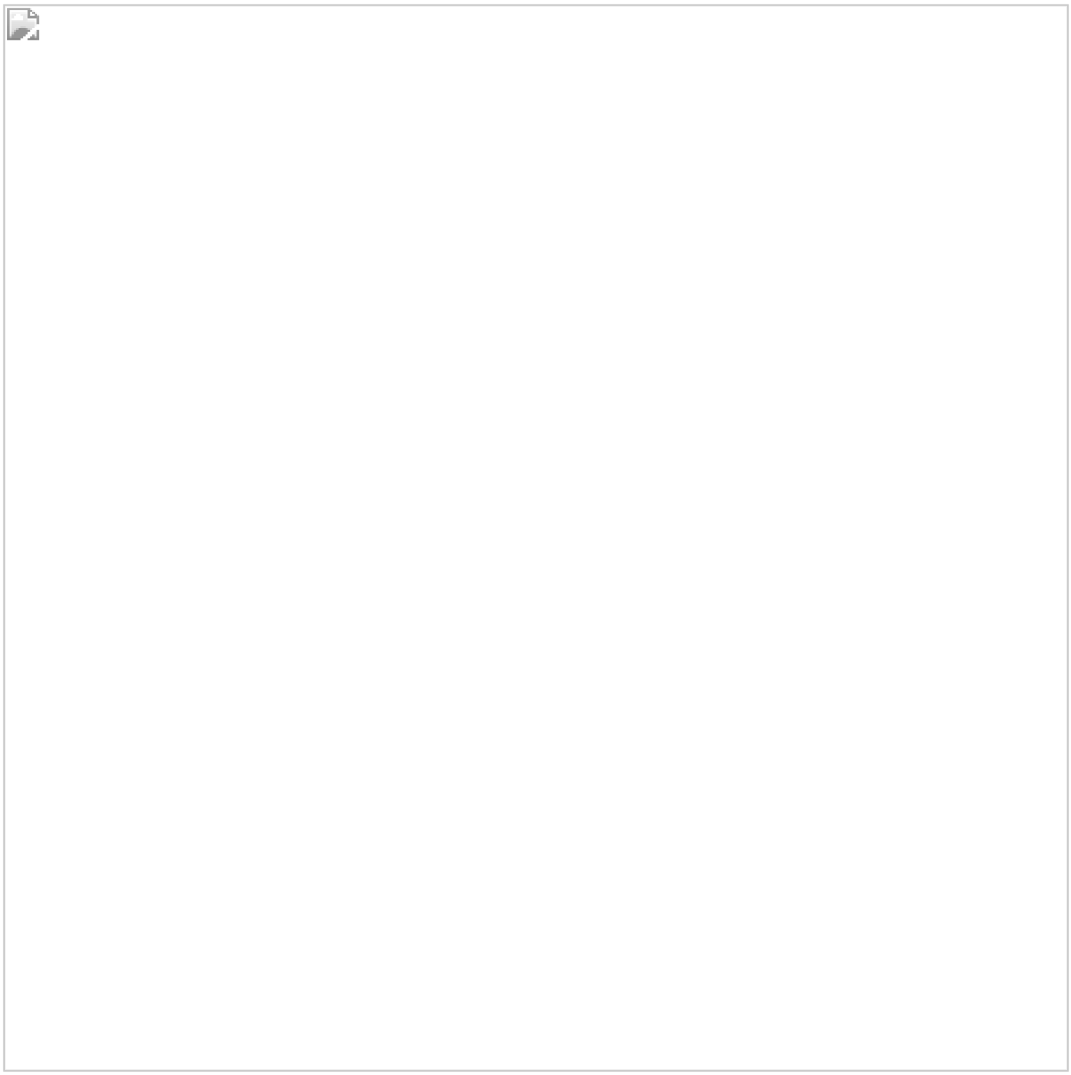
1. What could Dickon do?

- ○ Charm wild animals
- ○ Fly
- ○ Talk to the moon

2. How long had the garden been locked?

- ○ Ten years
- ○ One week
- ○ A hundred years

The Robin



Mary went outside. There were gardens and orchards everywhere, and walls with doors. But one wall had no door that she could find.

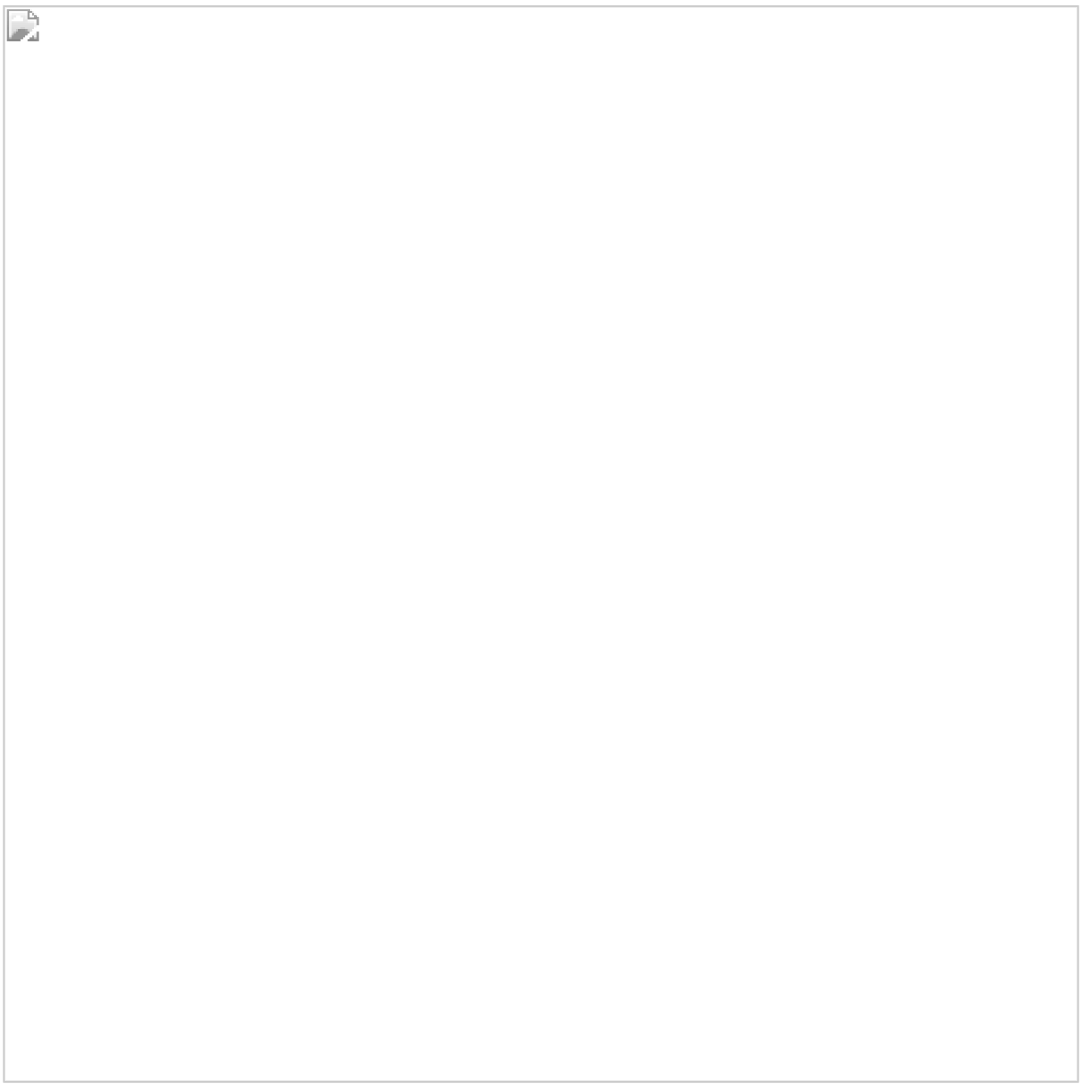
An old gardener named Ben Weatherstaff was digging nearby. He was grumpy, a lot like Mary. But when he whistled, a little bird with a bright red breast flew down to him.

“He’s a robin redbreast,” said Ben, “an’ they’re th’ friendliest, curiousest birds alive.” The robin cocked his head and looked at Mary with his black dewdrop eyes.

Mary felt something new and warm inside. She had never wanted to be friends with anyone before. Now she wanted to be friends with a robin.

TALK ABOUT IT

Mary wanted a friend for the first time. Who was your first friend?



Think about it

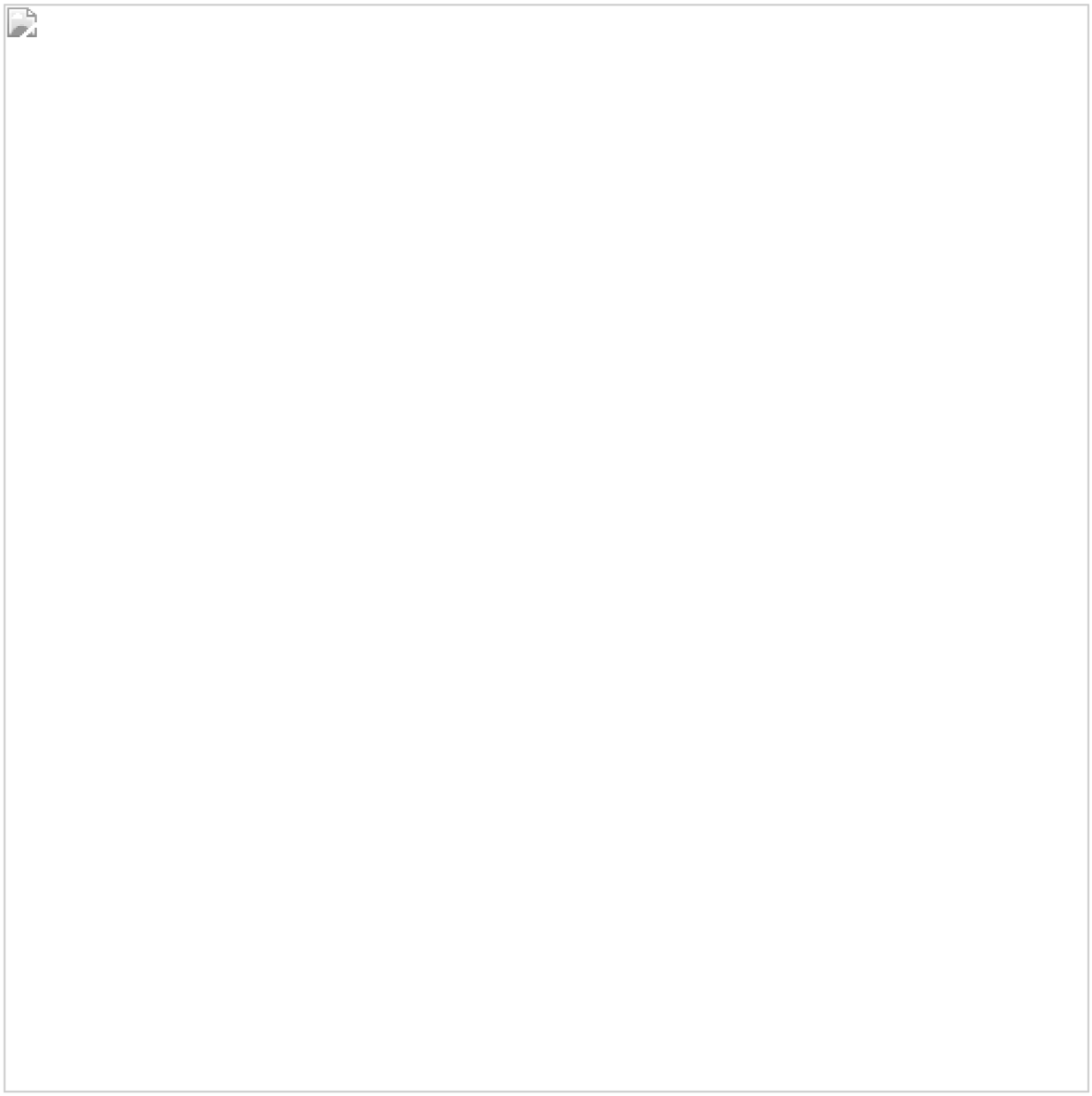
1. What color was the robin's breast?

- ○ Red
- ○ Blue
- ○ Green

2. Who was Ben Weatherstaff?

- ○ An old gardener
- ○ Mary's cousin
- ○ A doctor

The Key



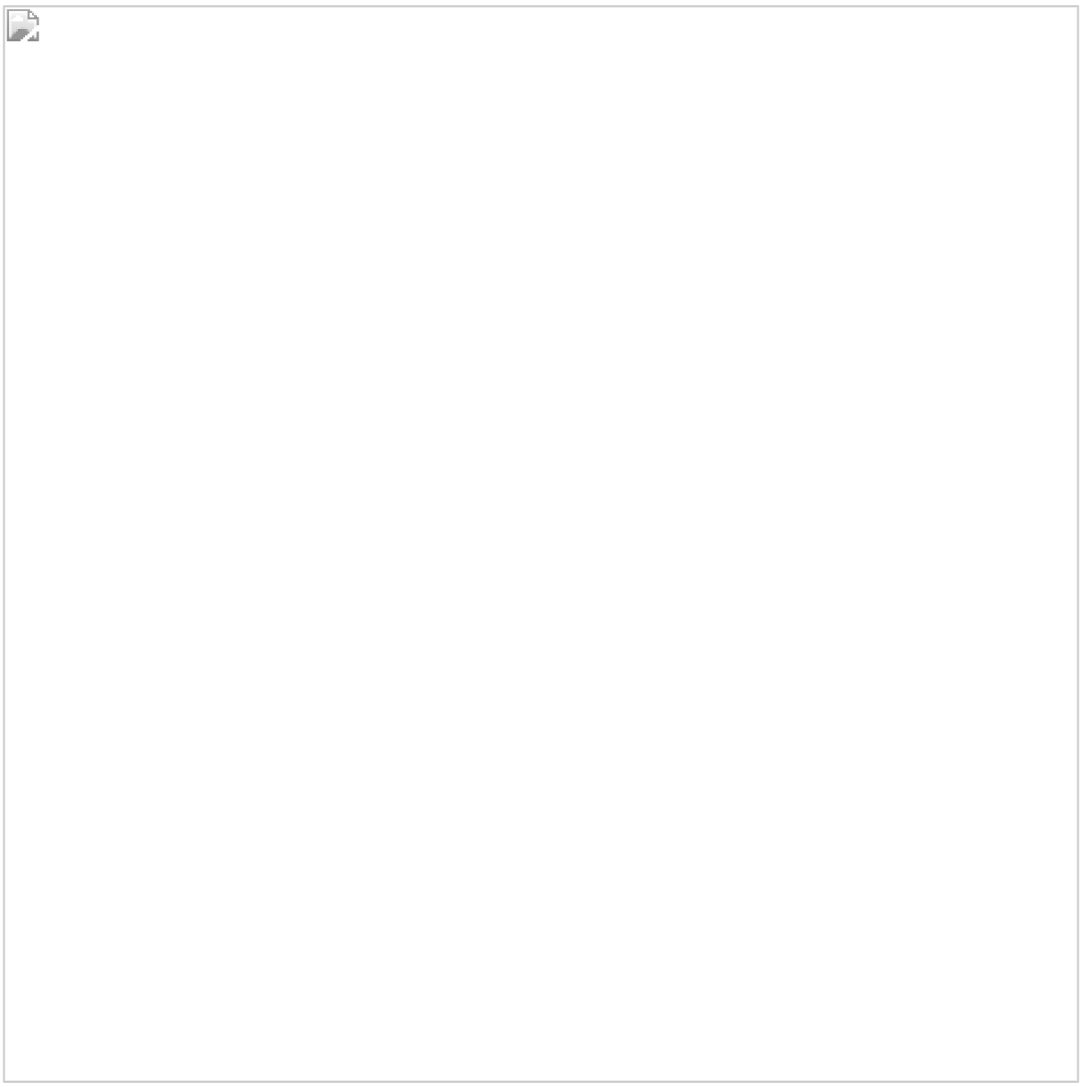
One day Mary was walking beside the long wall, and the robin came hopping along with her. He hopped onto a little pile of fresh earth, where a dog had been digging, and looked for a worm.

Mary looked too. In the dirt she saw something that looked like an old ring. She picked it up. It was not a ring. It was a key, an old rusty key that looked as if it had been buried a long time.

“Perhaps it has been buried for ten years,” she said in a whisper. “Perhaps it is the key to the garden!”

TALK ABOUT IT

If you found an old key, what would you hope it opened?

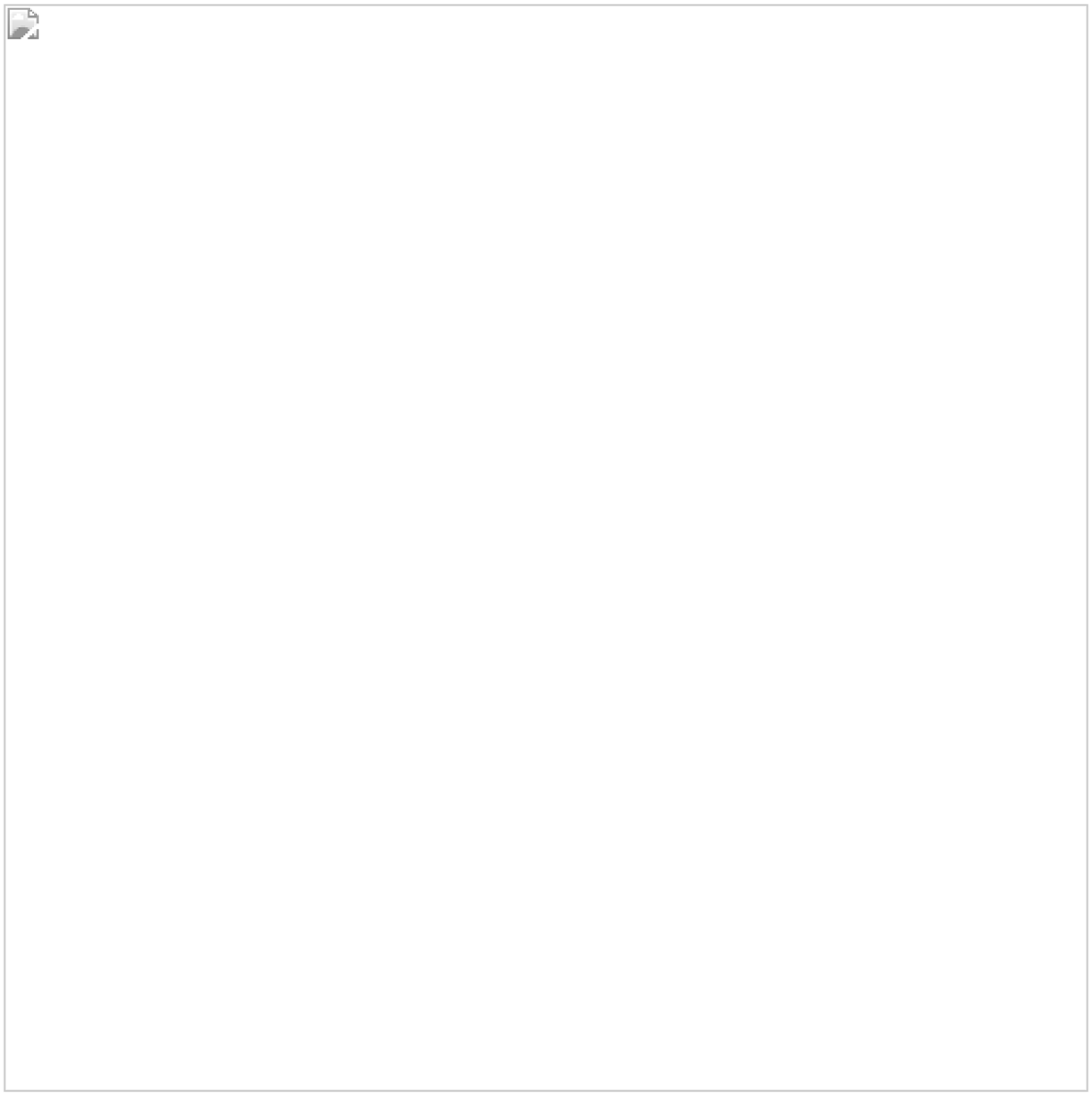


Think about it

1. Who helped Mary find the key?

- ○ The robin
- ○ Martha
- ○ Mr. Craven

The Door in the Ivy



The next day Mary skipped down the walk with the key in her pocket. The robin sat swaying on a long branch of ivy.

“You showed me where the key was yesterday,” she said. “You ought to show me the door today.”

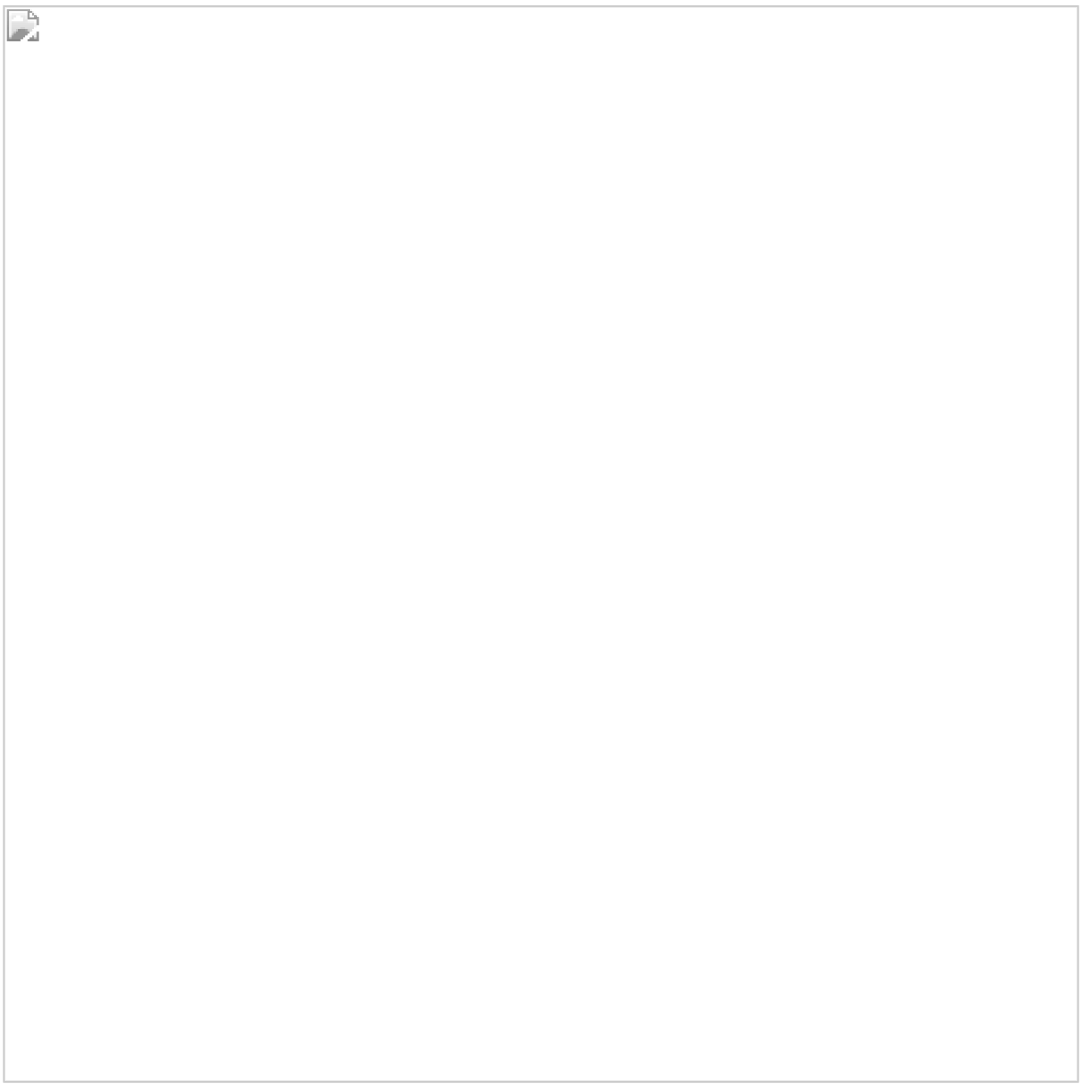
Just then a gust of wind swung the hanging ivy aside, and Mary saw a round knob under the leaves. She pulled the ivy back. There was a door, and a lock!

Her heart thumped. She turned the key with both hands. Slowly, slowly, the door opened, and Mary slipped inside and shut it behind her. She was standing in the secret garden.

TALK ABOUT IT

What do you think Mary saw first when she stepped inside?

The Door in the Ivy · another picture

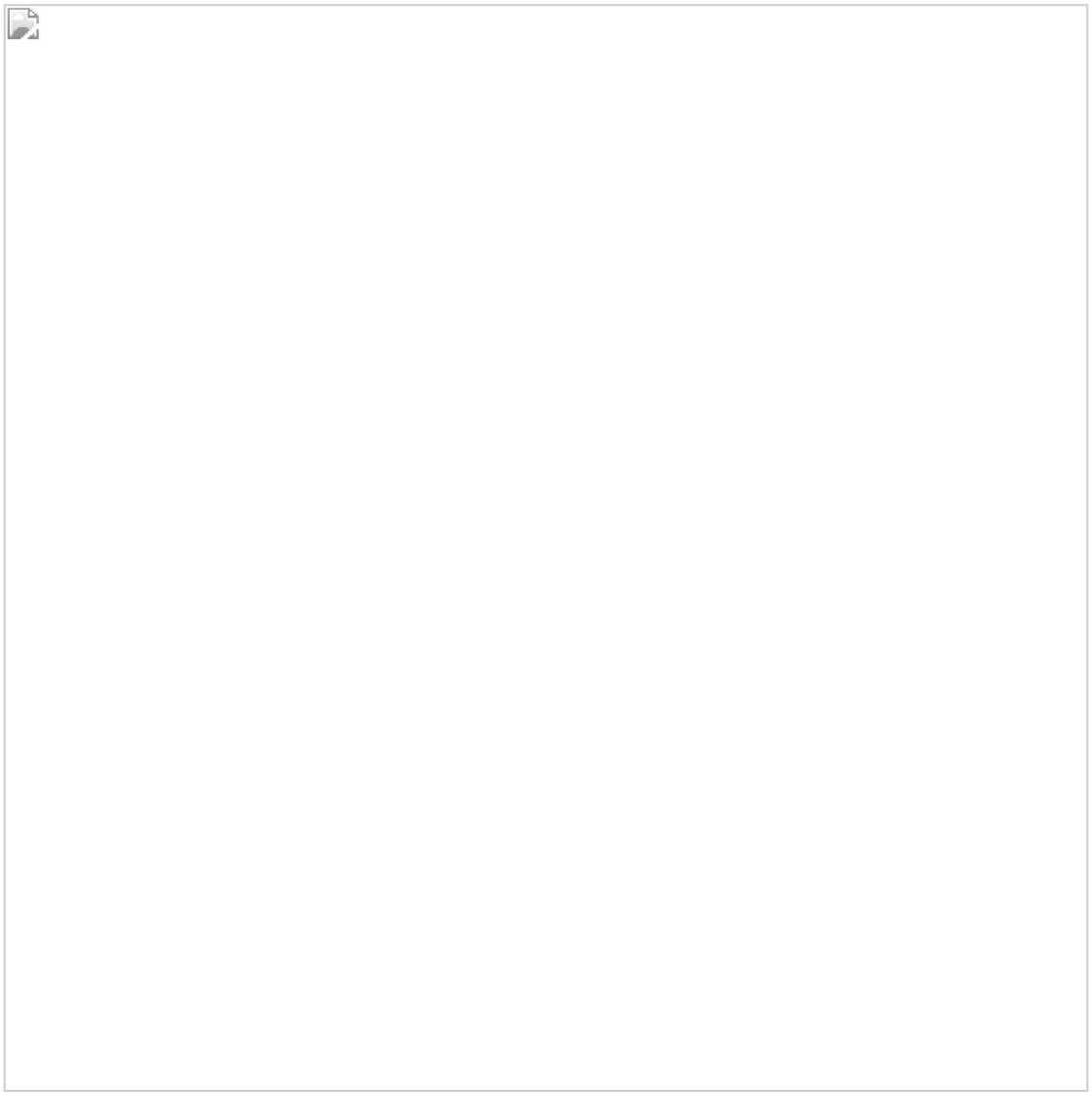


Think about it

1. Where was the door hidden?

- ○ Under the ivy on the wall
- ○ Under the floor
- ○ Behind a waterfall

Not a Dead Garden



Everything was gray and brown and tangled. Climbing roses had grown so thick they hung like curtains. The garden looked asleep, or maybe dead.

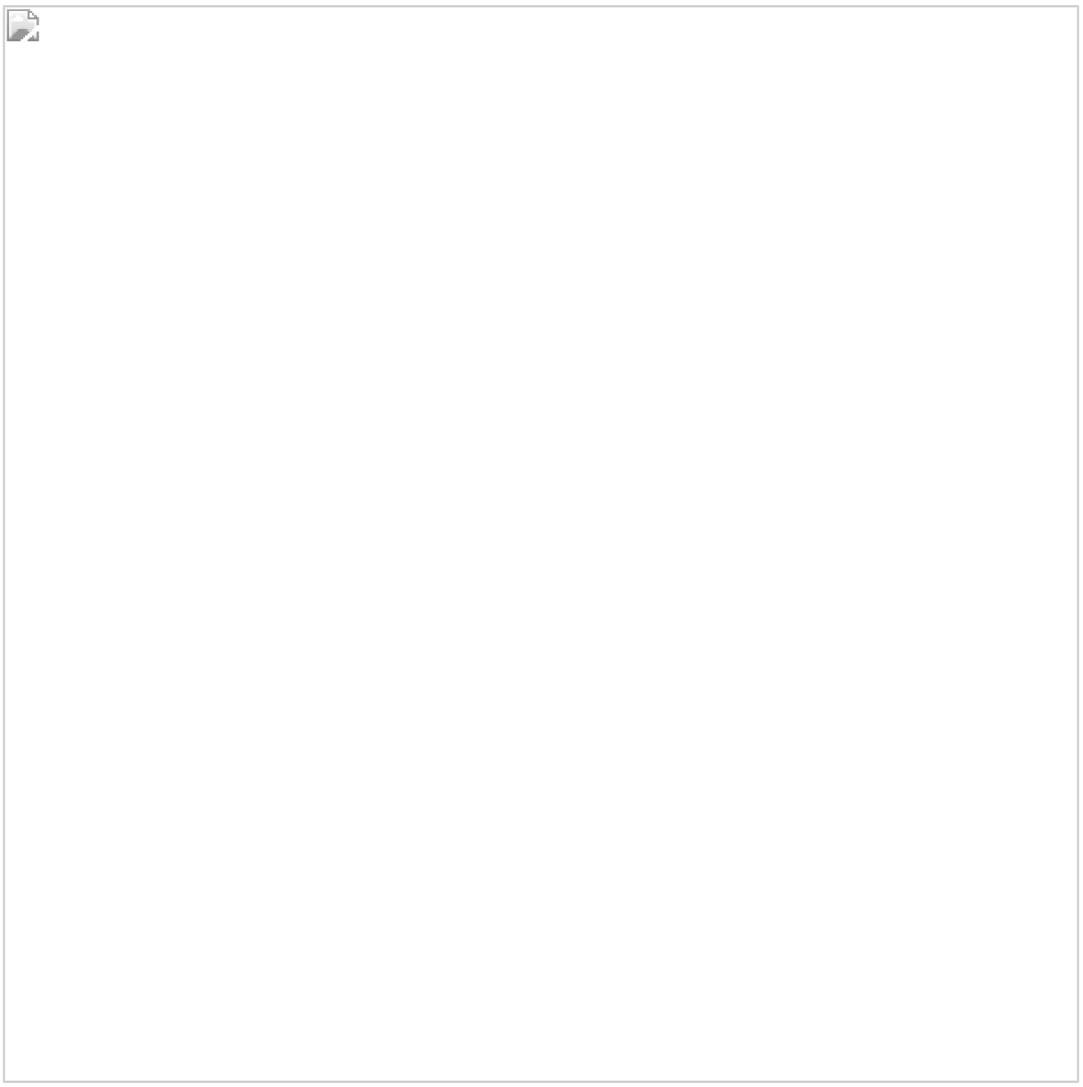
But Mary bent down and looked closely at the ground. Little sharp green points were poking up out of the dark earth!

“It isn’t a quite dead garden,” she cried out softly to herself. “Even if the roses are dead, there are other things alive.”

She found a sharp stick and cleared the weeds from around each green point, so it would have room to breathe. She worked until it was time for lunch, and she was hungry for the first time in a long time.

TALK ABOUT IT

Mary gave the little plants room to grow. What helps you grow?



Think about it

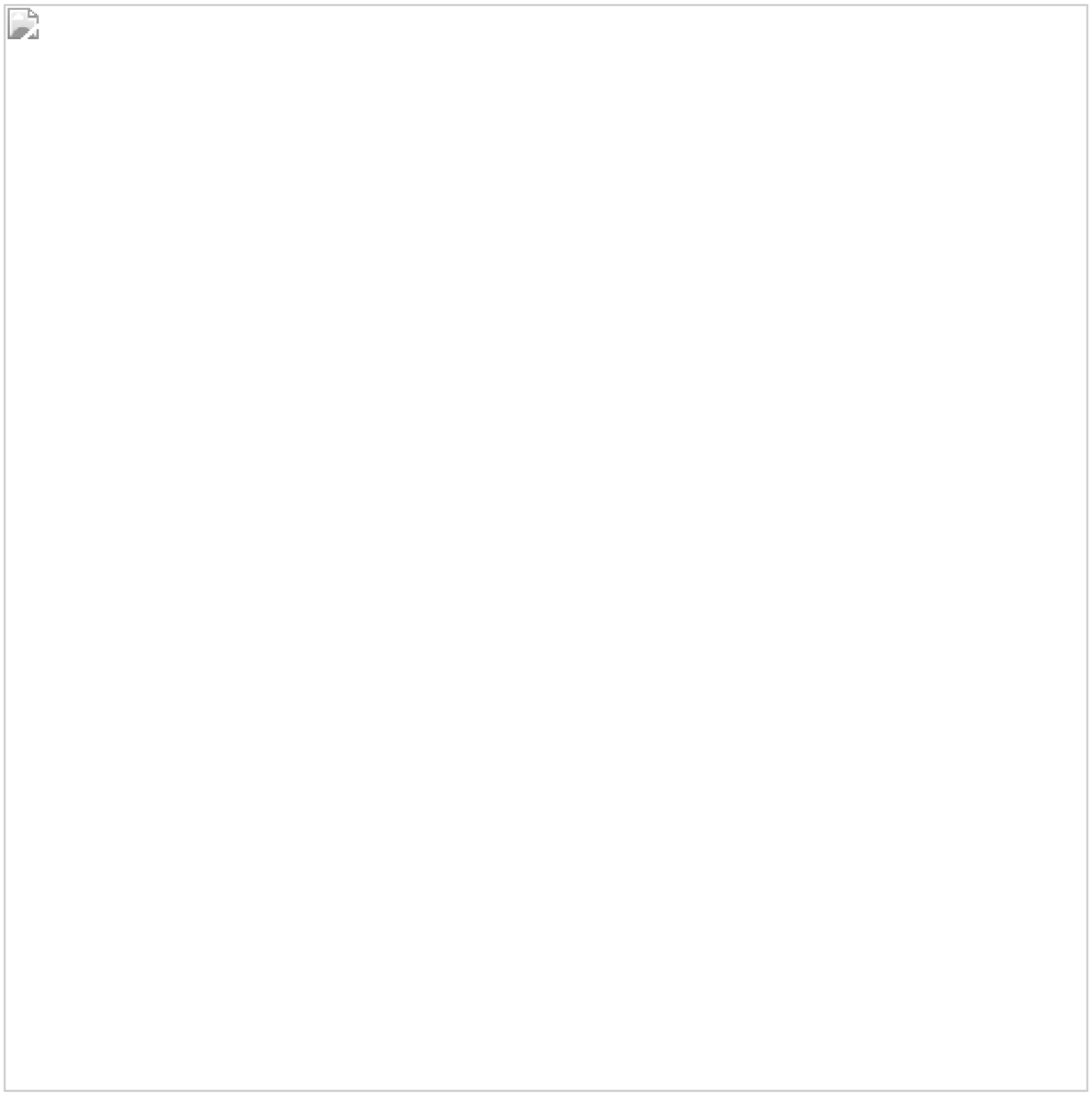
1. What did Mary see poking out of the earth?

- ○ Little green points
- ○ Rocks
- ○ Toys

2. How did Mary help the plants?

- ○ She cleared away the weeds around them
- ○ She stepped on them
- ○ She picked them

Dickon



One day Mary heard a soft whistling. Under a tree sat a boy playing a wooden pipe, with a rusty-red head and round blue eyes. A squirrel and two rabbits sat near him, listening. It was Dickon!

Mary decided to trust him with her secret. She took him through the door in the ivy. Dickon looked around in wonder. He snapped a gray branch from a rosebush and showed her the green inside.

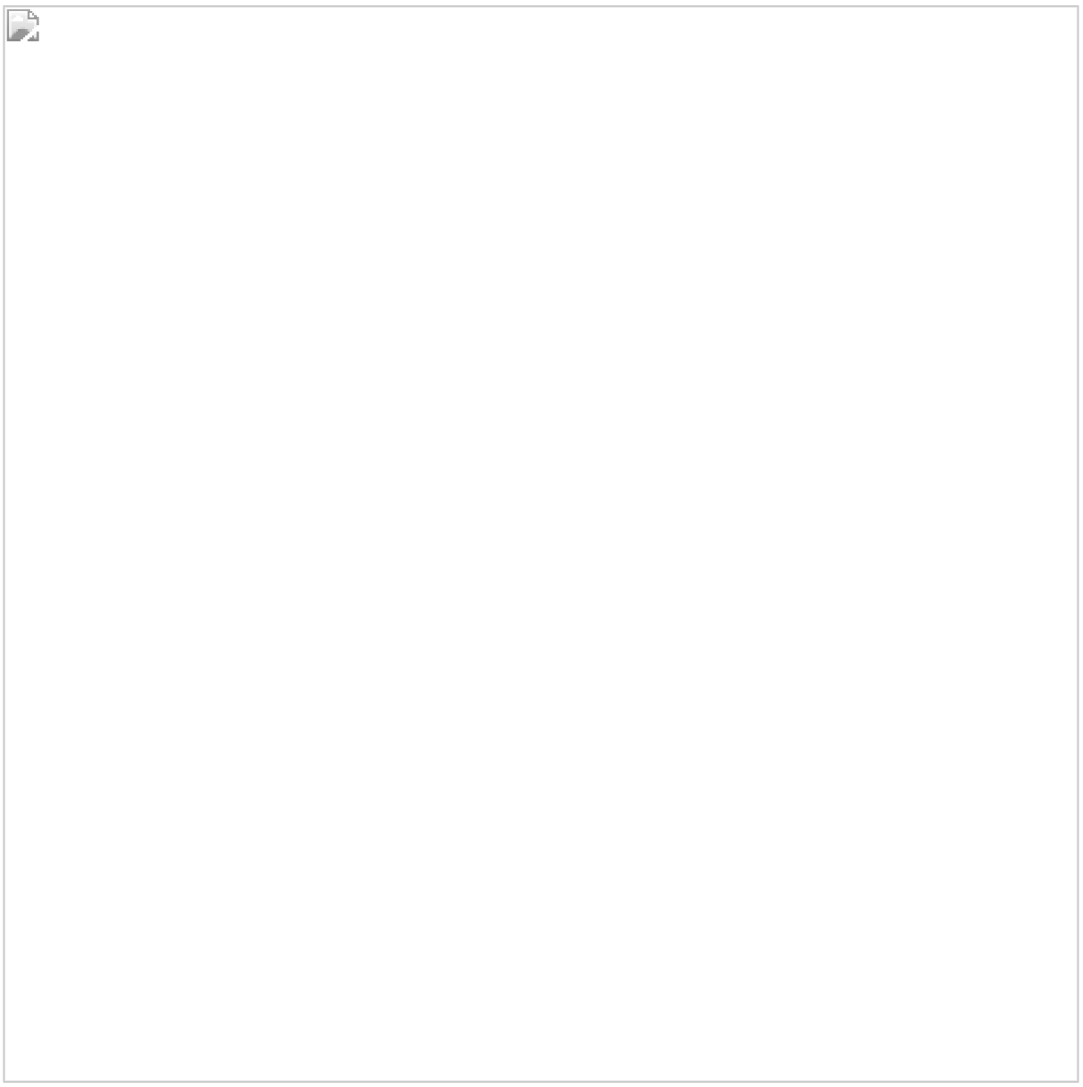
“It’s as wick as you or me,” he said. Wick is a Yorkshire word for alive.

“I’m glad it’s wick!” cried Mary. They went all round the garden together, counting the wick ones.

TALK ABOUT IT

Mary shared her secret with Dickon. Who would you share a special secret with? Why?

Dickon · another picture



Think about it

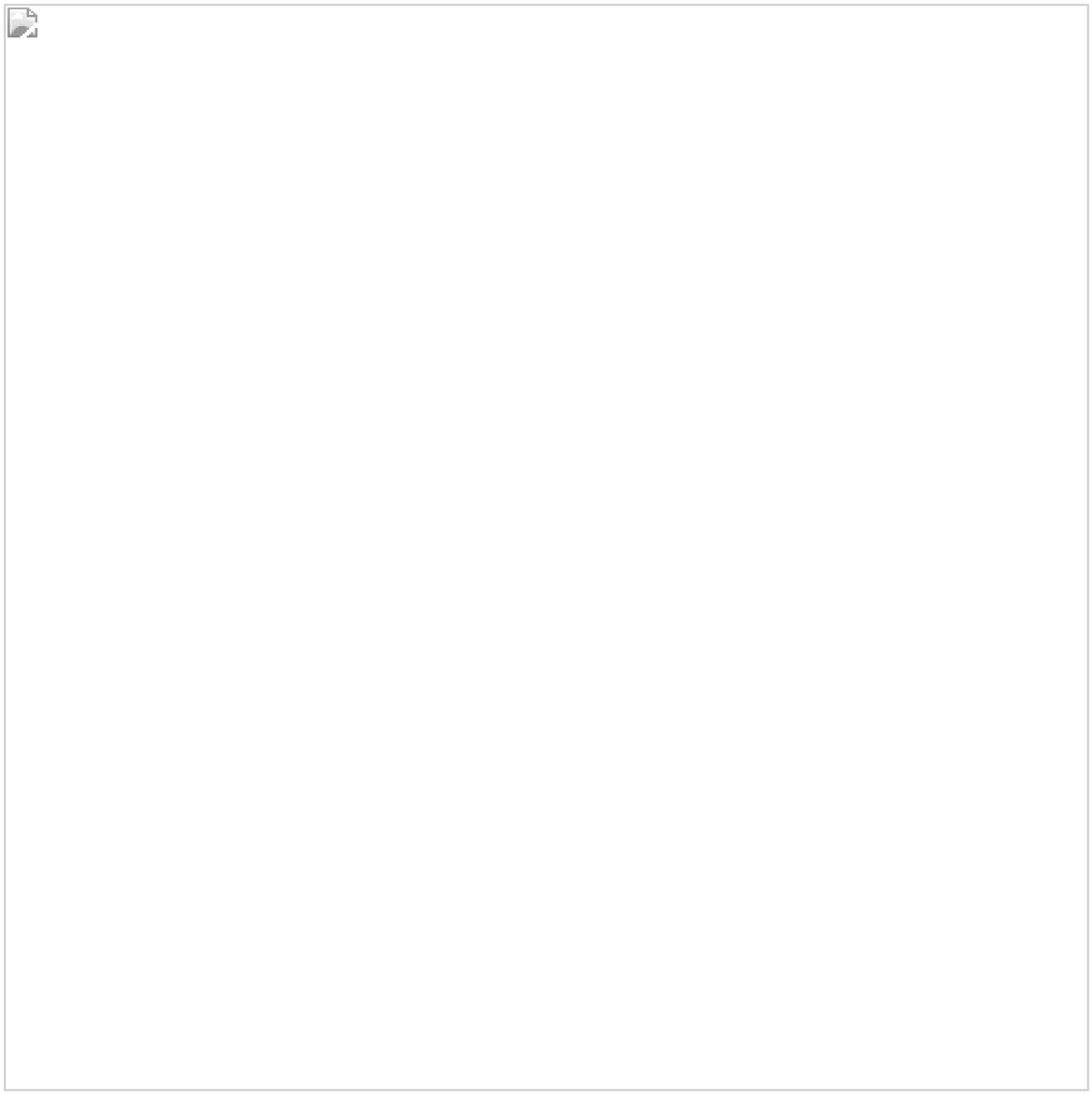
1. What does “wick” mean?

- ○ Alive
- ○ Dead
- ○ Tired

2. Who was sitting near Dickon when Mary first saw him?

- ○ A squirrel and two rabbits
- ○ A lion
- ○ A cat

A Bit of Earth



Then Mr. Craven came home for a short time and sent for Mary. He was a tired, sad man with black hair streaked with white. “Is there anything you want?” he asked. “Do you want toys, books, dolls?”

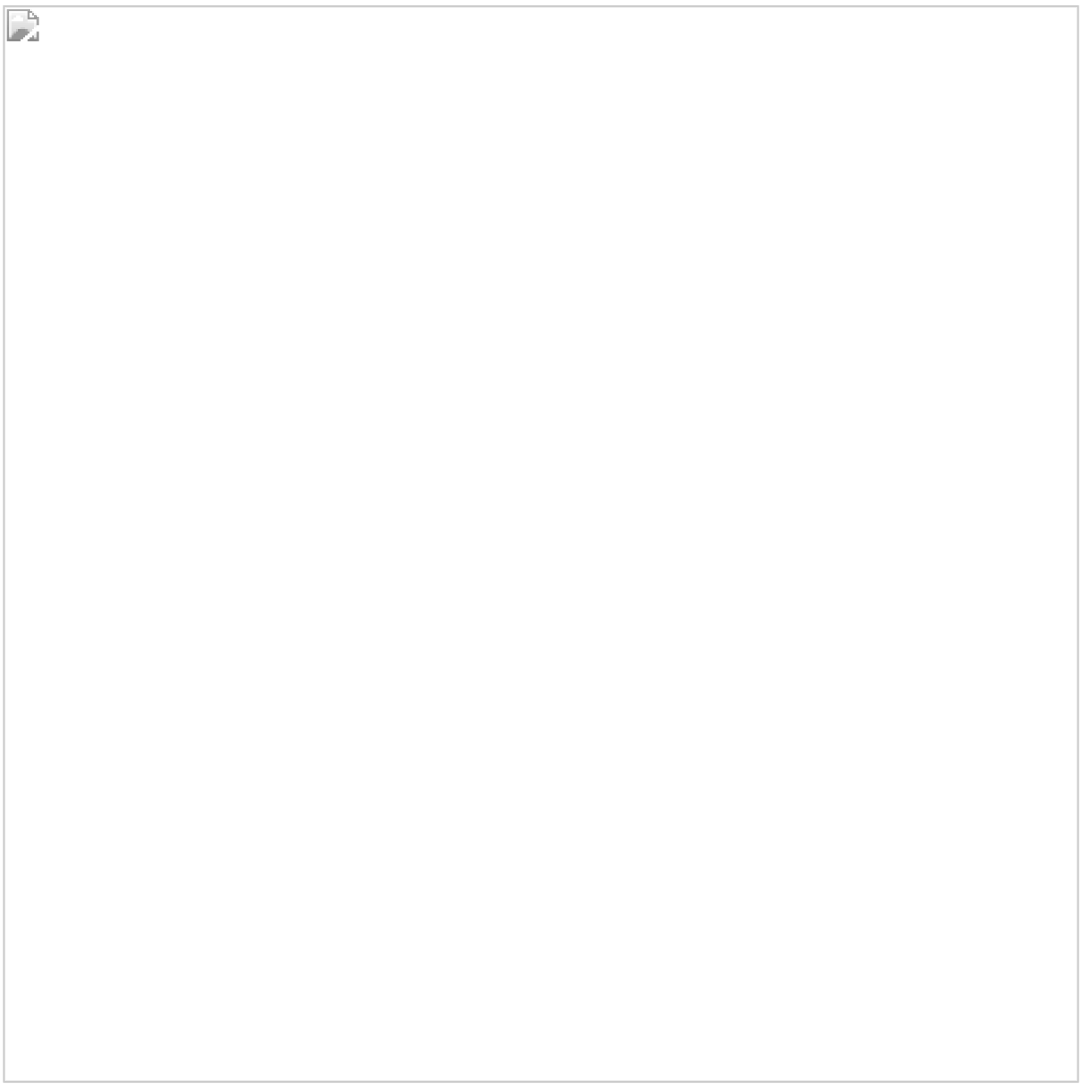
“Might I,” quavered Mary, “might I have a bit of earth?”

“To plant seeds in,” she said, “to make things grow, to see them come alive.”

Mr. Craven looked at her for a long moment. She reminded him of someone else who loved growing things. “You can have as much earth as you want,” he said kindly. “Take it, child, and make it come alive.”

TALK ABOUT IT

Mary could have asked for toys. Why do you think she asked for earth instead?



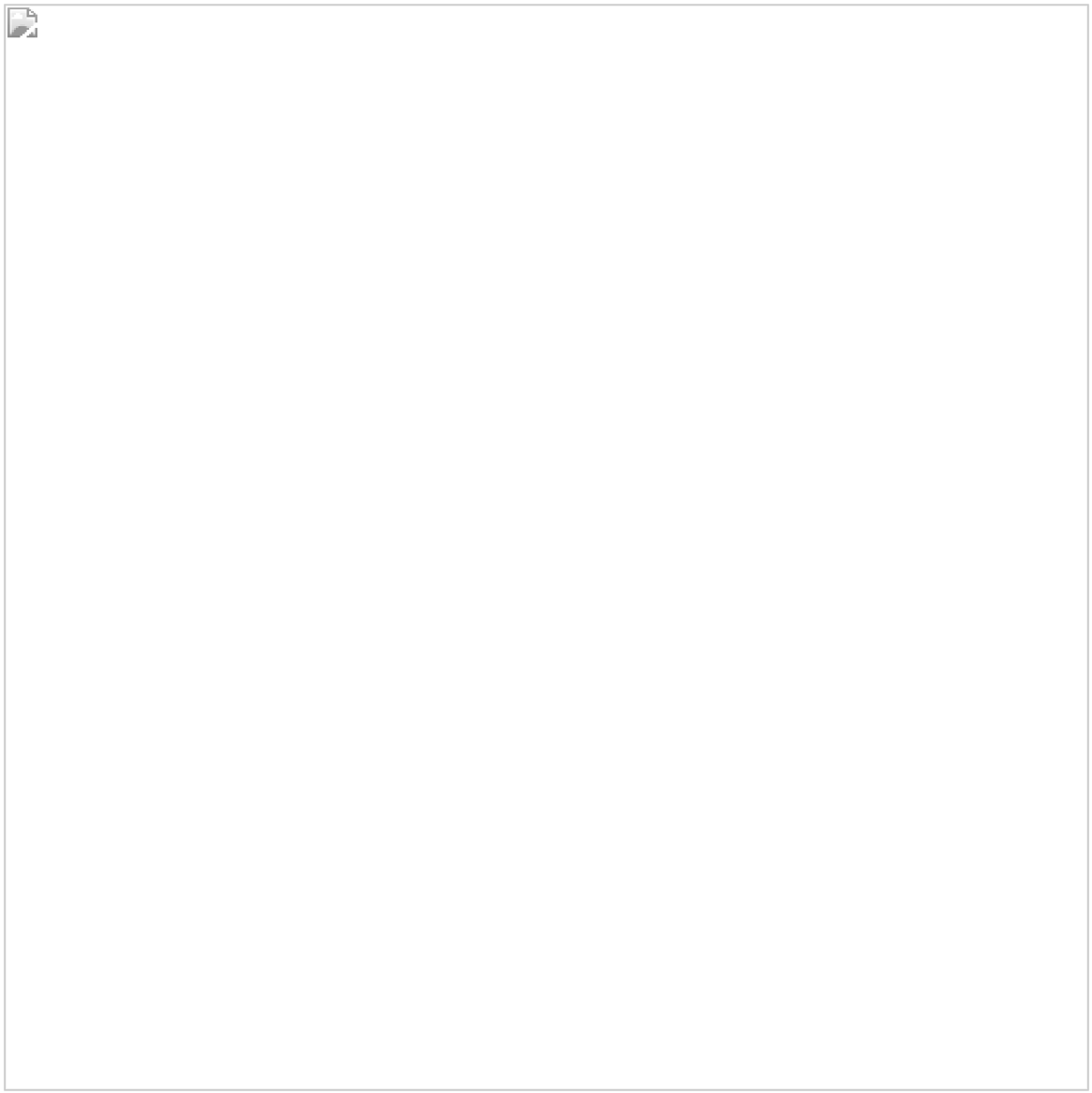
Think about it

1. What did Mary ask her uncle for?

- ○ A bit of earth
- ○ A doll
- ○ A pony

2. Who do you think Mary reminded Mr. Craven of?

Crying in the Night



At night Mary often heard crying far down the long halls. Everyone said it was the wind, but Mary knew it was not.

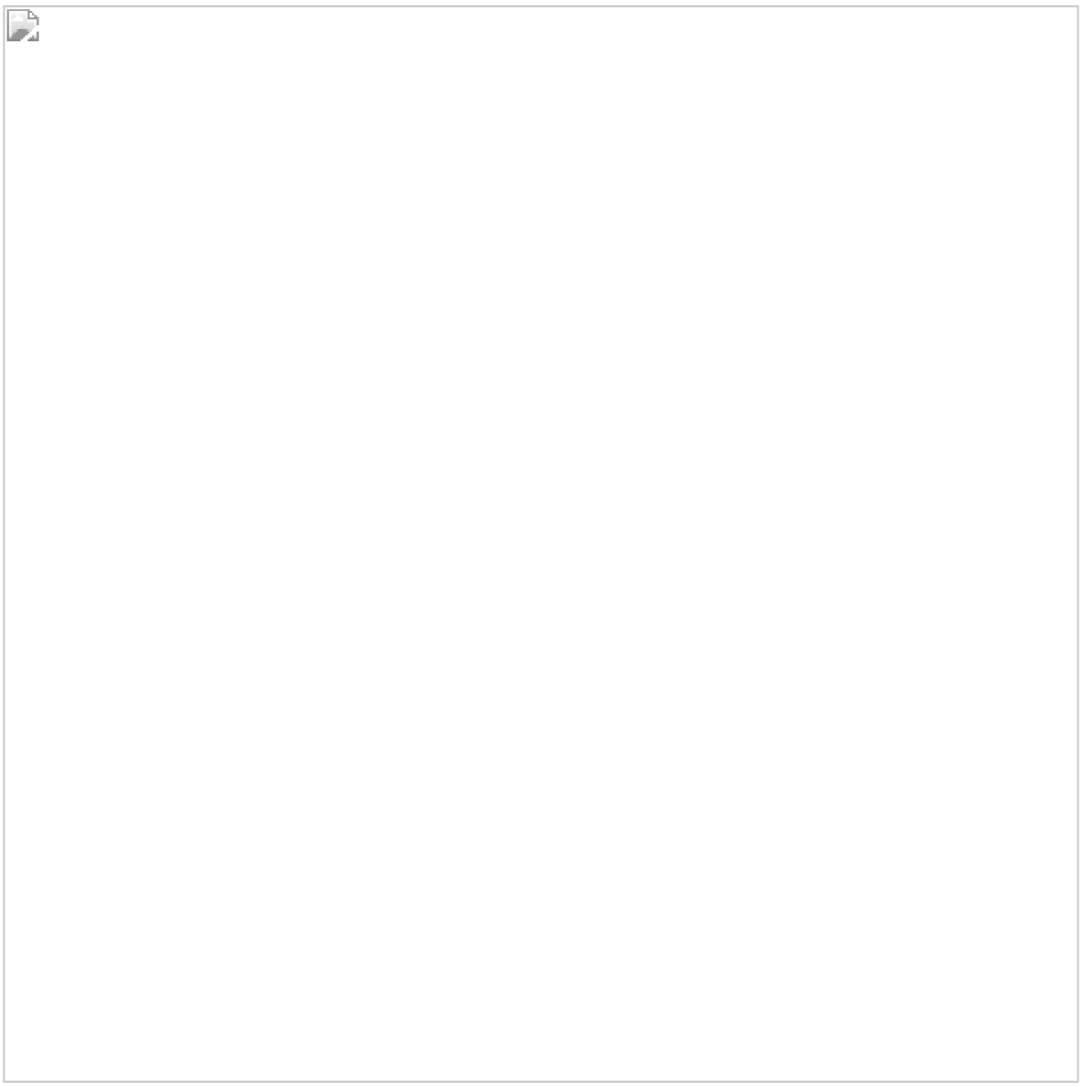
One stormy night she took her candle and followed the sound, through corridors and doors, to a room with a big carved bed. In it lay a thin boy with an ivory-white face and huge gray eyes, crying.

“Are you a ghost?” he whispered. “No, I am not,” said Mary. “Are you one?”

“No,” he said. “I am Colin Craven.” He was Mr. Craven’s son, Mary’s cousin. He had been sick in bed all his life, and he was sure he would never grow up.

TALK ABOUT IT

Colin had been shut away and lonely too. How were Mary and Colin alike?



Think about it

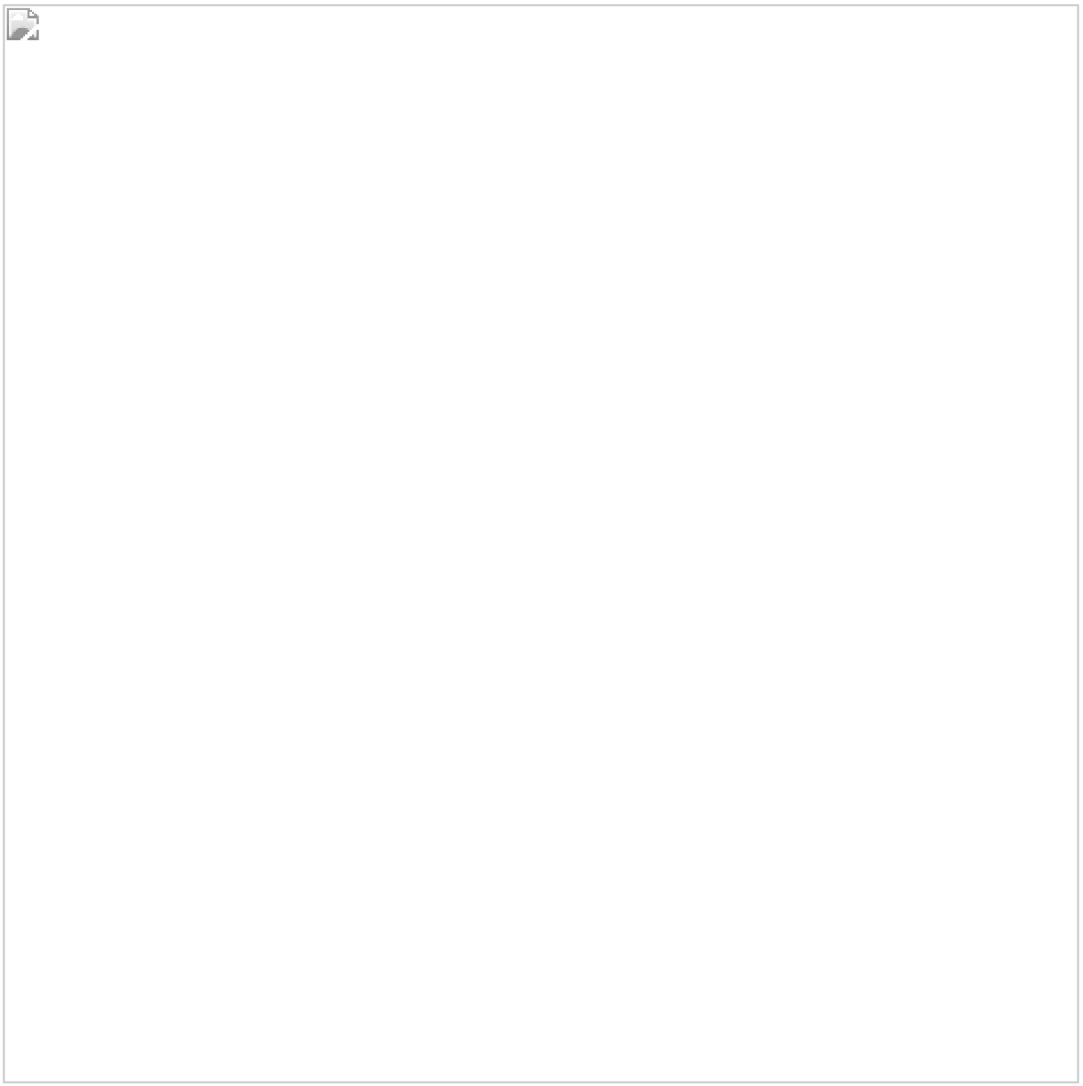
1. Who was crying in the night?

- ○ Colin, Mary's cousin
- ○ The wind
- ○ A ghost

2. What did Colin think Mary was when he first saw her?

- ○ A ghost
- ○ A nurse
- ○ A bird

Not a Lump as Big as a Pin



Colin was used to getting everything he wanted, just as Mary had been. When he was frightened, he screamed and screamed, and the whole house was afraid of him.

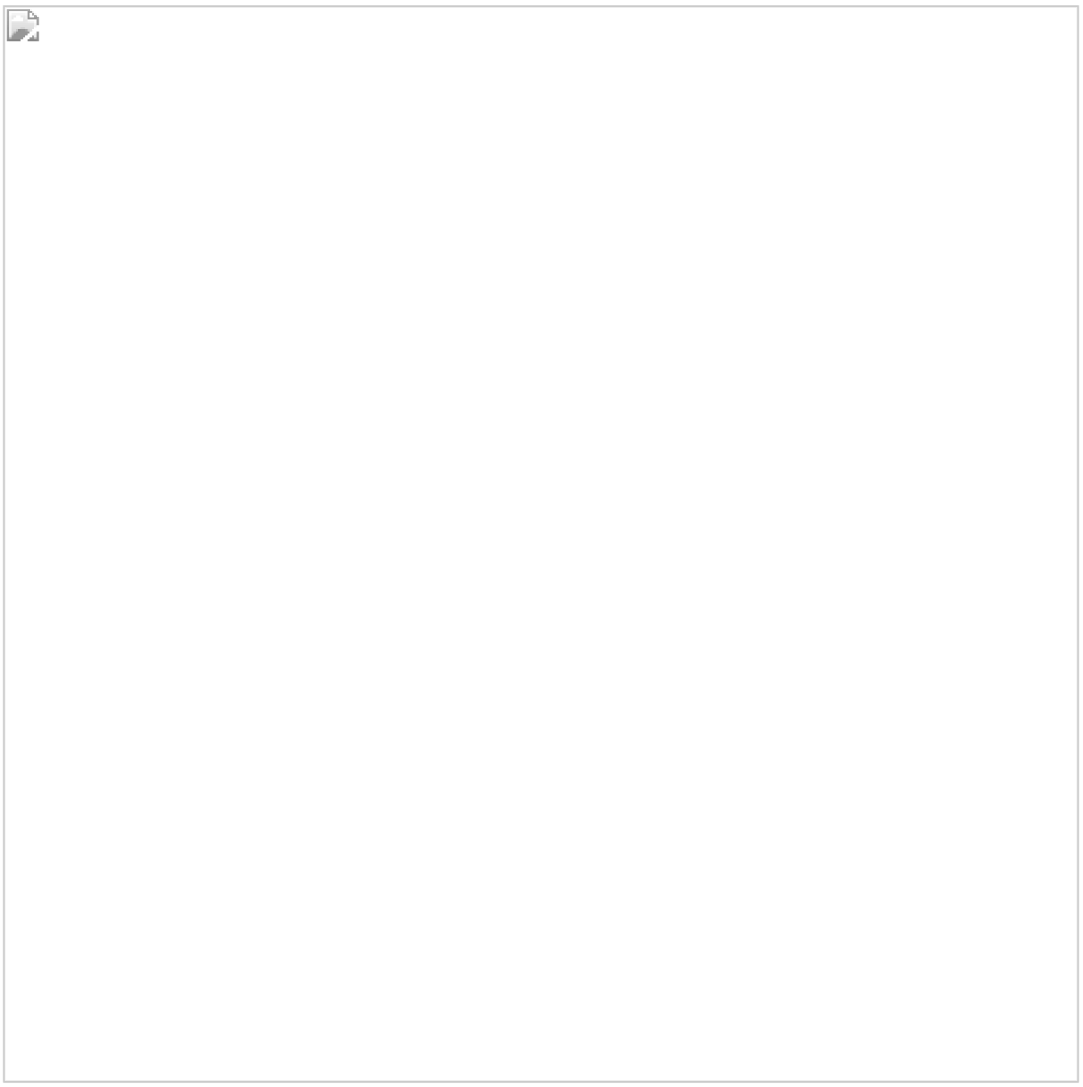
One night he screamed so long that Mary ran in. “You stop!” she shouted, as fierce as he was.

Colin sobbed that he had felt a lump on his back, and would grow crooked and die. “Turn over and let me look at it!” said Mary.

She looked very carefully up and down his thin back. “There’s not a lump as big as a pin!” she said. For the first time, Colin began to believe he might get well.

TALK ABOUT IT

Mary told Colin the truth even though she was cross. How can the truth help someone who is scared?



Think about it

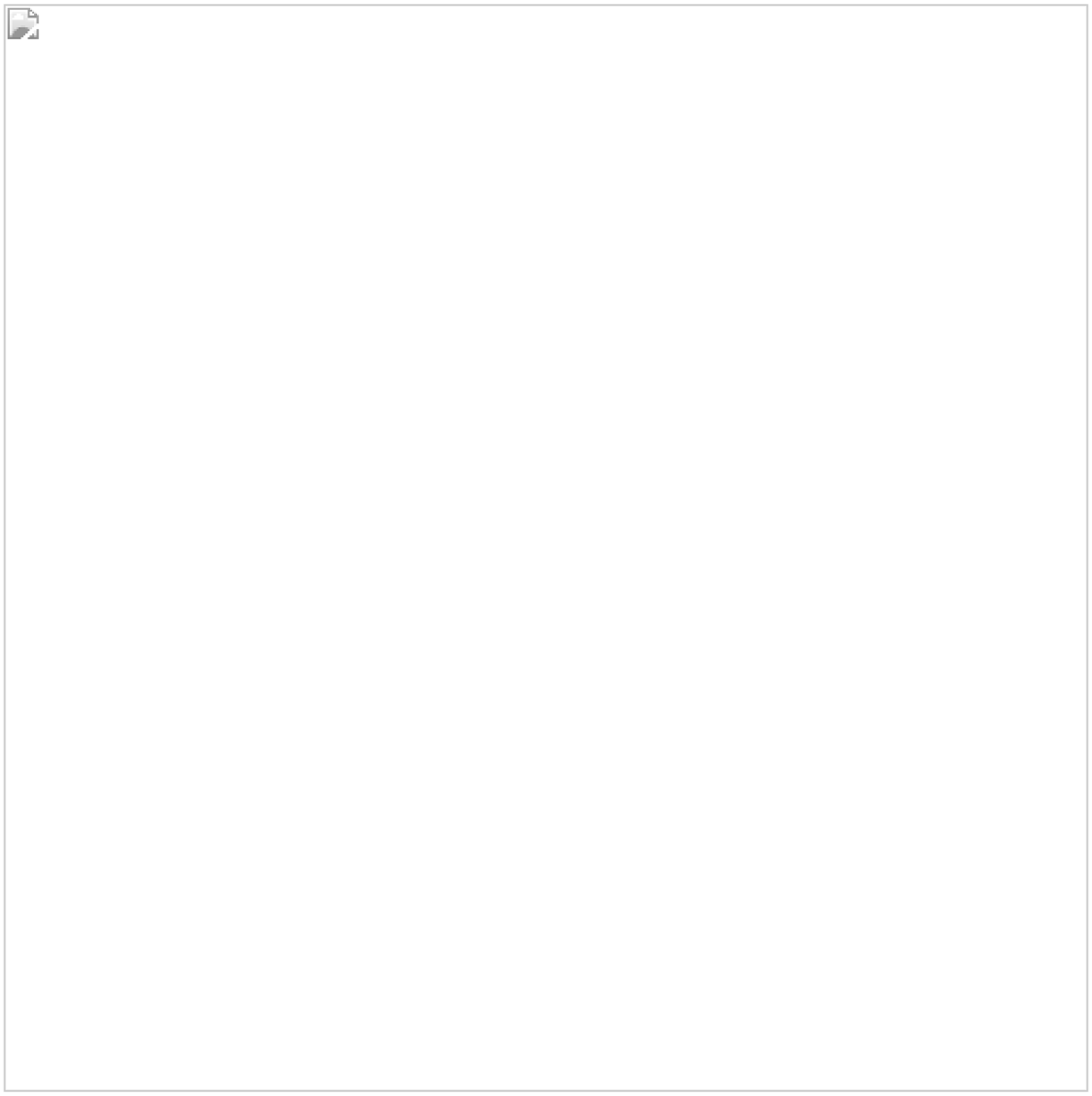
1. What was Colin afraid of?

- ○ That he had a lump and would never get well
- ○ Spiders
- ○ The dark

2. What did Mary find on Colin's back?

- ○ Not a lump as big as a pin
- ○ A big lump
- ○ A bruise

Spring Comes



Mary and Dickon told Colin about the secret garden, and he wanted to see it more than anything. Dickon brought his animals to meet him: a crow named Soot, a fox cub named Captain, two squirrels named Nut and Shell, and a newborn lamb.

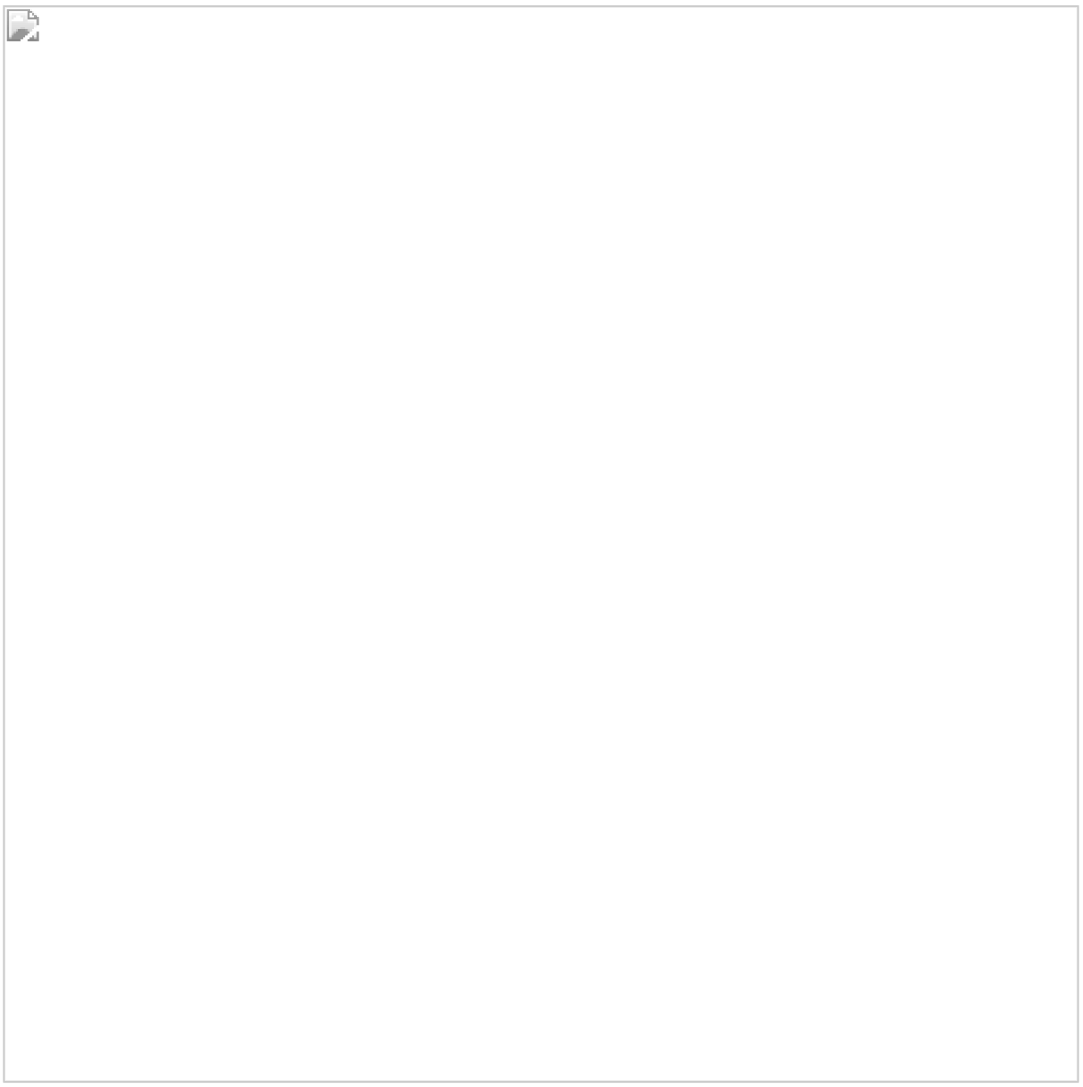
One bright spring morning, Dickon pushed Colin's wheeled chair along the paths, with Mary beside it, and they slipped through the door in the ivy.

Now crocuses and daffodils were blooming, and the roses were waking up. Colin looked and looked, and pink came into his cheeks.

"I shall get well!" he cried. "And I shall live forever and ever and ever!"

TALK ABOUT IT
If you could add one flower to the secret garden, what color would it be?

Spring Comes · another picture



Think about it

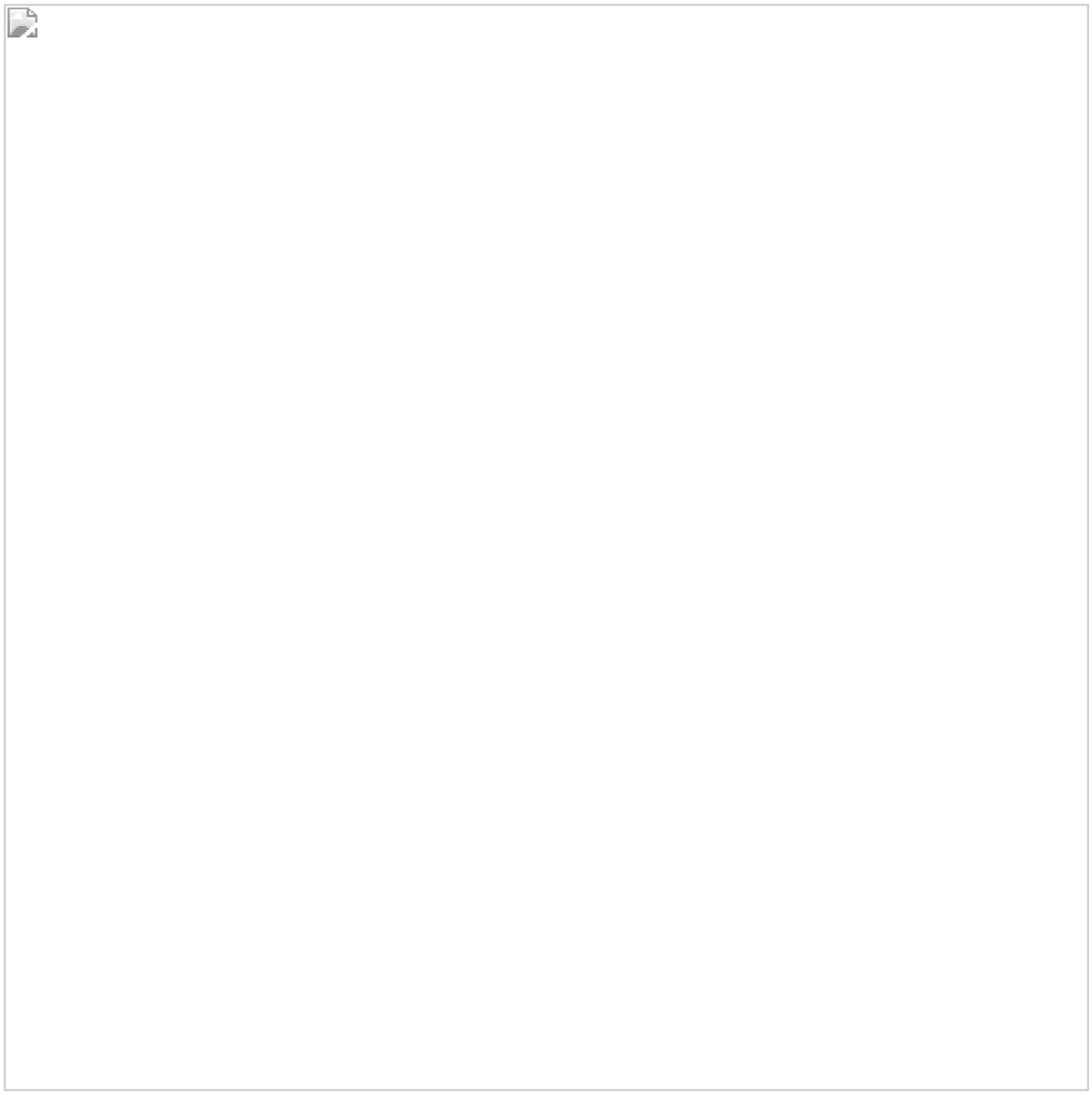
1. What was the name of Dickon's crow?

- ○ Soot
- ○ Captain
- ○ Nut

2. How did Colin get into the garden?

- ○ Dickon pushed his wheeled chair
- ○ He flew
- ○ He climbed the wall

Look at Me!



One afternoon an angry face popped up over the wall. It was old Ben Weatherstaff on a ladder! He had been Mrs. Craven's gardener, and for years he had climbed over in secret to prune her roses.

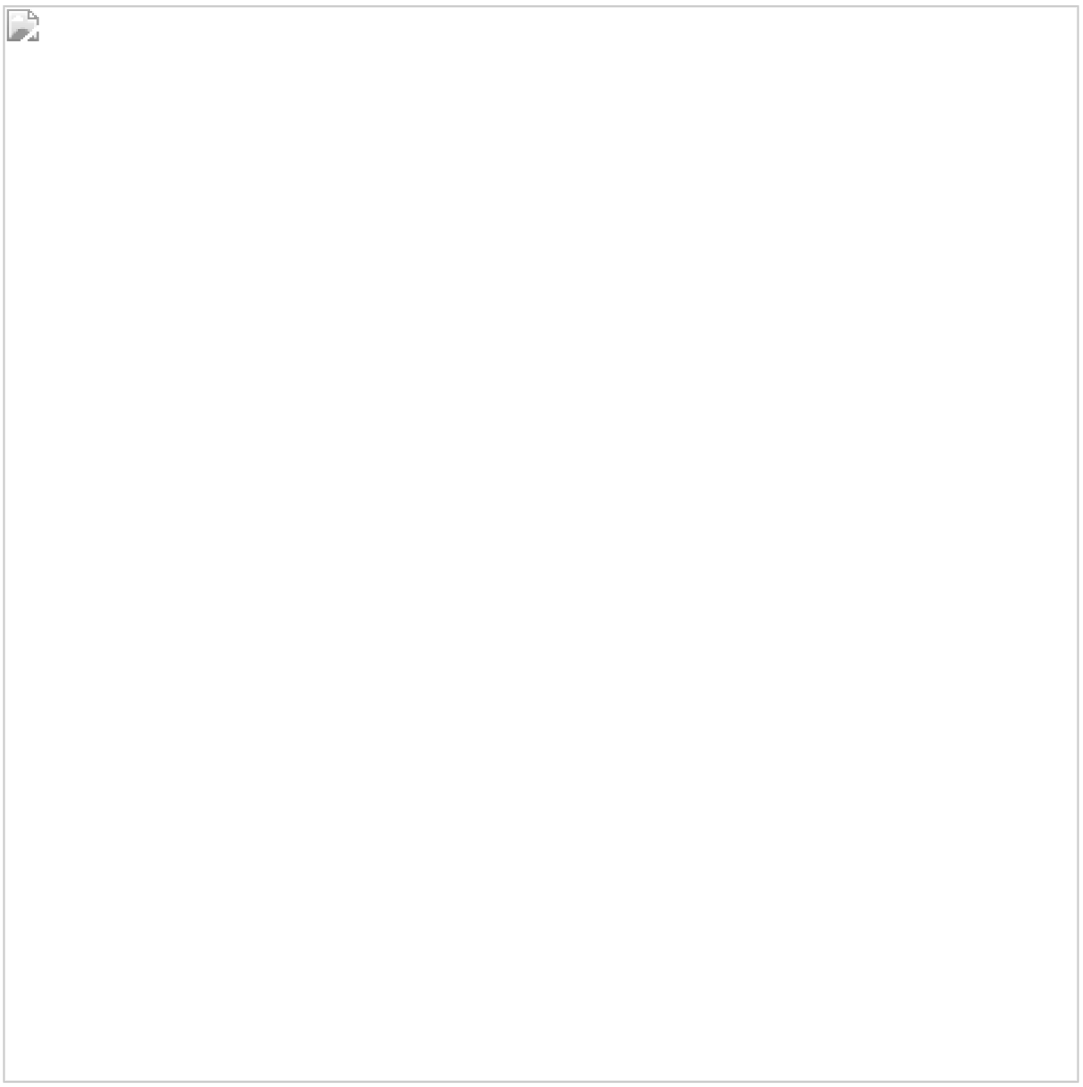
Seeing Colin in his chair, Ben asked if the boy had crooked legs. Colin was so angry that he threw off his blankets. Dickon held his arm, and Colin stood up on the grass, straight and tall.

"Look at me!" he called. "Just look at me!"

Tears ran down Ben's wrinkled cheeks. "God bless thee!" he said. "Eh! my lad!"

TALK ABOUT IT

Ben had been caring for the roses in secret for years. Why do you think he did that?



Think about it

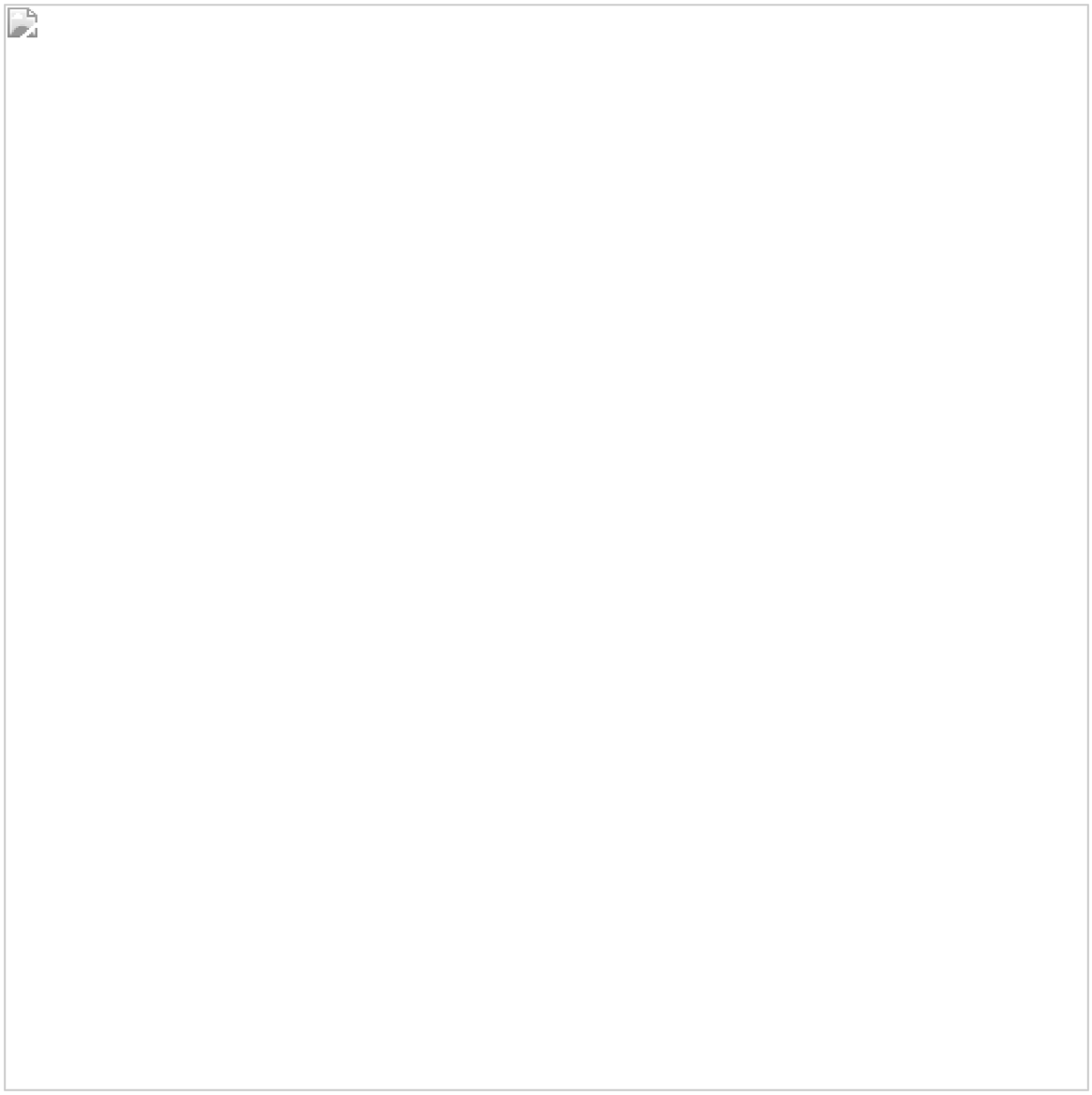
1. What did Colin do when Ben asked about crooked legs?

- ○ He stood up straight and tall
- ○ He hid under his blanket
- ○ He ran home

2. Why was Ben crying?

- ○ He was so glad to see Colin stand
- ○ He hurt his hand
- ○ He was angry

A Song of Thanks



Every day Colin grew stronger. He called the growing, the sunshine and the getting well “the Magic.” One morning he felt so thankful he wanted to shout.

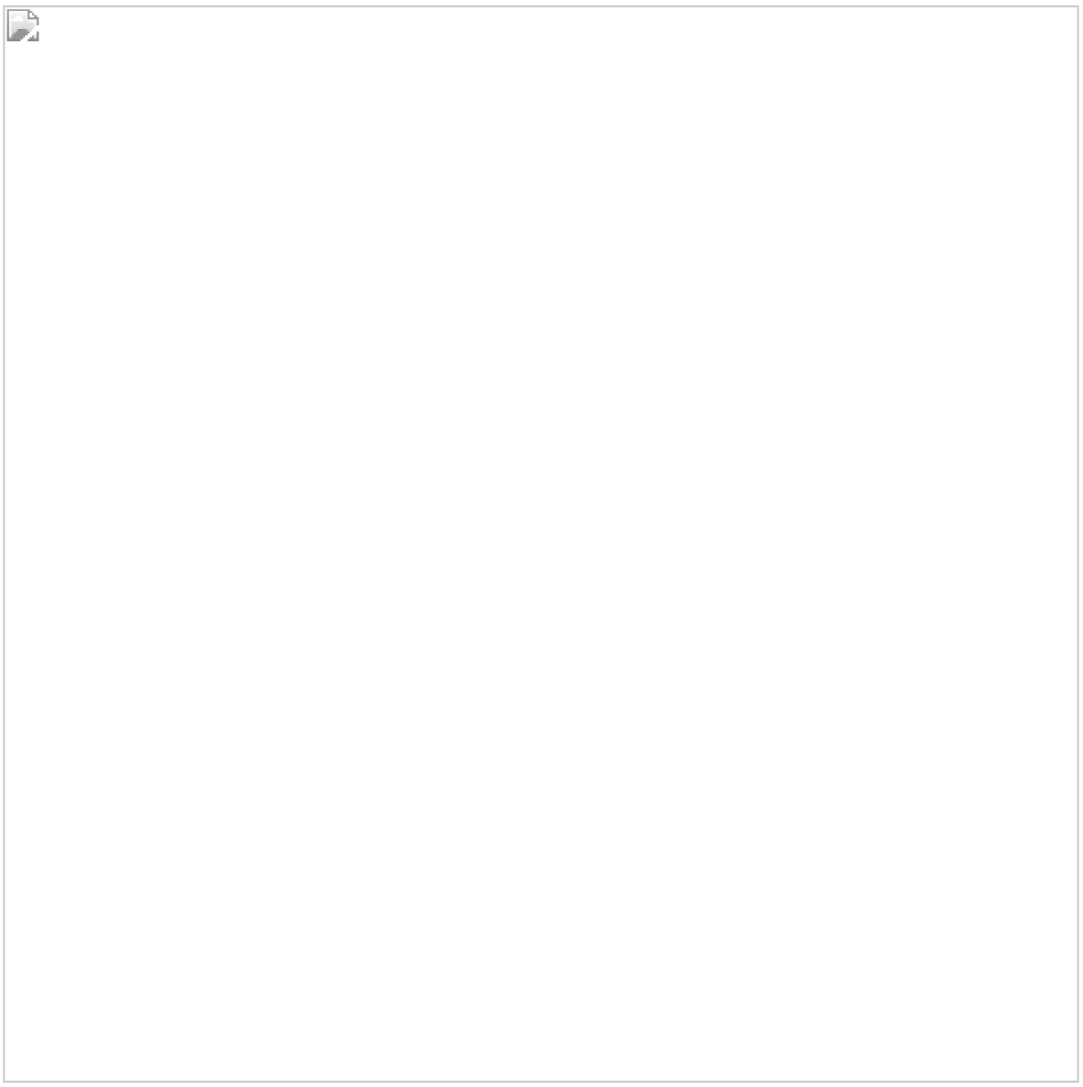
“Tha’ might sing th’ Doxology,” said Ben. “I’ve never been in a church myself,” said Colin. So Dickon took off his cap and sang the church’s song of thanks:

“Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise Him all creatures here below.”

“It is a very nice song,” said Colin. “I like it.” Old Ben’s cheeks were wet. Dickon’s mother came in, in her blue cloak. “I wish you were my mother,” Colin told her, “as well as Dickon’s!”

TALK ABOUT IT

Colin wanted to say thank you for getting well. What would you say thank you for today?



Think about it

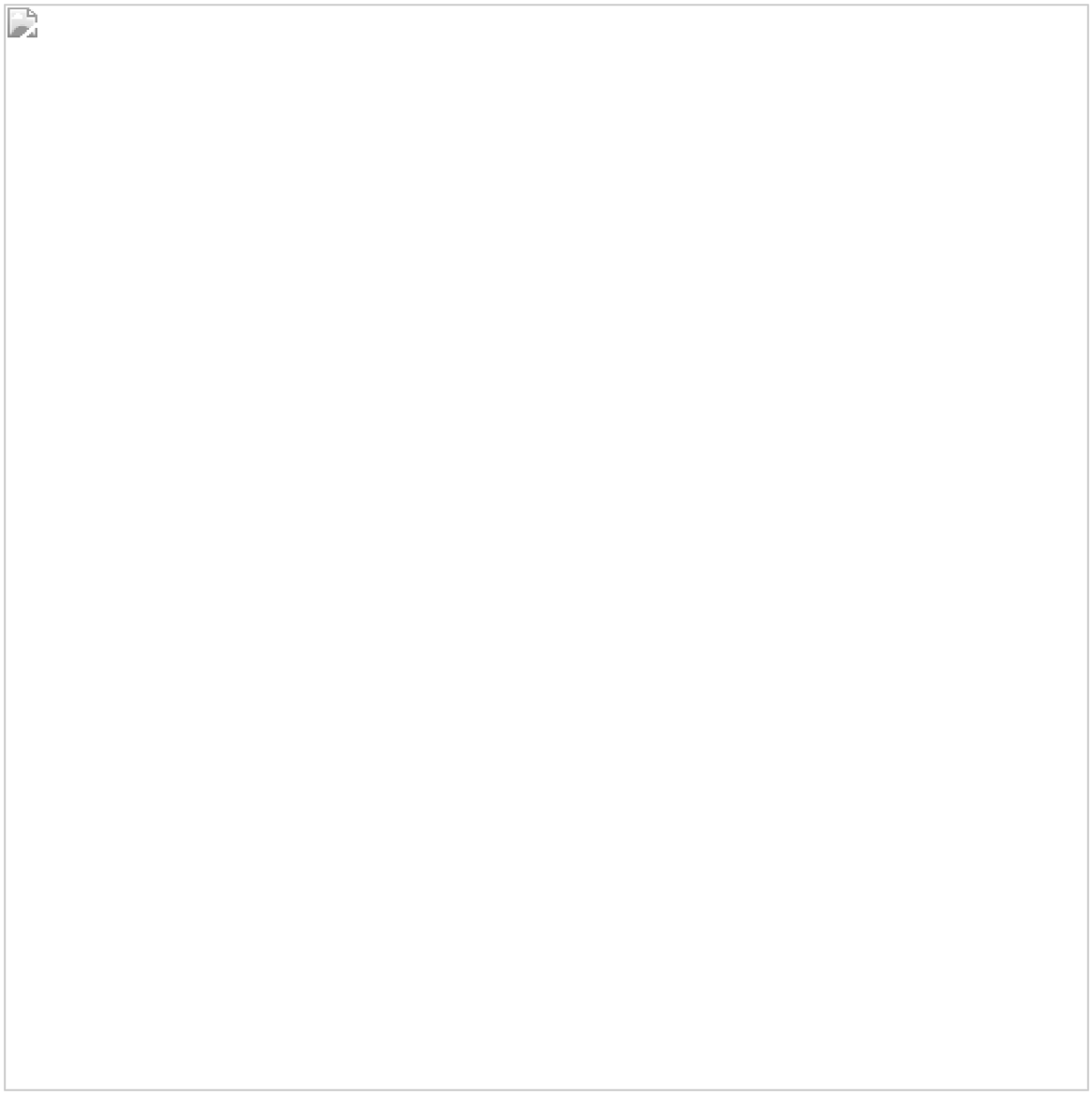
1. Who sang the song first?

- ○ Dickon
- ○ Mary
- ○ Mrs. Medlock

2. What did Susan Sowerby wear?

- ○ A blue cloak
- ○ A red crown
- ○ A white apron

In the Garden



Far away, Mr. Craven dreamed he heard his wife's voice calling, "In the garden! In the garden!" Then a letter came from Susan Sowerby: "I would come home if I was you." So he came home.

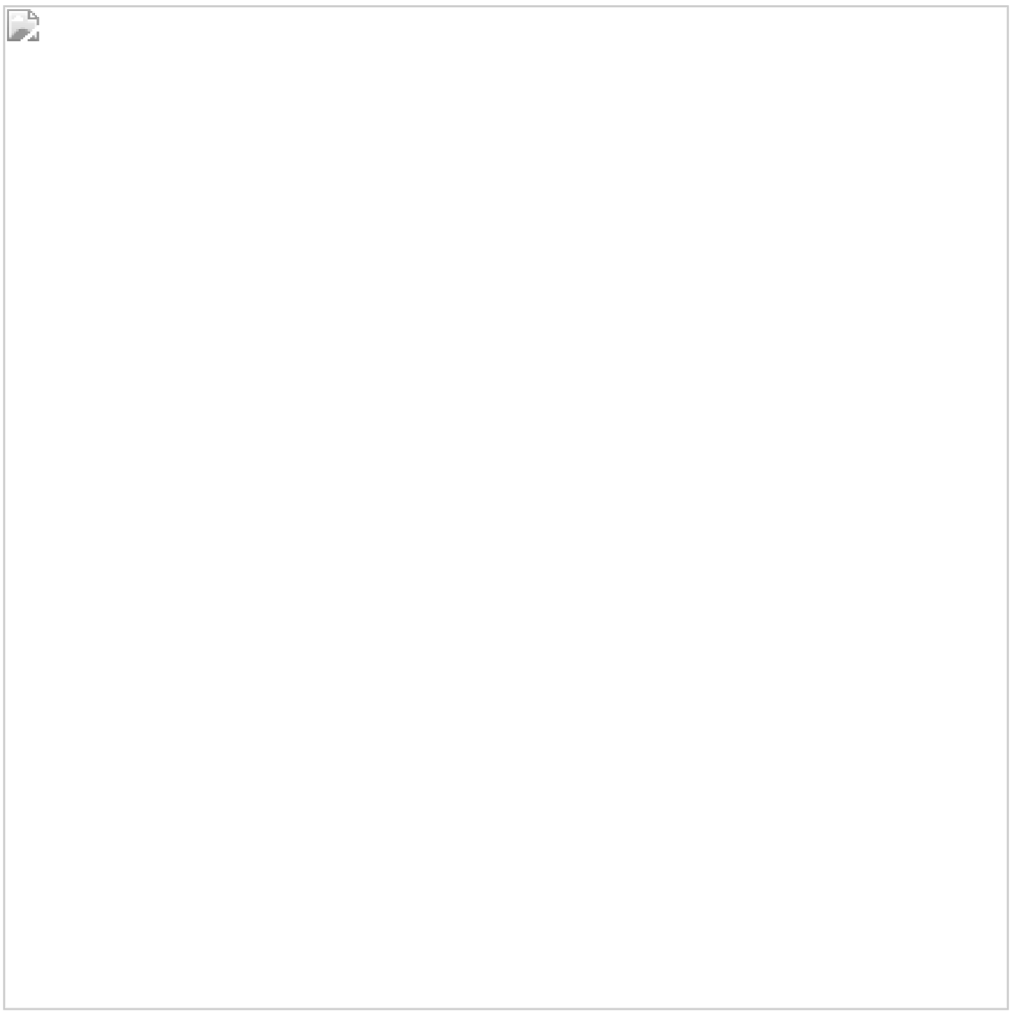
At the door hidden in the ivy, he heard running feet and laughter. The door flew open, and a tall, strong boy dashed straight into his arms.

"Father," he said, "I'm Colin." Mr. Craven could hardly speak for joy.

Inside, the garden was full of late roses and lilies. "I thought it would be dead," said Mr. Craven. "Mary thought so at first," said Colin. "But it came alive."

TALK ABOUT IT

The garden came alive, and so did Mary, Colin and his father. What changed each of them?



Think about it

1. Who ran out of the garden into Mr. Craven's arms?

- ○ Colin
- ○ Ben
- ○ The robin

2. Who helped the garden, and Colin, come alive?

- ○ Mary, Dickon, Ben and the robin
- ○ Nobody
- ○ Only Mrs. Medlock

3. Which part of the secret garden would you most like to see? Why?

“There is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”

— Yeshua HaMashiach

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