

THE SECRET GARDEN: MOVIE VERSION

Study Guide compares the novel *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett to the movie version *The Secret Garden* (1993) starring Kate Maberly, Heydon Prowse, Andrew Knott, John Lynch, and Maggie Smith. Directed by Agnieszka Holland. Warner Bros.



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SAMPLE THE SECRET GARDEN: MOVIE VERSION

THE MOVIE VERSION OF *THE SECRET GARDEN* IS NOT LIKE THE BOOK by Frances Hodgson Burnett

RECOMMENDED MOVIE: *The Secret Garden* (1993) starring Kate Maberly, Heydon Prowse, Andrew Knott, John Lynch, and Maggie Smith. The main plot line and characters survive this film even though seven chapters of the book are partially or completely omitted from the movie. The movie was filmed in Yorkshire which adds to its authenticity.

HOW ACCURATE IS THE MOVIE VERSION OF THE BOOK?

Plot: ★★☆☆☆ **Characters:** ★★☆☆☆ **Setting:** ★★★★★
Structure: ★★☆☆☆ **Symbols:** ★★★★★ **Theme:** ★★★★★

WHAT'S IN THE BOOK THAT'S NOT IN THE MOVIE?

Susan Sowerby, Dr. Craven, Nurse, cholera, Reverend Crawford, Basil Crawford, Pitcher, Colin's resemblance to his mother, buried key, weight gain, Yorkshire dialect, Mary's seeds and garden tools, stone oven, tree limb that caused the accident, Bob Haworth exercises, Colin's lectures, Hindustani song, the Doxology.

WHAT'S IN THE MOVIE THAT'S NOT IN THE BOOK?

Earthquake, broken ivory elephant, twin sisters, Mary's resemblance to Colin's mother, garden swing, puppet show, leg machine, ice bath, blind man's bluff, night-time ritual in the garden, key in the music box drawer, photographs, deer, goat, Honker the goose, Mr. Craven's dogs.

WHAT'S THE SAME?

The secret garden, Dickon's animals, robin, jump rope, wheelchair, Mr. Craven's dream, Colin's tantrums, portrait of Colin's mother, Martha, Mrs. Medlock, and Ben Weatherstaff.

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THE MOVIE: SUMMARY

The following is a scene-by-scene comparison of the movie to the corresponding chapters in the book.

THE MOVIE: CHAPTER 1

OPENING SCENE: Mary Lennox is an English girl who lives in India. (**ACCURATE**) Mary was born in India and brought up by an Ayah, an Indian nanny, who dresses her every morning. (**ACCURATE**) Mary's parents neglect her. (**ACCURATE**) Mary breaks her mother's carved ivory elephant. (**ERROR:** Not in the book) Mary survives an earthquake, but her parents do not. (**ERROR:** In the book Mary's parents die in a cholera epidemic)

OMISSIONS: The Indian servants call Mary Missie Sahib. Mary is a spoiled, selfish child who always gets her way. She is so difficult that the English governesses her parents hire to teach her do not last more than a few months. One day when Mary is playing, she overhears a conversation between her beautiful mother and a young military officer. The young man asks Mary's mother why she did not go away to the hills two weeks ago. Mary's mother says she stayed to go to a "silly dinner party." Just then there is the sound of wailing from the servants' quarters. The young man says the wailing means someone has died.

Someone later explains to Mary that her Ayah and three other servants have died of cholera. Mary hides in the nursery where she cries and sleeps. Mary ventures downstairs to the dining room where food has been left on the table. She eats some fruit and biscuits. Mary is thirsty so she drinks a glass of wine. The wine makes her drowsy so she returns to the nursery and falls asleep. When Mary wakes up, no one comes for her. She watches a harmless snake that has come under the door. Finally two British officers find her in the nursery. Mary is told that her father and mother have both died of cholera. Mary is to be sent to live with her uncle at Misselthwaite Manor in England.

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