Synopsis of Frances Hodgson Burnett’s Secret Garden

Mary Lennox is an unwanted young girl who was born and brought up in India. She was surrounded by several native-servants who were ready to obey her and she was taken care of by an Ayah. Although she always gets everything she wants, she never feels a real happiness in a family, since her parents are so busy with their work.

After her parents’ death because of cholera, Mary has to sail away to Yorkshire, England and stays with her hunchback uncle, Mr. Archibald Craven. Here, in Misselthwaite Manor she finds companionship through the maid of the house, Martha and her brother Dickon and then with her uncle’s son Colin. Beyond her knowledge, they have put great effects on her life. She learns several new things and she begins to have a better character and a positive point of view in facing her life.

Then she has found the hidden garden which is closed for ten years. She is so eager to change the garden into a beautiful one again, so she asks Dickon to help her. As she is so excited working in the garden, she does not realize that her appearance is changed. She is getting fatter and more beautiful than the first time she comes to Misselthwaite Manor.

Mary is aware to be influenced by Martha and Dickon and this has affected Mary to change into a better person. Mary has decided to help and
influence Colin too as a result. They become friends and there is a lot to talk about. Mary has changed Colin to become a person who has hope in his life by giving him encouragement that he is going to be alive and healthy as ever. Mary has turned into a better person because of her surroundings which have influenced her, the garden has been changed into a beautiful one again because of Dickon’s and Mary’s effort.
Biography of Frances Hodgson Burnett

Frances Hodgson Burnett was born in Manchester, England, she migrated to Knoxville, Tennessee in the United States after the death of her father in 1854. She was an English playwright and an author. Since her family lived in bad circumstances, she had to support them by writing plays and novels, then published them. Her main writing talent was combining realistic details of working-class life with a romantic plot.

And then she married Dr. Swan M. Burnett of Washington, D.C. in 1873. After being settled in the United States, she began to write novels such as *Haworth’s* (1879), *Louisiana* (1880), *A Fair Barbarian* (1881), and *Through One Administration* (1883), as well as a play, *Esmeralda* (1881), was written by Frances Hodgson Burnett and William Gillette.

In 1886 she published *Little Lord Fauntleroy*. It was originally intended as a children’s book, but had a great appeal to mothers. Her later works includes *Sara Crewe* (1888) – later rewritten as *A Little Princess* (1905), *The Lady of Quality* (1896) – considered one of the best of her plays, and *The Secret Garden* (1909) – for which she is probably best known today.

Frances Hodgson Burnett died in Plandome, New York and is buried in Roslyn Cemetery nearby, next to her son Vivian.