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Before You Read

Mary

My name is Mary Lennox. I grew up in India. My parents are dead, so I live with my uncle in a huge castle. Most days you can find me working hard in my secret garden. This is a very special place, where I can meet friends, play with the animals, and enjoy nature.



Dickon

Hi, I'm Dickon. I love animals. They are my friends. I spend most of my time in the gardens at Misselthwaite Manor. Gardening is my favorite pastime. I think everyone should be outside working in gardens.



Colin

I'm Colin Craven, Archibald Craven's son. I'm very sick, so I spend most of my time alone, in bed. I read a lot but I wish I had friends to talk to and to play with outside.

I forget what having fun is like.



Archibald Craven

My name is Archibald Craven. Sadly, my wife died ten years ago in our garden. I travel all over the world, so I don't have time to see my son. I don't mean to be a bad father—it's just that seeing my son reminds me how much I miss my wife.



Chapter One



Mary Lennox

Mary Lennox had a thin little face and a thin little body, thin light¹ hair and a very sour² expression³. She never smiled—not once during the long trip to England.

She had come from India where a terrible disease⁴ had killed thousands of people. Among the dead were Mary's mother and father. She didn't miss⁵ them very much since⁶ she hardly⁷ knew them. Her parents were always away somewhere for important business. Mary Lennox hardly even knew what their faces looked like.

1. **light** [laɪt] (a.) 淺色的
2. **sour** [saʊr] (a.) 脾氣壞的
3. **expression** [ɪkˈspresjən]
(n.) 臉色；表情
4. **disease** [dɪˈziːz] (n.) 疾病

5. **miss** [mɪs] (v.) 想念
6. **since** [sɪns] (conj.)
因為；由於
7. **hardly** [ˈhɑːrdli] (adv.)
幾乎不



One Point Lesson

Among **the dead** were Mary's mother and father.

在喪生的人當中有瑪麗的父母親。

Mary's mother and father were among **the dead**.

瑪麗的父母親在喪生名單中。

the + (adj.) : 有一些形容詞常與定冠詞 **the** 連用，構成複數名詞。

e.g. the rich 富有的人 the poor 貧窮的人

Instead of parents, Mary had servants¹ that took care of² her. She only needed to ask people for whatever she needed. Unfortunately, Mary grew up believing that everybody was her servant.

Now that³ Mary's parents were dead, the girl had only one relative⁴. His name was Mr. Archibald Craven. Mary didn't know anything about the man. But she would live in his house until she was eighteen years old.

When Mary finally arrived in England, Mrs. Medlock, Archibald Craven's housekeeper⁵, met her at the port⁶.



"Are you my servant?" Mary asked.

"Hmmm!" grunted⁷ Mrs. Medlock. "You'd better mind⁸ your manners⁹! I work for your uncle. Not for you! I'm supposed to¹⁰ bring you to Yorkshire¹¹. That's where your new home will be. Follow¹² me.

We have to catch the two o'clock train. Hurry up!"



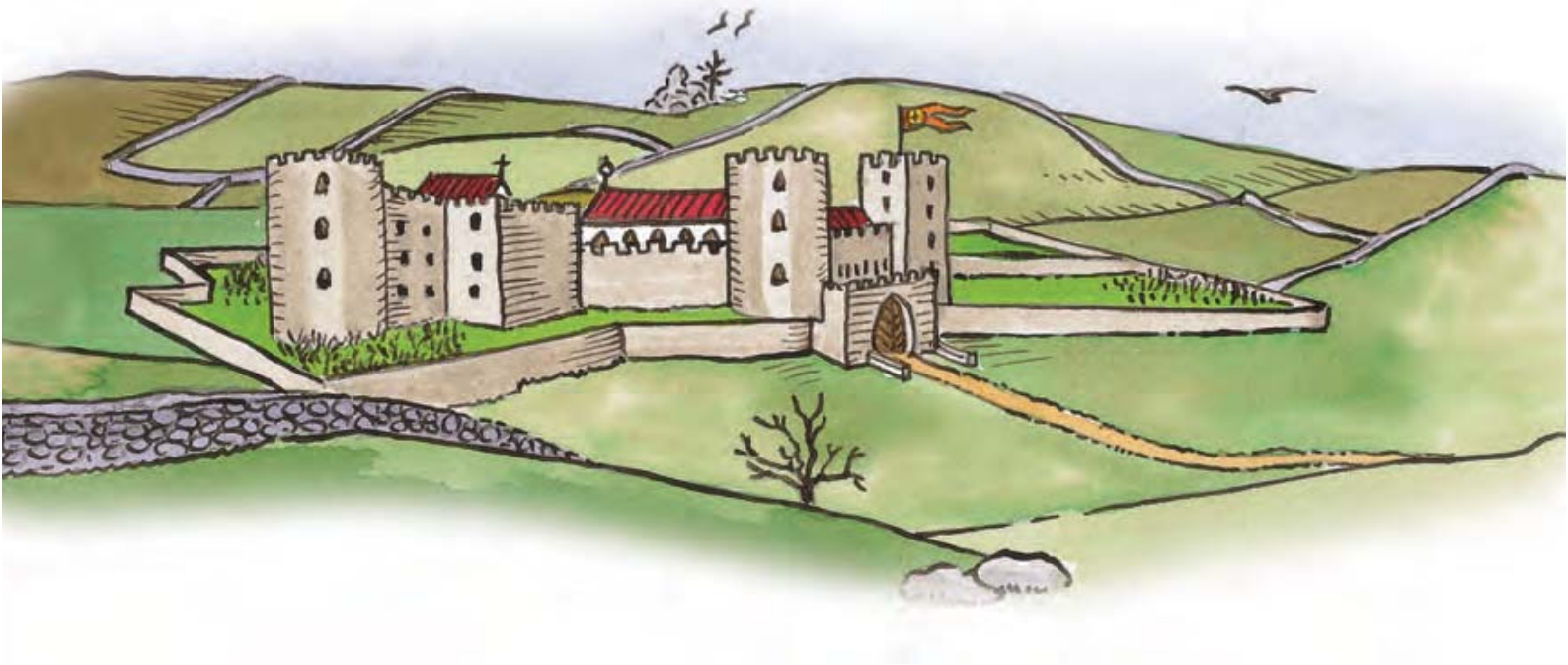
On the train, Mary mostly just stared out the window and watched the English landscape¹³ roll by¹⁴. How different it seemed from India!

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. servant [ˈsɜːrvənt] (n.) 僕人 | 9. manners [ˈmænərz] (n.) 態度；舉止 |
| 2. take care of 照顧；處理 | 10. be supposed to 應該…… |
| 3. now that 既然 | 11. Yorkshire 約克郡（英格蘭東北的一郡） |
| 4. relative [ˈrelatɪv] (n.) 親戚 | 12. follow [ˈfɒləʊ] (v.) 跟隨 |
| 5. housekeeper [ˈhaʊs,ki:pər] (n.) 管家 | 13. landscape [ˈlændskeɪp] (n.) 景色 |
| 6. port [pɔːrt] (n.) 港口 | 14. roll by 消逝 |
| 7. grunt [grʌnt] (v.) 咕噥著說 | |
| 8. mind [maɪnd] (v.) 注意；留意 | |

“Wake up, dear¹. We’ve arrived. It’s time to go to Misselthwaite Manor,” said Mrs. Medlock.

“What’s ‘Misselthwaite Manor?’”

“That’s the name of your new home. It’s a huge² castle³ that has belonged to⁴ the Craven family for hundreds of years. It has a very big lake beside it and many gardens. There are a hundred rooms in the house. Most of them are locked⁵, though.”



1. dear [dɪr] (a.) 親愛的
2. huge [hju:dʒ] (a.) 巨大的
3. castle ['kæsl] (n.) 城堡
4. belong to 屬於……
5. lock [lɔ:k] (v.) 鎖上
6. crooked ['kru:kɪd] (a.)
彎腰曲背的

7. set [set] (v.) 使處於
8. nowadays ['naʊədeɪz]
(adv.) 現今；當下
9. once in a while 有時
10. either ['i:ðər] (adv.)
(用於否定句) 也

“Why are they locked?” Mary asked.

“Mr. Craven likes it that way.”

“Why?”

“Well, it’s a long story. Mr. Craven is a crooked⁶ man. That set⁷ him wrong. He was a sour young man until he was married. His wife was very beautiful, and he loved her very much.

When she died he became even stranger. He locked himself in his room for months. Nowadays⁸, he comes out once in a while⁹. But he hardly ever meets people. I’m sure he won’t meet you, either¹⁰.”



One Point Lesson

- It's a huge castle that **has belonged** to the Craven family for hundreds of years.

這個大城堡是屬於克萊文家的，已經有數百年之久。

have + 過去分詞：現在簡單完成式是用以銜接過去和現在的時態，強調在某方面與現在有關的過去動作或事件。表示「時間持續多久」要用 for 來連接。

- e.g. I **have lived** here in London **for** ten years.

我住在倫敦這裡已經有十年了。

A True or False.

- ① Mary had come from India. ☐ T ☐ F
- ② In India, Mary often dressed herself. ☐ T ☐ F
- ③ When Mary arrived in England, she thought that everyone was her servant. ☐ T ☐ F
- ④ Archibald Craven was Mary's father. ☐ T ☐ F
- ⑤ Mary never felt lonely at Misselthwaite Manor. ☐ T ☐ F
- ⑥ Mary didn't care very much about the secret garden. ☐ T ☐ F



B Match.

- | | | | |
|----------------------|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| ① Beside the house | • | • | ① were not blooming yet. |
| ② Mary dreamed about | • | • | ② there was a big lake. |
| ③ There are a | • | • | ③ a boy crying.
hundred rooms |
| ④ The flowers | • | • | ④ in Misselthwaite Manor. |
| ⑤ Ten years ago | • | • | ⑤ Mr. Craven's beautiful wife died. |

C Choose the correct answer.

- ① Why did Mr. Craven lock himself into his room?
(a) Because his wife died and he was shy.
(b) Because his wife died and he was sad.
(c) Because his wife died and he was poor.
- ② What would happen when the weather got warmer?
(a) Mary would find a secret garden.
(b) The trees in the orchard would have fruit on them.
(c) Flowers would start to bloom.

D Rearrange the sentences in chronological order.

- ① Mary was sent to England to live with her uncle.
- ② Everyone in the house, except for Mary, died of a terrible disease.
- ③ Mary's uncle didn't want to see her.
- ④ Mary lived in India with her mother and father.
- ⑤ Mary traveled by train to Yorkshire.

_____ ➡ _____ ➡ _____ ➡ _____ ➡ _____

Understanding the Story

English Children in India

When Mary Lennox arrived at Misselthwaite Manor, she was a very rude child. Her bad behavior is a reflection of the way she was raised in India. In 1911, the time that Frances Hodgson Burnett wrote *The Secret Garden*, Britain controlled all of India. Hundreds of British people, like Mary's parents, went to India to help govern the country.





Most of them lived like kings with many Indian servants who did everything for them. The British children of these families must have felt like little princes and princesses.

They were looked after by Indian servants who had to do anything that the children asked. These servants even put on the children's clothes for them! It was not surprising that some of these children became spoiled and lazy.

However, these children may also have felt neglected by their parents. Usually the parents were too busy with their jobs or social lives to spend time with their own children.

