

'The Secret Garden' Comprehension

Use the text to help you answer the questions below.

💡 If you see a light bulb next to the question, you will need to think about your own thoughts or opinions, based on what you have read.

1. Why is Mary 'disagreeable' to look at?

She has a little thin face and a little thin body, thin light hair and a sour expression.

2. Which adjectives are used to describe the baby at the bottom of p.1?

The adjectives are: sickly, fretful and ugly

3. Give 3 things that we find out about the girl's mother on p.3:

Any 3 of the following: Mary's mother is tall, slim, pretty and wears lovely clothes. Her hair was like curly silk; she had a delicate little nose and large laughing eyes.

4. Which simile is used to describe the effects of the cholera outbreak?

People are dying like flies

5. What is the impact of the wine on Mary?

It makes her very drowsy - she can hardly keep her eyes open.

6. Why isn't Mary frightened of the snake?

He is a harmless little thing that won't hurt her. He is in a hurry to get out of the room.

7. Why is Mary frowning when she is found?

She was beginning to get hungry and felt disgracefully neglected.

8. How can you tell that Mary is angry that she has been forgotten?

She stamps her foot

💡 9. Why do you think that the servants who haven't died have left the house quickly?

Appropriate answers, e.g. They left the house because they are scared that they are going to get cholera too and die like the others. The text says how quickly it spread and so they don't want to be at risk of catching it.



💡10. How do you think Mary feels at this point in the story?

Appropriate answers, e.g. I think Mary feels scared but she is hiding it by appearing angry and annoyed with the two officers that have found her. Although she doesn't often like people or care about them, I think she will be worried about what will happen to her now that no one is around to look after her.

