

Wednesday 3rd June 2020

Guided reading –

WALT - retrieve and infer to answer comprehension questions

Good morning children.

Today we are going to continue our reading on The Secret Garden.

We learnt the young Mary Lennox had a hard upbringing and this had made her quite angry and selfish. She was not looked after by her parents only the servants who were ordered to keep her out of sight.

The last part of the extract ends when a young boy brings disturbing news to her mother.



It Was The Knob Of A Door

Page 3

pretty person and wore such lovely clothes. Her hair was like curly silk and she had a delicate little nose which seemed to be disdainful things, and she had large laughing eyes. All her clothes were thin and floating, and Mary said they were 'full of lace.' They looked fuller of lace than ever this morning, but her eyes were not laughing at all. They were large and scared and lifted imploringly to the fair boy officer's face.

'Is it so very bad? Oh, is it?' Mary heard her say.

'Awfully,' the young man answered in a trembling voice. 'Awfully,

Mrs Lennox. You ought to have gone to the hills two weeks ago.'

The Mem Sahib wrung her hands.

'Oh, I know I ought!' she cried. 'I only stayed to go to that silly dinner party. What a fool I was!'

At that very moment such a loud sound of wailing broke out from the servants' quarters that she clutched the young man's arm, and Mary stood shivering from head to foot. The wailing grew wilder and wilder.

'What is it? What is it?' Mrs Lennox gasped.

'Someone has died,' answered the boy officer. 'You did not say it had broken out among your servants.'

'I did not know!' the Mem Sahib cried. 'Come with me! Come with me!' and she turned and ran into the house.

After that appalling things happened, and the mysteriousness of the morning was explained to Mary. The cholera had broken out in its most fatal form and people were dying like flies. The Ayah had been taken ill in the night, and it was because she had just died that the servants had wailed in the huts. Before the next day three other servants were dead and others had run away in terror. There was panic on every side, and dying people in all the bungalows.

During the confusion and bewilderment of the second day Mary hid herself in the nursery and was forgotten by everyone. Nobody thought of her, nobody wanted her, and strange things happened of which she knew nothing. Mary alternately cried and slept through the hours. She only knew that people were ill and that she heard mysterious and frightening

sounds. Once she crept into the dining room and found it empty, though a partly finished meal was on the table and chairs and plates looked as if they had been hastily pushed back when the diners rose suddenly for some reason. The child ate some fruit and biscuits, and being thirsty she drank a glass of wine which stood nearly filled. It was sweet, and she did not know how strong it was. Very soon it made her intensely drowsy, and she went back to her nursery and shut herself in again, frightened by cries she heard in the huts and by the hurrying sound of feet. The wine made her so sleepy that she could scarcely keep her eyes open and she lay down on her bed and knew nothing more for a long time.

Many things happened during the hours in which she slept so heavily, but she was not disturbed by the wails and the sound of things being carried in and out of the bungalow.

When she awakened she lay and stared at the wall. The house was perfectly still. She had never known it to be so silent before. She heard neither voices nor footsteps, and wondered if everybody had got well of the cholera and all the trouble was over. She wondered also who would take care of her now her Ayah was dead. There would be a new Ayah, and perhaps she would know some new stories. Mary had been rather tired of the old ones. She did not cry because her nurse had died. She was not an affectionate child and had never cared much for anyone. The noise and hurrying about and wailing over the cholera had frightened her, and she had been angry because no one seemed to remember that she was alive. Everyone was too panic-stricken to think of a little girl no one was

fond of. When people had the cholera it seemed that they remembered nothing but themselves. But if everyone had got well again, surely someone would remember and come to look for her.

Questions –

1. What frightening news did the boy bring to Mrs Lennox?

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2. Why had Mrs Lennox stayed behind?

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

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4. True or false - Mary hid herself in the dining room and was forgotten by everybody _____

5. Why did Mary become so sleepy? _____

6. Write 2 different emotions that Mary felt during this time and explain why she felt them.

Questions –

1. What frightening news did the boy bring to Mrs Lennox?

The Cholera disease had broken out.

2. Why had Mrs Lennox stayed behind?

To attend a dinner party

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

People were dying like flies.

4. True or false - Mary hid herself in the dining room and was forgotten by everybody _

False - it was the nursery.

5. Why did Mary become so sleepy? **She had drunk wine.**

6. Write 2 different emotions that Mary felt during this time and explain why she felt them.

Frightened – because of the noise and wailing

Angry – nobody had looked for her

Confused – she didn't understand what was going on

