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Personality Profiles

Many characters have been introduced in the first eight chapters of *The Secret Garden*. It is important to truly understand these people before continuing with the story. In a small group, analyze the characters by using the questions below to help generate insights into their personalities.

Mary: Describe Mary’s personality. What words does the author use to describe Mary? How has Mary’s personality changed since the beginning of the book? Can you think of a character from another book, T.V. show, or movie that is similar to Mary? How are they alike?

Mrs. Medlock: Does Mrs. Medlock have any family or children of her own? The author describes Mrs. Medlock as a woman that would “stand for no nonsense from young ones.” What do you think this means? Do you think Mrs. Medlock is happy to have Mary at Misselthwaite Manor?

Martha: What type of person is Martha? What did she think of Mary when she first met her? Does she like her job? What does she do on her only day off each month? Does she come from a large family? What do you think Martha thinks about Mrs. Medlock?

Mr. Craven: Mr. Craven is an extremely wealthy man. How do you think he became so wealthy? Is he very happy? Why doesn’t he want to see Mary? What might happen if they met? Does he have any family? Why do you think he travels so frequently?

Who are the following characters? What are they like?

Ben Weatherstaff: _____

Pitcher: _____

Dickon: _____

Yorkshire Speech

The Secret Garden is full of examples of the way people in Yorkshire speak. Sometimes it is easy to determine what Martha is saying and other times it is somewhat difficult. Below are several Yorkshire phrases found in *The Secret Garden*. It is your group's job to be language detectives and try to discover what these sayings mean. The first one is done for you.

1. “ ‘out o’ doors’ ” **outside; outdoors** _____

2. “ ‘Tha’rt like th’ robin’ ” _____

3: “ ‘I think tha’ art th’ queerest little lass I ever saw.’ ” _____

4. “ ‘Run on an’ get thy victuals.’ ” _____

5. “ ‘Tha’ looks as if tha’d somethin’ to say.’ ” _____

6. “ ‘Tha’rt not nigh so yellor and tha’rt not nigh so scrawny.’ ” _____

7. “ ‘Tha’ munnot waste no time.’ ” _____

8. “ ‘We mun get him watchin’ an’ listenin’ an’ sniffin’ up th’ air an’ get him just soaked through wi’ sunshine.’ ” _____

9. “ ‘Tha’ shouldn’t have done it—tha’ shouldn’t! Tha’ll get me in trouble.’ ” _____

10. “ ‘Th’ world’s all fair begun again this mornin’, it has. An’ it’s workin’ an’ hummin’ an’ scratchin’ an’ pipin’ an nest-buildin’ an’ breathin’ out scents, till you’ve got to be out on it ’stead o’ lyin’ on your back.’ ” _____
