



Alice in Wonderland

Lewis Carroll

1. Read. Read this extract.

Down, down, down. ‘When will the hole end?’ she wondered. ‘Perhaps I’m going to come out in Australia ! I’ll have to ask the name of the country. “ Please, madam, is this Australia or New Zealand?” No, I can’t do that. They’ll think I’m stupid.’

She thought about her cat, Dinah. ‘What’s Dinah doing? Will they remember her milk tonight? Oh, Dinah! Why aren’t you here with me ? Perhaps there’s a mouse here and you can eat it!’

Suddenly, Alice was at the bottom of the hole. ‘That didn’t hurt,’ she said and sat up quickly. She could see the White Rabbit and she ran after him again. They were in a different rabbit-hole now.

‘Oh, my ears and nose !’ the White Rabbit cried. ‘It’s getting very late!’

He ran faster and vanished through another hole. Alice followed him through the hole. Now she was in a very long room. She looked round for the White Rabbit, but she couldn’t see him anywhere.

There were four doors in the room, but Alice couldn’t open them. Also, she couldn’t see the hole anywhere. ‘How am I going to get out?’ she wondered.



Lewis Carroll, real name Charles Dodgson, wrote Alice in Wonderland in Oxford in 1865.

2. Read. Answer the questions. Use maximum four words.

1. What does Alice go down?
2. Who is Dinah?
3. Why is the White Rabbit running?
4. Where does Alice follow the White Rabbit to?
5. What couldn't Alice open?

3. Think. Discuss.

What should Alice do next? Match the sentence halves and choose solution 1 or 2.

Solution 1: Wait for the rabbit to return

a. and open the doors.

Solution 2: Look for the keys

b. because she can't see the hole.

4. Compare.

Imagine you see the white rabbit.

What do you do? Tick.

- a. Follow the white rabbit like Alice because I love adventures.
- b. Run away and go home because I don't like adventures.

B

Three Short Stories of Sherlock Holmes

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

1. Read. Read this extract from *Sherlock Holmes and the Important Exam Paper*.

‘That’s interesting,’ Holmes said.

‘One more thing,’ Mr Soames said. ‘I have a new desk – but now there’s a cut on it!’

Holmes thought for a minute or two, then he said, ‘I’ll help you, Mr Soames. Now, tell me something. Did anybody visit you in your room after the exam paper came to you?’

‘Yes, young Daulat Ras, an Indian student,’ Mr Soames said. ‘He wanted to ask me about the exam. But he couldn’t read the paper. I put a book on top of it.’

‘But he saw it,’ Holmes said. ‘He saw the exam paper on your desk before you hid it?’

‘Perhaps.’

‘Did any other people know about the exam paper? Did Bannister?’

‘No,’ Mr Soames said. ‘Nobody.’

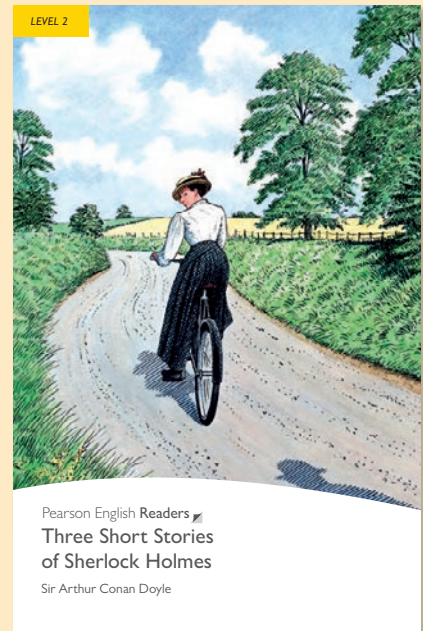
‘Where is Bannister now?’

‘I left him in my room.’

‘Did you leave your door open?’ Holmes asked.

‘Yes, but I locked the paper in my desk first,’ Mr Soames said.

‘Let’s go to your office,’ Holmes said.



Arthur Conan Doyle wrote more than 60 Sherlock Holmes stories between 1887 and 1927.

2. Read. Match the sentence halves.

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| 1. Sherlock Holmes agreed | a. knew about the exam paper. |
| 2. Holmes asked Soames if | b. to help Mr Soames. |
| 3. Nobody else | c. but locked the paper in his desk. |
| 4. Soames left Bannister | d. Daulat Ras had seen the exam paper. |
| 5. Soames left the door open | e. in his room. |

3. Think. Discuss.

Tick the 5 characteristics a good detective needs. Add two more.

- | | | | |
|----------------|--------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| a. intelligent | <input type="checkbox"/> | e. adventurous | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. anxious | <input type="checkbox"/> | f. observant | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. curious | <input type="checkbox"/> | g. | |
| d. astute | <input type="checkbox"/> | h. | |



Three Short Stories of Sherlock Holmes

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

4. **Compare.** Does your country have a famous fictional detective? Read this bio for Holmes and write about your detective below. Maximum 100 words.

Sherlock Holmes was born in 1854. He had an older brother, Mycroft. Holmes studied science at a prestigious UK university but when he was twenty years old he decided to become a private detective. His home and office were at 221B Baker Street in central London. His friend Dr Watson worked with him and often narrated the stories. He also lived with Holmes for a number of years. Together they helped Scotland Yard to solve many unusual crimes.



Macbeth

William Shakespeare

1. Read. Read this extract.

LADY MACBETH: He brings great news. [*The messenger leaves.*] [*to herself*] So fate is leading Duncan to my castle. Come, supernatural powers, take away all my womanly qualities and make me strong and cruel from head to foot. Do not let me feel pity, or change my mind. Come, black night, and cover everything with dark smoke so that nobody will see my crime, or try to stop it. [*Macbeth enters. Lady Macbeth runs to him and throws her arms round him.*] Great Thane of Glamis, noble Thane of Cawdor! And you are going to be even greater than these! Your letter has made me forget the present. I can only think about the future.

MACBETH: My dearest love, Duncan is coming here tonight.

LADY MACBETH: And when will he leave?

MACBETH: He is planning to leave tomorrow.

LADY MACBETH: Oh, tomorrow will never come for him! But your face, my Thane, is like an open book where people can read strange things. If you want to trick people, you have to look more innocent. We must make arrangements for Duncan, and you must give me control of the important business that we have to do tonight.

MACBETH: We will discuss this later.

LADY MACBETH: Fear nothing. Leave everything to me.



William Shakespeare wrote this play in the early 1600s. It was probably first performed in 1606 for King James I.

2. Read. Are the sentences 1-5 true, false or not given? Put a cross (X) in the correct box.

1. Lady Macbeth wants to be strong and cruel.
2. She is thinking about the past.
3. Duncan will visit the Macbeth castle.
4. He will leave the following day.
5. Macbeth will control everything.

	T	F	NG
1.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. Think. Discuss.

What does the phrase '... like an open book...' mean? Choose the correct definition.

- a. It means that someone shows the way they are feeling and what they are thinking on their face.
- b. It means that someone hides the way they are feeling and what they are thinking on their face.



Macbeth

William Shakespeare

4. Compare.

Do you know these famous writers from around the world? Match each writer and their book to the right country.

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| 1. Dante Alighieri, <i>The Divine Comedy</i> | a. India/Canada* |
| 2. Harper Lee, <i>To Kill a Mocking Bird</i> | b. England |
| 3. Rupi Kaur, <i>Milk and Honey</i> | c. Afghanistan/America* |
| 4. Jane Austen, <i>Pride and Prejudice</i> | d. Italy |
| 5. Khaled Hosseini, <i>The Kite Runner</i> | e. America |

* The writer emigrated here from their birth country.

D Pride and Prejudice

Jane Austen

1. Read. Read this extract.

‘It is *not* Mr Bingley,’ said her husband. ‘It is a person whom I have never seen in the whole of my life.’

This caused general astonishment, and he had the pleasure of being eagerly questioned by his wife and all five of his daughters at once.

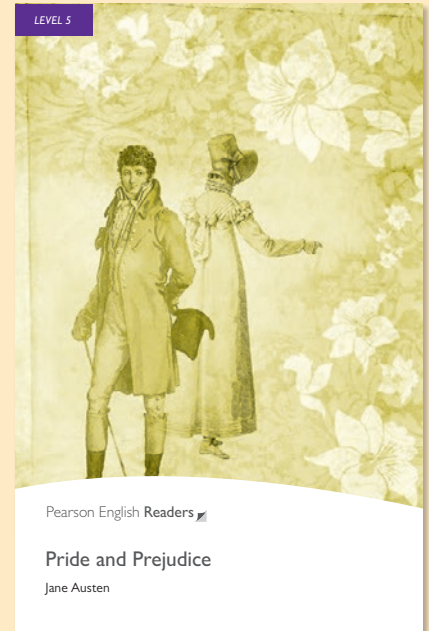
After amusing himself for some time by not answering their questions, he explained:

‘A short time ago I received a letter. It was from my cousin, Mr Collins, who, when I am dead, may put you all out of this house as soon as he pleases.’

Mr Bennet’s property was, unfortunately for his daughters, to pass by law after his death to his nearest male relative, a distant cousin.

‘Oh, my dear,’ cried his wife, ‘I cannot bear to hear that mentioned. Please do not talk of that hateful man.’ It was a subject on which she could never see reason.

‘But if you will listen to his letter, you may perhaps be a little softened by his manner of expressing himself:



Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen was published in 1813.

2. Read. Match the sentence halves.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Mr Bennet has got | a. from his cousin. |
| 2. He received a letter | b. change her opinion of Mr Collins. |
| 3. Mr Collins will inherit | c. want to talk about Mr Collins. |
| 4. Mr Bennet’s wife doesn’t | d. a wife and five daughters. |
| 5. The letter might make Mrs Bennet | e. the Bennets’ home one day. |

3. Think. Discuss.

- Why does Mr Bennet’s wife hate Mr Collins?



Pride and Prejudice

Jane Austen

4. Compare.

Women's rights have changed in England since 1813.

Tick the things women could do in 1813 and the things they can do in the 21st century.

Women's rights to:	1813	21 st century
own a house		
vote in an election		
be a Member of Parliament		
be an accountant or a lawyer		
inherit property		
access free health care		
receive equal pay		



Wuthering Heights

Emily Brontë



1. Read. Read this extract.

‘It’s time that you behaved,’ I said. ‘You have hurt Catherine’s feelings. You are too proud. If you’re ashamed, you must ask pardon. And though I have dinner to get ready, I’ll make time to arrange you so that Edgar Linton shall look like a baby beside you. You are younger, but you’re taller and twice as broad across the shoulders. You could knock him down in a second.’

Heathcliff’s face brightened for a moment, then it darkened again.

‘But Nelly, it wouldn’t make him less good-looking. I wish I had light hair and a fair skin, and was as well dressed and rich as he!’

‘And cried for his mother and sat at home all day if there is a little rain!’ I added. ‘Oh, Heathcliff, you are showing a poor spirit! Now, look in the glass and tell me if you don’t find yourself rather good-looking too, now you’re washed and combed and have finished with your bad temper. For all we know, your father was a king in some faraway country, and your mother a queen, and you were seized as a child by wicked sailors, and brought to England!’

Wuthering Heights is the only book that Emily Brontë wrote: it was published in 1847 and she died in 1848.

2. Read. Complete the sentences. Choose (a), (b), (c) or (d).

- Heathcliff has hurt _____ feelings.
(a) Nelly’s (b) Catherine’s (c) Edgar’s (d) his mother’s
- Heathcliff must _____ .
(a) make dinner (b) knock Edgar down (c) say sorry (d) look like a baby
- Heathcliff has got _____ .
(a) dark hair and dark skin (c) light hair and dark skin
(b) dark hair and light skin (d) light hair and light skin
- Heathcliff looks _____ after he’s had a wash, combed his hair and isn’t in a bad temper.
(a) worse (b) the same (c) bad (d) better
- Maybe Heathcliff’s parents were _____ .
(a) wicked sailors (b) a king and queen (c) brought to England (d) children

3. Think. Discuss.

- Why does Heathcliff think Edgar is better than he is? Talk to a partner.

4. Compare.

- | | | |
|------------------|---------|---------|
| a. Their clothes | c. | e. |
| b. | d. | |

Remember the idiom ‘Never judge a book by its cover’: get to know people, don’t judge them by what you see on the outside.



A Christmas Carol

Charles Dickens

1. Read. Read this extract.

Scrooge watched his past life. He remembered everything and enjoyed everything. He was very excited. The young Ebenezer Scrooge was, he thought, a very nice young man.

Now, at the end of the party, he remembered the ghost. The ghost looked at him. The light on its head shone yellow.

‘The party was a small thing,’ said the ghost, ‘but it made those unimportant people very happy.’

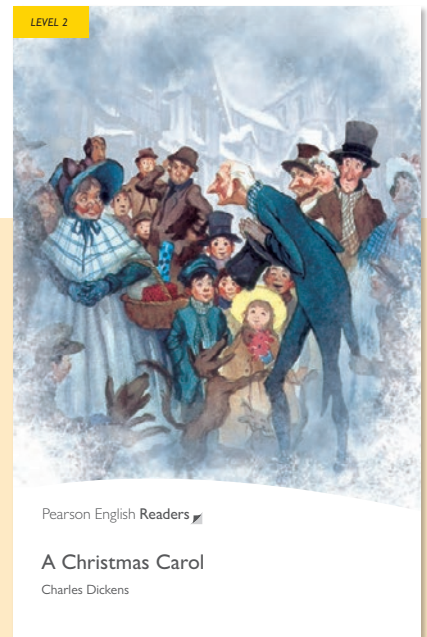
‘A small thing!’ said Scrooge. ‘No!’

‘Listen to the two young men,’ the ghost said. The two young men stood outside Fezziwig’s office in the dark and talked about Fezziwig.

One of them said, ‘He’s a fine man.’

‘Was Fezziwig really wonderful?’ the ghost asked Scrooge. ‘What do you think? The party cost a little money – not much.’

‘Oh no! It was more important than that,’ said Scrooge. ‘Fezziwig could make us happy or unhappy. He could make our work light or heavy. He could make our lives good or bad with a word or with a look. He made us happy in small ways, and with small things – but with a lot of small things. You can’t buy those small things – not with all the money in the world. You...’



Charles Dickens wrote A Christmas Carol in 1843.

2. Read. Are the sentences 1-5 true, false or not given? Put a cross (X) in the correct box.

	T	F	NG
1. Scrooge didn't remember anything.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. The young Scrooge was nice.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. The party made the unimportant people happy.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. There was a lot of food at the party.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Fezziwig spent a lot of money on the party.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. Think. Discuss.

- What small things is Scrooge referring to when he says ‘You can’t buy those small things- not with all the money in the world?’

4. Compare.

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| • <input type="checkbox"/> a smartphone | • <input type="checkbox"/> love | • <input type="checkbox"/> a games console | • <input type="checkbox"/> respect |
| • <input type="checkbox"/> peace | • <input type="checkbox"/> a scooter | • <input type="checkbox"/> family | • <input type="checkbox"/> jewellery |
| • <input type="checkbox"/> friends | • <input type="checkbox"/> holidays | | |

Remember, money can't buy happiness... but it can make life easier!



Robin Hood

Liz Austin???

1. Read. Read this extract.

Then he said, 'I have gold in my bags – six hundred pounds! But I cannot give it to you. I am going to St Mary's Abbey. This money is for the abbot.'

'That is a lot of money,' said Will, 'and the church has too much gold.'

'That is my problem,' said the man. 'The abbot wants more – five hundred pounds more – and I cannot pay him this year. Perhaps he will wait another year, but I think not. I think that he will ask for my lands – and my home too.'

'Yes,' said Robin, 'the abbot is a greedy man. Tell us your name, friend, and tell us your story too. Perhaps we can help.'

So the man told his story. His name was Richard of Lee, and his son killed a man in a fight. The man died, and the Sheriff of Nottingham's men took the boy away.

'Ah, the sheriff,' said Robin. 'Another greedy man! Did he ask for money?'

'You know him well,' answered Richard of Lee. 'He said, "Pay me one thousand pounds or your son will die!" I am not a rich man, but the Abbot of St Mary's paid the money for me. This happened last year. Now I have to pay the abbot.'



The Robin Hood stories are about a man who stole from the rich to give to the poor.

2. Read. Complete the sentences. Choose (a), (b), (c) or (d).

- Richard of Lee has six hundred pounds for _____.
(a) Robin Hood (b) the sheriff (c) the abbot (d) himself
- The man cannot pay the abbot _____.
(a) last year (b) this year (c) another year (d) next year
- Richard's son _____ in a fight.
(a) killed someone (b) was killed (c) died (d) will die
- The sheriff wanted one thousand pounds to not _____ Richard's son.
(a) die (b) kill (c) keep (d) pay
- The abbot _____ the money for Richard last year.
(a) pays (b) has paid (c) paid (d) didn't pay

3. Think. Discuss.

- Why does Robin Hood think the abbot and the sheriff are greedy? Talk to a partner.

4. Compare.

- In 12th century England, criminals were killed. Now, criminals go to prison. Is there a better solution for the future? Brainstorm in groups



King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table



1. Read. Read this extract.

Arthur left Sir Kay and quickly went to the church. There were no knights outside by the stone because they were at the fight. Arthur climbed down from his horse and went to the stone. He did not read the words on the stone. He took the sword in his hand and pulled. It came out of the stone easily.

He ran back to his horse with the sword. Some minutes later he met Sir Kay and Sir Ector again, and he showed them the sword.

‘Where did that sword come from?’ Sir Ector asked. He knew about the words on the stone.

They went back to the place outside the church, and Sir Ector put the sword in the stone again.

‘Now pull it out,’ he said to Arthur.

Arthur pulled it out. It came out as easily as a knife out of butter. Sir Ector saw this and took Arthur’s hand.

‘You are my king,’ he said.

Arthur did not understand. What did his father mean?

‘Arthur,’ Sir Ector said slowly, ‘ I love you very much, but I am not really your father. Merlin, the famous man of magic, brought you to me when you were a small child. I took you into my family because he asked me. Now I know that you are the king.’

The stories about King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table are very old. We don’t know who wrote them all.

2. Read. Answer the questions. Use maximum four words.

1. Where did Arthur pull the sword from?
2. Did Arthur read the words on the stone?
3. What did Sir Ector say when Arthur pulled the sword out again?
4. Is Sir Ector really Arthur’s father?
5. Who took Arthur to Sir Ector?

3. Think. Discuss.

- Why do you think Merlin gave Arthur to Sir Ector?

4. Compare.

Advantages	
Disadvantages	



Billy Elliott

Melvin Burgess

1. Read. Read this extract.

‘How can it be OK?’

I was frightened. He was angry and his face was white now.

‘I went to ballet classes,’ Nan said.

She was sitting near the window, watching us.

‘It’s OK for your nan. For girls, Billy, not for boys. Boys play football or they box.’

‘What’s wrong with dancing?’ I asked again.

But I knew. Ballet isn’t for boys and strong, hard men. Ballet isn’t for miners who strike for their friends. People in our town don’t dance ballet. Well, maybe I don’t want to be a miner. Maybe I’m different.

‘Forget about ballet, son, and forget about boxing,’ Dad said.

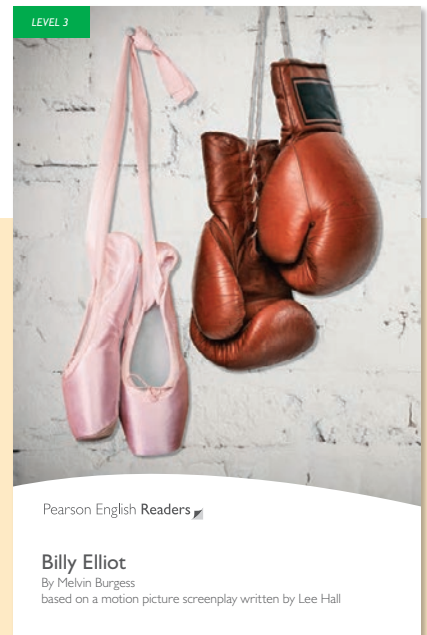
‘I’ve worked hard for those fifty pences. You can stay at home with Nan.’

‘I wanted to be a dancer,’ Nan said.

‘Be quiet!’ Dad shouted at her.

I jumped up.

‘I hate you!’ I screamed at him.



Melvin Burgess wrote the book based on a screenplay by Lee Hall.

2. Read. Match the sentence halves.

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Billy's nan went | a. that ballet is for girls. |
| 2. Billy's dad thinks | b. with his dad. |
| 3. Billy doesn't want | c. give him 50p for any lessons now. |
| 4. Billy thinks that | d. maybe he is different. |
| 5. Billy's dad won't | e. to ballet classes. |
| 6. Billy is really angry | f. to be a miner. |

3. Think. Discuss.

- Why doesn't Billy's dad want him to be a ballet dancer?



Billy Elliott

Melvin Burgess

4. Compare.

In the past, only men or women could do certain jobs. Now, men and women can do anything they want. Complete the table with the new gender neutral job titles.

bar tender • paramedic • firefighter • police officer • flight attendant • headteacher

Old job titles	New job titles
1. fireman	
2. barmaid	
3. air stewardess	
4. ambulance-man	
5. headmistress	
6. policeman	



The Canterbury Tales

Geoffrey Chaucer

1. Read. Read this extract.

As he rode through the country, the knight asked a lot of people the queen's question. He was given many different answers.

One man said, 'Ah, that's easy. Women like money more than anything.'

A woman answered, 'What do women want most in all the world? They want to be happy, of course.'

Another woman replied, 'Fine clothes. That's what they want.'

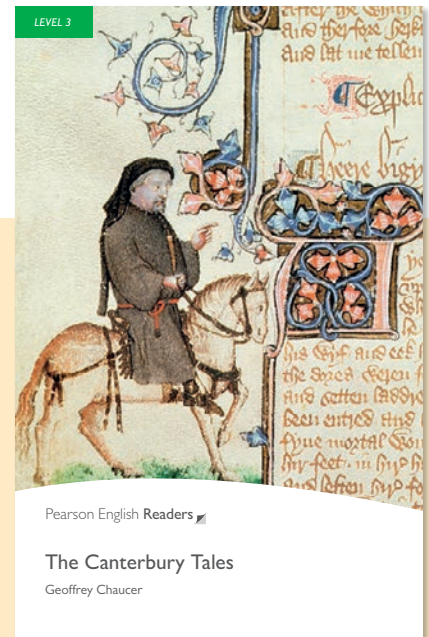
Then the knight asked some children the same question.

A little girl said, 'My mother's happy when she's cooking good food for us.'

And a little boy replied, 'My mother likes having a new baby in the family.'

'Our mother's happy when she sees our father come home at night,' said two or three children.

Many of the answers seemed good, but they were all different. 'Nobody agrees,' thought the knight sadly. 'How can I find the right answer to the queen's question?'



Geoffrey Chaucer wrote this book of short stories in the 14th century and it was printed in the 15th century.

2. Read. Answer the questions. Use maximum four words.

1. Who did the Knight ask the Queens' question to?
2. What did one man say women like more than anything?
3. What did the first woman say women want?
4. What did the second woman think women want?
5. What was the problem with the answers?

3. Think. Discuss.

- Which answer do you think was right? Why? Talk to a partner.

4. Compare.

- In the 21st century women can do anything. How would you answer the more modern form of this question: What do people want most in all the world? Max 100 words.



The Secret Garden

Frances Hodgson Burnett

1. Read. Read this extract.

Two days later, the weather changed. Mary woke up and went to the window. 'Look at the moor!' she cried to Martha. The sky was blue, and the moor looked very beautiful.

'Yes, it's nearly spring,' said Martha.

'I'd like to see your house, Martha,' Mary said.

'I'll ask my mother,' said Martha. 'She'd like to meet you.'

'I don't know your mother, but I like her,' Mary said. 'And I don't know Dickon, but I like him too.'

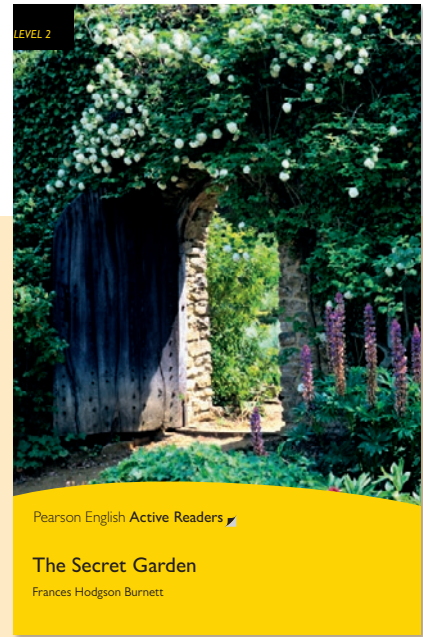
'You'll meet Dickon one day. Do you think he'll like you?' Martha asked.

'No,' said Mary in a cold, little voice. 'People never like me.'

'And do *you* like Mary?' Martha asked.

Mary thought for a minute. 'No, I don't think I do,' she said.

That morning, Mary felt sad and cross. She went outside and began to feel better. She went into the first kitchen garden and found Ben Weatherstaff there. 'Spring's coming,' he said. 'Things are growing. You watch!'



This book by Frances Hodgson Burnett was published in 1911.

2. Read. Are the sentences 1-6 true, false or not given? Put a cross (X) in the correct box.

	T	F	NG
1. The moor looks very beautiful.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. It's spring.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Martha's mother doesn't want to meet Mary.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Martha's mother is very kind.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Mary doesn't like herself.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Martha feels better outside.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. Think. Discuss.

- Why don't people like Mary? Talk to a partner.

4. Compare.

- Mary felt better when she went outside. What do you do when you feel sad or angry?