

# The Robin who Showed the Way

An extract from *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett

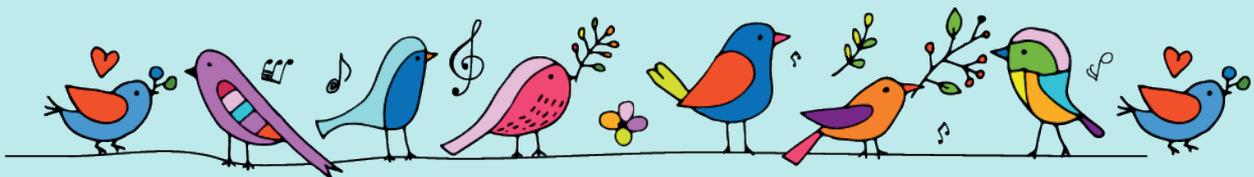
"You showed me where the key was yesterday," she said. "You ought to show me the door today; but I don't believe you know!"

The robin flew from his swinging spray of ivy on to the top of the wall and he opened his beak and sang a loud, lovely trill, merely to show off. Nothing in the world is quite as adorably lovely as a robin when he shows off – and they are nearly always doing it...

...one of the nice little gusts of wind rushed down the walk, and it was a stronger one than the rest. It was strong enough to wave the branches of the trees, and sprays of untrimmed ivy hanging from the wall. Mary had stepped close to the robin, and suddenly the gust of wind swung aside some loose ivy trails, and more suddenly still she jumped towards it and caught it in her hand. This she did because she had seen something under it – a round knob which had been covered by the leaves hanging over it. It was the knob of a door.

She put her hands under the leaves and began to pull and push them aside. Thick as the ivy hung, it nearly all was a loose and swinging curtain, though some had crept over wood and iron. Mary's heart began to thump and her hands to shake a little in her delight and excitement. The robin kept singing and twittering away and tilting his head on one side, as if he were as excited as she was. What was this under her hands which was square and made of iron and which her fingers found a hole in?

It was the lock of the door which had been closed ten years, and she put her hand in her pocket, drew out the key, and found it fitted the keyhole.



Questions about 'The Robin Who Showed The Way'

## Section 1 - RECALL

1. What did the robin do to show off?

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2. What plant was covering the door?

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3. How long did Mary think the door had been closed?

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## Section 2 - VOCABULARY

1. '*...sprays of untrimmed ivy ...*'

What does the word *untrimmed* mean?

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2. Do you think that Mary likes the robin?

Find and copy two words from the text that show this.

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

3. '*What was this under her hands which was square and made of iron and which her fingers found a hole in?*'

What effect does ending this paragraph with a question have on the reader?

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## Section 3 - INFERENCE

1. Do you think the robin knew the way to the door? Circle one.

YES

NO

Why do you think this?

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2. Why do you think Mary followed the robin, stepping closer to him?

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3. How do you think Mary is feeling as she pushed the ivy leaves aside.

Use words or phrases from the text to explain your answer.

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4. How do we know that Mary was expecting to find the door?

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## Section 4 - SEQUENCING AND PREDICTING

1. Number the events from 1-4 below to show the order that they happened.

The robin flew to the top of a wall.

Mary took out the key.

Mary discovered a round knob.

A gust of wind rushed down the walk.

2. What do you think Mary might discover behind the door?

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