

Questions about 'The first visit'

## Section 1 - RECALL

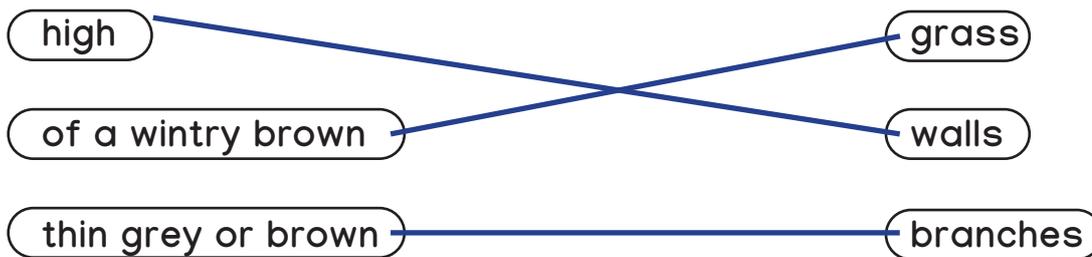
1. Name two plants that Mary saw in the garden.

Any two of the following: roses (climbing or standard), grass, bushes

2. What were '... like little trees.?'

the (standard) roses

3. Draw lines to match the words and phrases to what they are describing.



4. Where had Mary seen roses before?

in India

## Section 2 - VOCABULARY

1. Find and copy two words in the text that mean twisted and wrapped together.

tangle

and

matted

2. ‘...branches and sprays looked like a sort of hazy mantle...’

What is a mantle and how does it describe the branches and sprays?

A mantle is something that covers something else. So the branches are covering what is below it.

3. What word is used to show that the garden is very quiet?

still (stillness)

## Section 3 - INFERENCE

1. What suggests that the garden has not been visited for many years?

The roses were all overgrown and it looked like the plants might be dead.

2. What season do you think it is in the story? Circle one.

SPRING

SUMMER

AUTUMN

WINTER

(accept either)

How do you know this? Use evidence from the text to explain your answer.

Answers must refer to the season circled above and mention that nothing appeared to be growing. “I think that it might be autumn because there are no leaves on the stems of the roses and the grass is brown.” “In winter, nothing grows so the garden may not be dead, just waiting for spring.”

3. Why do you think Mary and the robin were so quiet?

Accept answers that refer to the garden already being still and quiet so that made them quiet too. Or that they did not know what was in the garden.

“Because everything in the garden was very still they did not want to disturb that.”

“The garden had not been disturbed for many years, so they did not want to make a noise and disturb that.”

“Mary did not know what was in the garden so she may be whispering so that people do not know that she is there.”

## Section 4 - SEQUENCING AND PREDICTING

1. Why do you think that no-one had been in the garden for ten years?

Answers may vary. Accept any suitable reason for a garden being left for many years (moving away, lost key, unhappy memories)

2. How might this garden compare to the gardens that Mary had seen in India?

Answers may vary. Accept descriptions of what gardens might be like in India compared with the overgrown garden in the story.

“In India the roses were probably looked after and in bloom, but here they have been left and she doesn’t know if they are dead or alive.”

“They might have more exotic flowers in India, as well as roses, because it is warmer there.”