



Years 3, 4, 5 & 6

Garden Visitors Home Learning Pack

Included in this pack:

- Reading practice
Year 3 / 4 – The robin who showed the way
Year 5 / 6 – The first visit
- Writing Task – The Secret Garden
- Secret Garden themed writing paper
- Garden Flowers Identification Chart
- Life cycles of flowering plants and animals
- Design a garden
- Wildlife journal

This home learning pack is designed for children in years 3 to 6 (ages 8–11) to complete, with some adult support where possible, over a week. This pack contains fun, engaging opportunities to develop and practise reading and writing skills that can be completed within a child's home environment, based around the topic of 'The Secret Garden'. Activity sheets are provided – but if you do not have access to a printer, all activities could be completed using any paper or writing books that you have at home.

For teachers' reference, the pack covers these key curricular skills:

Reading

- to apply their growing knowledge of root words, prefixes and suffixes, to read aloud and to understand the meaning of new words that they meet;
- to check that a text makes sense to them, answering questions including using inference.

Writing

- to create setting (years 3/4);
- to describe settings (years 5/6).

Science

- to explore plant lifecycles;
- explore classification to identify and name a variety of living things (plants);
- describe the differences in lifecycles of different animals.

Geography

- to create sketch maps and plans.

A week's worth of activities are described on the next pages, with helpful information for adults explaining how to use these resources with your child. They are designed to be as fun, practical and creative as possible – nurturing children's natural curiosity, developing their literacy skills, and keeping learning lively!

Activities

Reading practice

Year 3/4 – The robin who showed the way

Year 5/6 – The first visit

Ask your child to read the age-appropriate **extract** from the story ‘The Secret Garden’ by Frances Hodgson Burnett and discuss what it is about. Ask them to identify any words that they are unsure of and find out the meanings of these.

Your child should then answer the questions about the text, referring back to the story to help them where needed. Discuss how the author has used description to describe the setting, which will help them with the writing task.

Writing task – The Secret Garden

Reread the **extracts** from ‘The Secret Garden’ from the reading practices. Discuss how the author uses language to describe the doorway and garden.

Invite your child to draw their own secret garden. What might they see there? Explain that they are going to write a description of their garden.

Using the **writing task planning sheet**, ask your child to draw the doorway that leads them to their garden, then write answers to the questions to help them to organise ideas before writing.

Once the planning sheet is complete, your child should use the **writing paper** provided in the pack, or their own paper, to write their description of their secret garden. Remind them that this should be written as a description that they would find in a story, rather than a list of things that they can see and hear.

Once written, encourage your child to reread their work to proof-read it, thinking carefully about spelling, vocabulary choices and punctuation.

Garden Flowers Identification Chart

Use the **Garden Flowers identification Chart** to name flowers that are in your garden. If you do not have a garden, you could observe them from your window or whilst out on a walk. Encourage your child to look carefully at the identification chart to find any distinctive patterns on the petals and the flower’s shape, as some flowers come in a variety of colours. Use the space at the bottom of the sheet to draw any other flowers that you see.

Lifecycles of flowering plants and animals

In Key Stage 2, children learn about different life cycles. Use the **Life Cycles of Flowering Plants and Animals sheet** so that your child can order life cycles of different plants and animals that they might find in a garden. They could glue the life cycles onto paper, using arrows to show the lifecycle. Older children could use the writing paper to research and explain one of the lifecycles or, for an extra challenge, compare two of them. **Writing paper** is provided for this task if needed.

Activities

Design a garden

Invite your child to design their own secret garden. What would they include in it?

Use the [Design a Garden sheet](#) to create a map of their secret garden. Encourage them to use a key to identify different parts of the garden. It may help to show your child examples of maps with keys before completing the task.

Wildlife Journal

Your child can use this [journal](#) to record what animals they can see in their garden or outside their window each day. Encourage them to create their own field journal by drawing the creatures (or plants) that they see and writing brief descriptions of them.

Other activities for children to try

- Enjoy reading the book 'The Secret Garden' by Frances Hodgson Burnett. Free versions are available online for you to read. The story has also been made into a film. The popular modern author, Holly Webb, has written a lovely sequel, called 'Return to the Secret Garden', which your child might also enjoy.
- Find out more about different bird and animal species that visit British gardens and create a fact file giving information about their habitat, where they live, food, and how they move.
- Create pictures of different flowers using paints or pencils, encouraging your child to look closely. they could also try using collage, cutting paper from magazines or leaflets to create the petals.
- Make the perfect habitat for a creature in your garden. This could be making a bug hotel, planting flowers to attract bees, butterflies and other insects or adding a bird bath and/or bird feeders to attract birds. Think about what animals might need to attract them to the habitat you create.
- Look after your own plant either in the garden or in your home. What does it need to grow and stay healthy?
- Investigate plant structure. Can they find out the names of different parts of a flowering plant (leaves, stem, petal etc) and investigate its function.