

# The Secret Garden

A sensory story based on the book by  
Frances Hodgson Burnett



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David Babatunde Wilson

## Transition Music

**Music is integral to so many sensory stories. Consistent transition music at the start and end of a story helps to enable children and young people to anticipate what is coming next and to participate more fully in the story-sharing process. They also help to set the mood for the story.**

**Please feel free to choose your own transition music. The following are only suggestions:**

**Introductory music:**

- **Song from a Secret Garden – Rolf Løvland (composor)**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cxs3RCIv-8g>

**Story ending:**

- **The Secret Garden - Aurora**



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## Resources

**You will need some sensory resources available for this story.**

- **Suitcase**
- **Hat**
- **Coat**
- **Black/dark fabric**
- **Sound switch – “All by myself”**
- **Lego/Duplo wall and bricks**
- **Large key**
- **Tray of compost or edible soil**
- **Doll’s wheelchair & crutches**
- **(Possibly a real wheelchair)**
- **Sound switch rhyme – “Mary, Mary, quite contrary...”**
- **Fork & trowel**
- **Roses (preferably real)**
- **Sound switch – The Proclaimers “I’m gonna be (500 miles)”**





# Sensory resources and activities

Suitcase – open & close  
(fine & gross motor)

Hat  
Coat



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Little Mary Lennox  
comes to live with her  
Uncle Archibald.





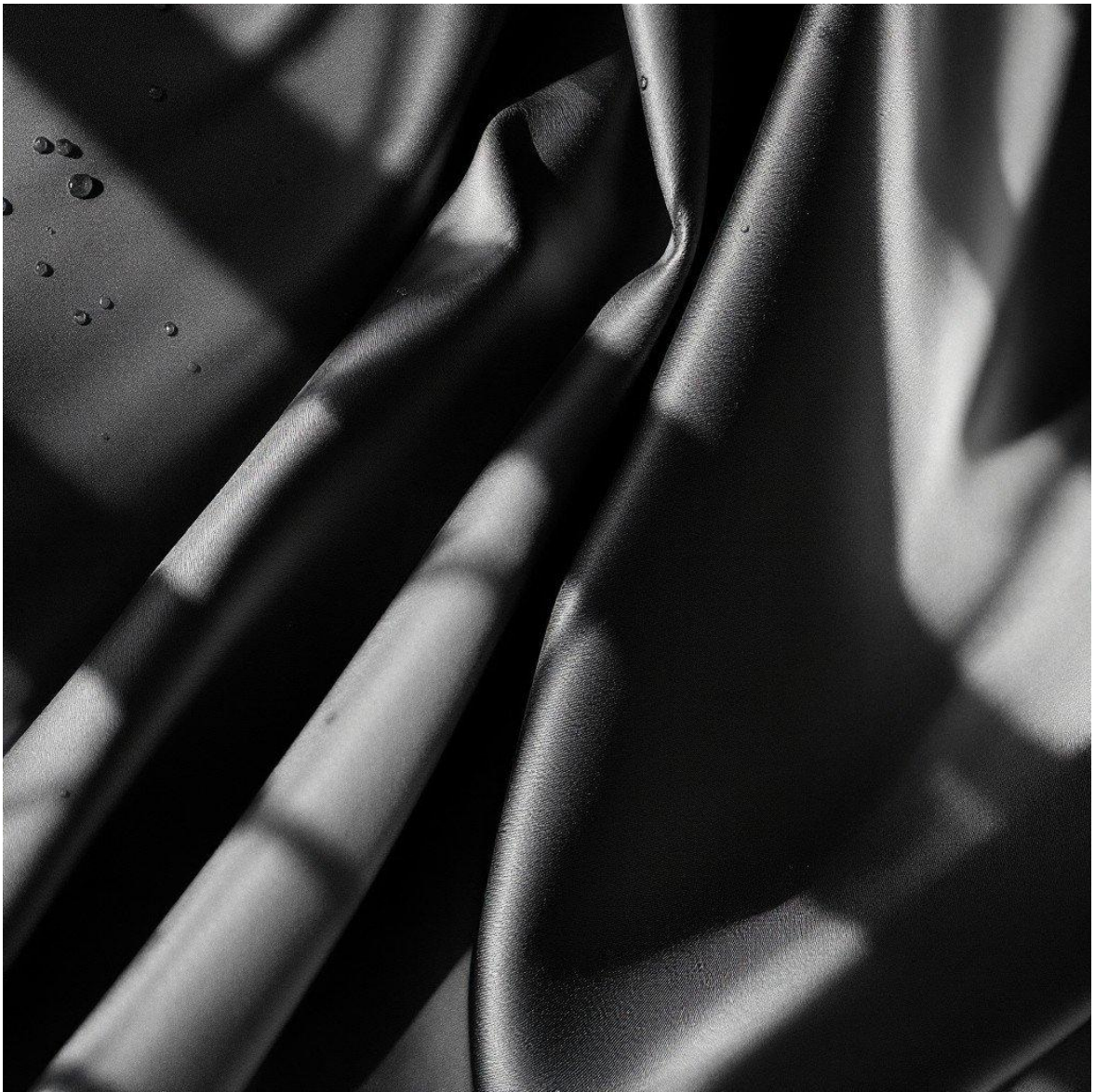
# Sensory resources and activities

Black/dark fabric  
Sound switch “All by myself”



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Mary is sad because her parents died, and she misses living in India.





# Sensory resources and activities

Lego/Duplo wall – learners add bricks (fine motor)



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“The Lego Boy” © Rich Tea  
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Her Maid, Martha, tells  
Mary that her Aunt had  
a walled garden full of  
roses.



# Sensory resources and activities

Close room door firmly  
Large key for learners to feel



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After her aunt died,  
Uncle Archibald locked  
the gate and buried the  
key.



# Sensory resources and activities

Tray of compost or edible soil



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Mary and her friend  
Dickon found the key  
buried in the soil.



# Sensory resources and activities

## Doll's wheelchair & crutches (or Real wheelchair)



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One day, Mary discovers  
Colin, a boy who cannot  
walk.



# Sensory resources and activities

Sound switch rhyme – “Mary, Mary,  
quite contrary...”



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Mary and Dickon take  
Colin to the secret  
garden in his  
wheelchair.



# Sensory resources and activities

## Fork & trowel



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The children tend the garden, and Colin gradually learns to walk again.



# Sensory resources and activities

Roses (preferably real – texture, colour and scent)



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Uncle Archibald returns  
from a long trip to find  
the garden full of  
beautiful roses.

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## Sensory resources and activities

Sound switch – The Proclaimers  
“I’m gonna be (500 miles)”  
Walk round room (gross motor)



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Best of all, Archibald  
discovers that Colin can  
walk.





Though he was born in Nigeria and brought up in Botswana, David Babatunde Wilson is settled in North Yorkshire. He divides his time between his jobs as a Dad, household cook, Guide helper, writing poetry and working as a Special Needs teacher.

David has had poems published in a variety of online and paper publications including Disabled Tales, View from Atlantis, Beyond the Pane and the Ledbury Poetry Festival.