

The Secret Garden

Frances Hodgson Burnett

What changes in Mary's voice once she admits that she is lonely?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	Mary admits she is lonely
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FIND THE ANCHOR TEXT

Use the Anchor Text Table of Contents in the Enhanced Reader to open the START anchor. Then use the dropdown to select the END anchor.

SECTION / LOCATION	Chapter IV · Martha
START	"I'm lonely," she said.
END	"Why," he cried out, "tha' said that as nice an' human as if tha' was a real child instead of a sharp old woman.
PASSAGE ID	sec-sg-01

THE MOVE

Track character change through a change in voice

WHY THIS PASSAGE

Mary's loneliness has been hidden behind sharpness, complaint, and superiority. When she finally names it, her speech becomes plainer and more vulnerable. The change in voice matters because it reveals a change in self-knowledge before her circumstances have actually improved.

MARK

Underline Mary's sharper or more defensive language before she admits she is lonely. Circle the exact words of the admission. Then star the response that recognizes her as sounding more 'human.'

NOTICE

- What does Mary's earlier manner protect her from having to admit?

- Why is the simple sentence 'I'm lonely' more revealing than a longer complaint would be?
- How does another character's reaction help us hear the change in Mary's voice?

THINK

Answer provisionally: What changes in Mary's voice once she admits that she is lonely? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: What changes in Mary's voice once she admits that she is lonely? Use at least two details from the assigned passage and explain how they support your interpretation.

CLOSE

Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and explain why.

STRONG ANSWER	Mary's voice changes from defensive sharpness to plain vulnerability when she names her loneliness. The admission matters because it shows she can recognize and state a need instead of protecting herself through complaint or superiority.
EVIDENCE	Compare Mary's earlier tone with the direct loneliness admission and the response that she sounds more human.
WATCH FOR	Do not say the change is simply that Mary becomes nicer. Focus on what she is newly able to admit about herself.
SOLO	Read the exact passage independently.
SUPPORTED	Use narration and sentence highlighting while reading the same passage.
LISTENING	Listen to the exact passage; visual following is optional. Same question and evidence demand.

STUDENT PAGE · SAME PASSAGE, SAME THINKING

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What changes in Mary's voice once she admits that she is lonely?

START ANCHOR	"I'm lonely," she said.
END ANCHOR	"Why," he cried out, "tha' said that as nice an' human as if tha' was a real child instead of a sharp old woman.

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OPEN THE MARKED PASSAGE IN TUMBLELIT

SOLO: read independently. SUPPORTED: use narration + highlighting. LISTENING: listen to the exact passage. The question and evidence task stay the same.

1. MARK - Underline Mary's sharper or more defensive language before she admits she is lonely. Circle the exact words of the admission. Then star the response that recognizes her as sounding more 'human.'
2. NOTICE - What does Mary's earlier manner protect her from having to admit? Why is the simple sentence 'I'm lonely' more revealing than a longer complaint would be? How does another character's reaction help us hear the change in Mary's voice?
3. THINK - Answer provisionally: What changes in Mary's voice once she admits that she is lonely?
4. WRITE - Write a short response using at least two pieces of evidence from this passage.

Use evidence from the assigned passage. Show what you noticed and how the text supports your interpretation.