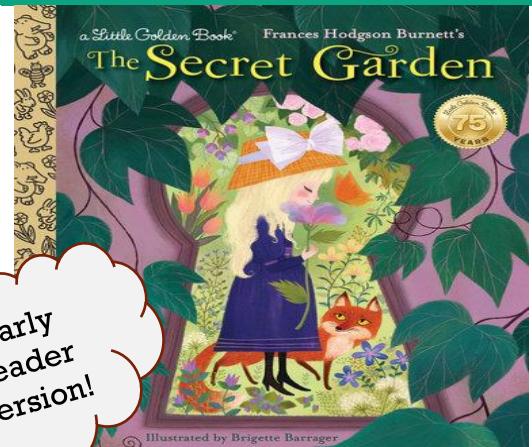
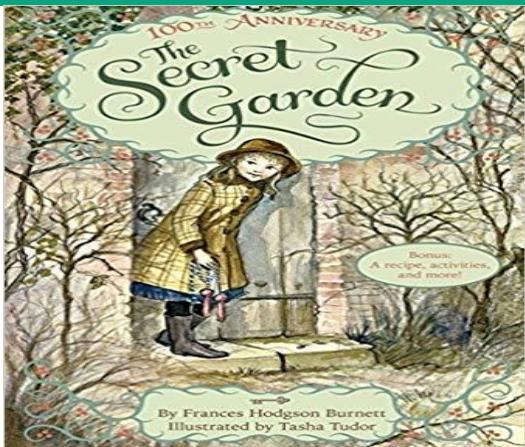


ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL FIRST ANNUAL SUMMER READ ALOUD FOR FAMILIES



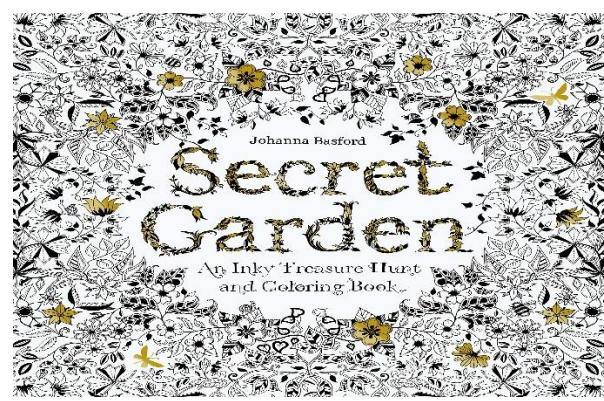
The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett

When orphaned Mary Lennox comes to live at her uncle's house on the Yorkshire Moors, she finds it is full of secrets! The mansion has nearly one hundred rooms, her uncle is strange and reclusive, and at night, Mary hears eerie sounds and hushed voices coming from a long corridor. Her only escape are the gardens surrounding the large property. With the help of a magical boy and another surprise companion, Mary is determined to uncover the secrets and turn sadness into joy!

Getting Started.....

While reading aloud is not the practice of every family, studies show that this practice does make a difference! Listening to “performance reading” increases comprehension, connects the written and spoken word, builds vocabulary, fosters imagination, and develops visualization skills –all while building family bonds!

1. Check out the book from your local library or buy a copy and get reading! If your family has multiple ages, keep a copy of the [Golden Books version](#) on hand or a [board book](#) version (or this [one](#)) for the littlest readers.
2. Is a long car ride part of your summer? Don’t have the stamina to read aloud? *Listen to the book!* Find a free version by LibriVox [here](#). Local libraries offer the book on cd and downloadable digital audio (mp3).
3. Plan your daily read aloud time. If a chapter a day seems too much, try starting with ten minutes a day until you find your rhythm. Read during lunch or dinner! You might pair listening time with dessert!
4. Enjoying your read aloud? Let us know! Share your pictures, comments, or questions on our Facebook page! Send your photos to marketing@sjsschoolva.org



Take a picnic in the garden! Extend the story by visiting a garden! [DC Botanical Gardens](#) offers concerts and programs all summer long. Or stay local with [Meadowlark Gardens](#) in Vienna or [Green Spring Gardens](#) in Alexandria. Or just relax in the shade of your favorite tree.

The LitWits Kit includes a variety of activities that will draw the whole family deeper into this delightful story! Check out this link to purchase the kit:

<https://litwits.com/product/the-secret-garden/>

This book may be the way to keep those tweens and teens around for story time. While they really do love to be read to, this activity book will give them a reason to stick around!

<https://tinyurl.com/y6rpgrs8>

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