1. What or who do the phrases below describe? Write the answer after each one.

A. a beautiful woman strolling past ..........................................
B. miles of empty land ..................................................
C. his wrinkled face creased into a smile ..................................
D. a hazy, frosty tangle of rose branches .................................
E. a curly-haired boy, with a fawn by his side ..............................
F. dark eyes stared out from an ivory-white face ..........................

2. Circle the two words that have changed places in the sentences below.

A. Mary began to make a hot garden, sticking flowers into the pretend dry earth.
B. Several weeks later, Mary was in a stern-looking carriage, opposite the cold Mrs. Medlock.
C. Mrs. Medlock marched Mary up a huge hall, across steep stairs and along twisting corridors.
D. As soon as Mary hurried into the room, Mrs. Medlock shut the door and stepped off.
E. Tapestries stood on the walls and in the middle hung a vast four-poster bed.
F. Outside the person howled like a lonely wind, as lonely as Mary.

3. Cross out the word in each group which doesn’t mean the same, or almost the same, as the other three.

A. sobbing - moaning - strolling - crying
B. astonishment - charm - amazement - surprise
C. whimpered - retorted - pleaded - begged
D. thin - skinny - scrawny - shadowy
E. nuzzled - snuggled - confided - nestled

4. Match the questions with their answers.

A. “What’s wrong with you?” ..............................................
B. “Are you a ghost?” .......................................................
C. “You go outside don’t you? “ .........................................
D. “Are you sure, dear?” ...................................................
E. “You’re well! However did it happen?” ..............................

A. “Just do as I say.” ..................................................
B. “Never. I can’t cope with cold air.” .................................
C. “It was the garden.” .................................................
D. “No, are you?” .......................................................
E. “I’m weak.” ............................................................

5. Put the nouns in the right places to complete the paragraph.

“In the .........................? thought Mr. Craven. “My ......................”
As he hurried down the ........................., he heard .........................
laughing in his .........................’s old .........................
“The .........................’s locked and the .........................’s buried.”

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Writing activity: Imagine Mrs. Medlock is keeping a diary, and think what she might have to say at key points in the story (for example, hearing that Mary is to come to Misselthwaite Manor; meeting Mary and bringing her to the house; seeing how Mary changes; finding her in Colin’s room; letting Colin play outside; Mr. Craven’s return). Remember that she doesn’t know about the children reviving the secret garden, or Colin learning to walk again – but she is sure to notice that he is looking better, like Mary...

1 December: The master tells me he’s taking in his dead sister’s child, since she has no other family.