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The Healing Power of Love in The Secret Garden by
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*An Extended Essay Submitted in Partial Fulfilment of the Requirement for a
Master's Degree in British Literature/
Advanced Studies in Contemporary Linguistics*

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Abstract

The overarching aim of this extended essay is to analyse the problem of love as presented in the novel of “The Secret Garden”. This theme is explored by the author as a manifestation of rebirth, which as a motif plays a crucial role throughout the storyline. Specifically, this study investigates the question: to what extent does love can be a healing power? It may be argued that this is a question which is too vague and too complex to be posed, explored or answered in any comprehensive way.

The new healing model we present here in our work is based on love, expanded awareness, and the empowerment that comes from a conscious choice for change. Nature and human companionship provides us with power for consciously evoking loving energy and intentionally transferring that energy to another person, or to a particular place hoping for change in a positive way.

The present work consists of three chapters; the first chapter is devoted to the general background that corresponds to the theme and some basic relevant concepts. The second chapter deals with the analysis of each one of the characters and their crisis, and struggles through the story line. The last chapter is the basic part as it includes the evolution of the character's due to love, trying to answer our problematic that love is really a healing power in all circumstances.

Keywords: Love, identity, healing power, nature, death, rebirth (resurrection).

Appendix 2

Summary of the novel:

The secret garden is a story of two children Mary Lennox and Colin Craven who are born and live in their childhood, deprived of affection, abandoned by their respective parents and unloved by the people at their service because they have become unbearable, too capricious and even uncontrollable. Many encounters and circumstances will change their daily lives and open their eyes. The greater part of the story takes place in a garden: a place that has been locked up since the death of Mary' aunt ten years earlier and has not been visited by a single soul. A wonderful secret: a garden forgotten by all, its key not only can open it, but it also opens the door of broken hearts. A place where they leave their greatest reveries, where everything seems feasible and where they learn to observe, listen, respect, and heal

Summary credit:

Burnett, Frances Hodgson. *The Secret Garden*. London: Octopus Books Limited, 1983.