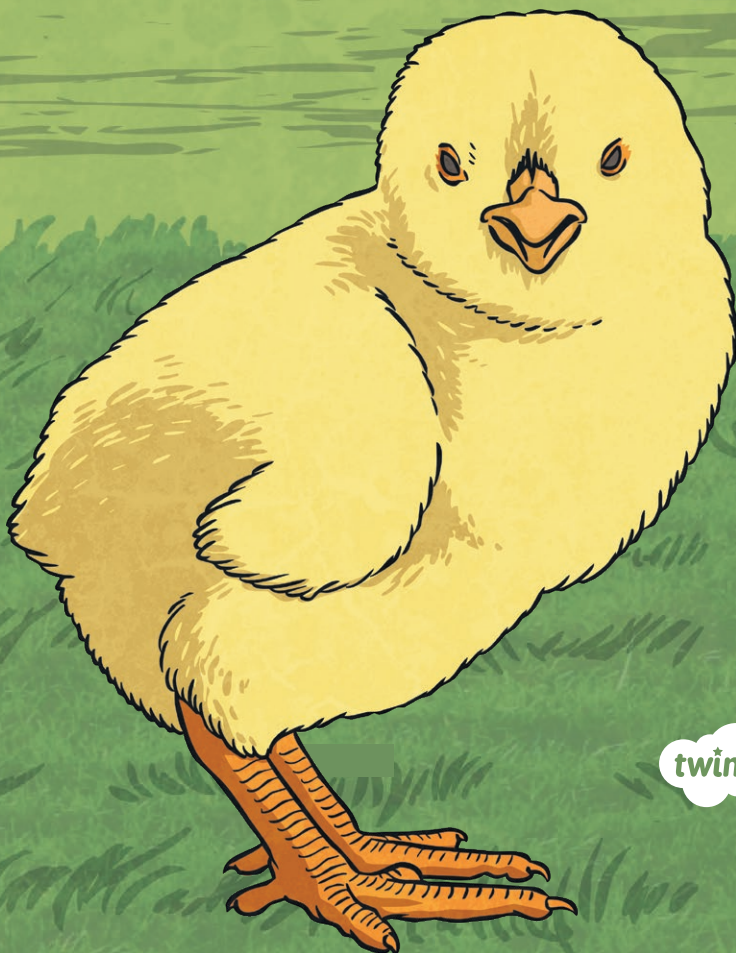


Spring

English Activity Booklet



Unlucky Synonyms and Antonyms!

The chicks have got mixed up and can't find their mothers! Can you identify the synonyms and antonyms to match each mother hen to her chicks? Colour the word box in the matching colour. Two have been done for you.

Mother Hens: **like** (green), **cold** (purple), **angry** (blue), **quiet** (orange)
 Chicks: **enjoy** (black), **chilly** (black), **hushed** (black), **brisk** (purple), **fuming** (black), **muffled** (black), **toasty** (purple), **sweltering** (black), **content** (black), **dislike** (black), **raucous** (black), **deafening** (black), **calm** (black), **detest** (black)

Choose two of the following and write your own list of synonyms and antonyms for each one.

small | happy | wonderful | nice | sharp | unusual

Word	Synonyms	Antonyms

The Secret Garden

Frances Hodgson Burnett

In the course of her digging with her pointed stick Mistress Mary had found herself digging up a sort of white root rather like an onion. She had put it back in its place and patted the earth carefully down on it and just now wondered if Martha could tell her what it was.

“Martha,” she said, “what are those white roots that look like onions?”

“They’re bulbs,” answered Martha. “Lots o’ spring flowers grow from ‘em. Th’ very little ones are snowdrops and crocuses an’ th’ big ones are narcissus an’ jonquils an’ daffydowndillys. Th’ biggest of all is lillies an’ purple flags. Eh! They are nice. Dickon’s got a whole lot of ‘em planted in our bit o’ garden.”

“Does Dickon know all about them?” asked Mary, a new idea taking possession of her.

“Our Dickon can make a flower grow out of a brick wall. Mother says he just whispers things out o’ th’ ground.”

“Do bulbs live a long time? Would they live years and years if no one helped them?” inquired Mary anxiously.

“They’re things as helps themselves,” said Martha. That’s why poor folk can afford to have ‘em. If you don’t trouble ‘em, most of ‘em’ll work away underground for a lifetime an’ spread out an’ have little ‘uns. There’s a place in th’ park woods here where there’s snowdrops by the thousands. They’re the prettiest sight in Yorkshire when th’ spring comes. No one knows when they was first planted.”



The Secret Garden Questions

1. What onion-like thing did Mary dig up?

2. Name two of the spring flowers mentioned in the text.

1. _____

2. _____

3. What does the author mean by 'a new idea taking possession of her'?

4. Tick the words closest in meaning to 'em'll'.

- Emma all
- them all
- them will
- Emma will

5. What do you think the relationship between Martha and Mary is? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

6. Martha is a great gardener.

Do you agree with this statement? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.
