

## *The Secret Garden – Martha*

“a young housemaid” (26)

“a round, rosy, good-natured looking creature”  
(27-8)

Martha “had a sturdy way” (28)

“I’m too common an’ I talk too much York-  
shire” (28)

“an untrained Yorkshire rustic who had been  
brought up in a moorland cottage with a  
swarm of little brothers and sisters” (34)

“in her good-tempered, homely way” (34)

Martha has got eleven brothers and sisters:  
“There’s twelve of us”. (34)

Martha’s family is very poor: “my father only  
gets sixteen shilling a week”. (34)



“She was very young, and used to a crowded cottage full of brothers and sisters, and she found it dull in the great servants’ hall down-stairs where the footman and upper-housemaids made fun of her Yorkshire speech and looked upon her as a common little thing, and sat and whispered among themselves. Martha liked to talk, and the strange child who had lived in India, and been waited upon by ‘blacks’, was novelty enough to attract her.” (54)

Her full name is “Martha Phoebe Sowerby.” (98)