

Name: _____

Date: _____



Into the Bright Open Discussion Questions

1. From your experience, or by reading a summary, what makes *Into the Bright Open* different from the original *The Secret Garden*?
2. Besides the technological differences between now and 1901, what are the other differences that stood out to you throughout *Into the Bright Open*? Are there any similarities between then and now?
3. Why was being fifteen such a challenge for Mary Craven? Why do you think the author choose this age when the original main character was ten years old?
4. What does the word “craven” mean? Why is it an appropriate last name for Mary or for any other members of her family?
5. Mary is a list maker. Which of her lists do you think was most useful? What does her list making tell you about her character?
6. The title of the book is used a few times throughout the story. What other instances do you think that the characters may have felt like they were in the bright open?
7. What does *Into the Bright Open* show you about Canadian society? What are some things that haven't or have barely changed?
8. What role does grief play in this novel?
9. Flora describes caring and being cared for as a weight. What do you think she means by that? How does Mary carry this weight as the novel progresses?
10. There are lots of secrets in this book. List as many secrets as you noticed. Why do you think that the different characters felt like they needed to keep or share their secrets?

