

# The Little Princess

## Chapter 1: Sara

### Vocabulary

thoroughfares	busy streets
Bombay	a seaport in western India on the Arabian Sea
lascars	sailors native to India
bungalow	a one-storied house with a wide porch
salaams	respectful greetings
ayah	nursemaid or lady's maid
attain	reach; achieve
resigned	accepting
quaint	unusual in a pleasing way
frock	dress
seminary	private school for young women
supple	limber; flexible
elated	happy; joyful
solicitors	in England, members of the legal profession who are not practising lawyers.
Messrs.	Messieurs; plural of Mr.

### Comprehension

1. In the first paragraph, we learn something about the lights of London which make us aware that the setting is not contemporary. What is it?

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2. What about India made parents willing to send their children so far away?

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3. What does Sara think about the seminary and its mistress Miss Minchin?

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## Chapter 2: A French Lesson

### Vocabulary

abashed

ill-at-ease, shy

punctilious

careful about matters of behavior and manners

imposing

impressive

### Comprehension

1. Why is Sara fluent in French?

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2. How does Miss Minchin misinterpret Sara to Monsieur Dufarge?

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3. How does Miss Minchin insult Sara about being sent a French maid?

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## Chapter 3: Ermengarde

### Vocabulary

fray

quarrel

disconsolately

unhappily

### Comprehension

1. Of Sara, the author writes, “It was a way of hers always to want to spring into any fray in which someone was made uncomfortable or unhappy.” What qualities did Miss St John have that made her a frequent target for Miss Minchin and the students?

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2. Why is Sara reluctant to share her lovely playroom?

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3. What does Sara decide is the most difficult thing about Ermengarde’s life?

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## Chapter 4: Lottie

### Vocabulary

self-opinionated

conceited

domineering

bullying; overbearing

indulged

spoiled; pampered

indolent

lazy

amiability

friendliness

tempestuously

violently

impotent

powerless; useless

indignation

anger

asperity

harsh temper

consternation

helpless fear or shock

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## Comprehension

1. What do Lottie and Sara have in common?

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2. Why did the alphabet class regard Sara as a “goddess and a queen?”

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3. What emotion did Lottie rely upon to get her way and turn herself into a very annoying young lady?

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## Chapter 5: Becky

### Vocabulary

scullery-maid

kitchen-maid

coal-scuttles

wide-lipped buckets used to pour coal into a fire

diaphanous

finely dressed in shiny layers

impudently

boldly

largess

gifts

populace

the common people

### Comprehension

1. What is Sara’s “greatest power?”

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2. Describe the story that Becky overhears.

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3. What does Sara offer to do for Becky to make her life a little more bearable?

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## Chapter 6: The Diamond Mines

### Vocabulary

Arabian Nights

a collection of ancient tales from India and the surrounding area

indifferent

lacking curiosity

labyrinthine

maze-like

deriding

making fun of

perilously

dangerously

compass

space

### Comprehension

1. For the parlour-boarders, what is the best part of the day?

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2. Sara receives a letter from her father with hints of bad news about what two things?

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3. What gift does Becky give Sara for her 11<sup>th</sup> birthday?

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## Chapter 7: The Diamond Mines Again

### Vocabulary

meritorious	meaningful; praiseworthy
garret	attic
disdained	scorned; treated as unworthy
decorum	polite behavior
succinctly	briefly; concisely
modiste's	the establishment of a woman engaged in high fashion design
lavishly	generously
disparagement	insult
patron	customer
ejaculated	exclaimed
brusqueness	curtness; abrupt speech
delirious	showing mental confusion; hallucinating
pauper	a poor person
heiress	a female who inherits great wealth
irate	very angry
farthing	a British coin worth one-fourth of a penny
foisted	passed
sinister	threatening
redress	remedy
proprietors	business owners
furtively	secretively

### Comprehension

1. What question does Lavinia ask Sara that *foreshadows* (hints about future developments) the ending of the chapter?

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2. Why does Becky hide under the tablecloth while Mr Barrow talks with Miss Minchin?

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3. What is the one possession Sara is allowed to take with her to the attic?

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## Chapter 8: In the Attic

### Vocabulary

reproachful

blaming

adversity

misfortune; poverty

### Comprehension

1. How does Miss Minchin justify isolating Sara?

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2. What is Sara's new fantasy involving herself and Becky?

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3. What does Sara agree to share with Ermengarde?

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## Chapter 9: Melchisedec

### Vocabulary

reproved

spoken to in disapproval

hob

ledge at the back of a fireplace

coax

persuade; attract

### Comprehension

1. What does Sara show Lottie to keep her from crying when Lottie comes to see the attic and finds out how bare and harsh the attic really is?

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2. What creatures share the bun Lottie brings in her pocket?

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3. What new chapter does Sara add to her story about life in the Bastille when Ermengarde visits?

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## Chapter 10: The Indian Gentleman

### Vocabulary

perilous	dangerous
pilgrimages	religious or spiritual journeys
brougham	closed, four-wheeled carriage with the driver in an outside seat
perambulators	baby carriages
pantomime	a British form of Christmas entertainment
affluence	wealth
benignly	kindly
thwarted	stopped; defeated
benevolence	charitable giving
insinuating	gradually working into
complacent	smug
ignominiously	shamefully
chastising	scolding
wrought	worked
shrine	an altar; a sacred place
tract (trac')	tract; a propaganda pamphlet to encourage joining a religion
haggard	gaunt; tired

### Comprehension

1. What two different reactions does Sara have when she sees herself in shop windows?

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2. How did Sara select the names she gave to the members of the Large Family?

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3. What new nickname does Sara earn and how does she earn it?

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## Chapter 11: Ram Dass

### Vocabulary

invariably	constantly
vaulted	built with an arched roof
crimson	red
amber	brownish-yellow
chrysoprase-green	a golden-green
Hindustani	language of northern India
obeisance	bowing; gesturing in a way showing respect
admonished	warned
malicious	spiteful
neatherd	cowherd

### Comprehension

1. What unexpected visitors does Sara have as she watches the sunset through the window in the roof?

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2. What does Sara do when the monkey escapes that surprises the lascar?

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3. Sara has her ears boxed by Miss Minchin, but she refuses to apologize for what?

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## Chapter 12: The Other Side of the Wall

### Vocabulary

surfeit	excess
lampreys	fish
brain-fever	meningitis of the brain
decorous	showing polite behavior
petulant	annoyed; impatient
cricket	an English team sport played outside
reproach	blame

### Comprehension

1. For what reasons had Sara become fond of the Large Family and the Indian gentleman?

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2. Who tells Mr Carrisford about Sara?

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3. What is the relationship between Mr Carrisford and Sara's father?

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## Chapter 13: One of the Populace

### Vocabulary

persevered

obstinately

merino

portmanteau

droshky

Tsar

mujiks

persisted

stubbornly

a fine, soft wool

suitcase

a Russian carriage

a Russian emperor

Russian peasants; poor farmers

### Comprehension

1. How do Becky and Sara try to bear the cold winter evenings?

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2. What lesson does Sara teach the lady in the bakery?

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3. Where is the father of the Large Family going and why?

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## Chapter 14: What Melchisedec Heard and Saw

### Vocabulary

reconnoitre

to make a reconnaissance; to seek out information about enemy positions

palpitating

beating

aperture

opening

pariah

outcast; member of the lowest social class or caste within the Indian caste system

### Comprehension

1. Who enters the attic through the skylight?

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2. Why did Mr Carrisford run away from Ralph Crewe?

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3. Why does Mr Carmichael say that Mr Carrisford should forgive himself?

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## Chapter 15: The Magic

### Vocabulary

conjugations	the various forms of verbs, as they relate to person and tense
pennons	flags; pennants
clarions	trumpets
minstrels	traveling poet-singer-musicians
chatelaines	castle mistresses
pillaged	spoiled; plundered
flagon	container for liquid or a beverage
alabaster	a fine, white material used for statues and fine ornaments
tapers	candles

### Comprehension

1. What has happened to the missing half of a meat pie?

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2. Who betrays Sara and how?

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3. When Sara awakens, she thinks she is dreaming. Why?

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## Chapter 16: The Visitor (a rat)

### Vocabulary

priggishly	smugly
hamper	a basket for carrying food
askance	with disapproval
deprivation	denial
audacious	bold
august	grand
singular	remarkable
obstinate	stubborn; unyielding
haughty	scornful
sordid	mean; selfish
eccentric	odd; unconventional
scathingly	harshly; acidly
reverence	respect; honor

### Comprehension

1. In addition to all the creature comforts in the attic, what thought gives Sara the greatest comfort?

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2. What may have motivated Lavinia to tell Miss Minchin about the banquet the previous day?

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3. Why does Miss Minchin worry when Sara receives a package, containing respectable clothing and a promise of more to come, from an unknown source?

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## Chapter 17: "It is the Child!"

### Vocabulary

astride

straddling

### Comprehension

1. What new decision do Mr Carmichael and Mr Carrisford make after Mr Carmichael returns from Russia?

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2. Why does Sara go to Mr Carrisford's house?

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3. What word does Sara use that causes Mr Carrisford to inquire in more depth about Sara's background?

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## Chapter 18: 'I Tried Not to Be'

### Vocabulary

infuriated	enraged; very angry
salts and sal volatile	smelling salts
indignation	righteous anger; anger resulting from an injustice
audacity	boldness
row	argument
babel	confusion of voices
plaintively	sadly

### Comprehension

1. Why does Miss Minchin visit Mr Carrisford?

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2. Quote Miss Amelia's statement in which she summarizes her understanding of why Miss Minchin was so cruel to Sara.

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3. Describe what Becky's future looks like, now that Sara is no longer in the household.

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## Chapter 19: "Anne" (a monkey)

### Vocabulary

waifs

homeless children

### Comprehension

1. Who is Boris?

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2. Who is Anne?

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3. What will be Anne's new responsibility?

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