

Name: _____ Class: _____

Traits of the British Robin

While reading *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett, you can learn a lot about British robins. Fill in this observation chart as you read the story, collecting information about a bird that is called “the gardener’s best friend.”

From the story	Scientific questions
Chapter 4: “What kind of a bird is he?” Mary asked.	What is the scientific name of the British robin? What are some of its nicknames?
Chapter 4: “Has tha begun tha’ courtin’ this early in th’ season? Tha’rt too forrad.”	What time of year do robins begin looking for a mate? How many broods can a robin produce in a year?
Chapter 4: “they’re th’ friendliest, curiousest birds alive.”	What adjectives are used in <i>The Secret Garden</i> to describe the robin?
Chapter 4: “He came out o’ th’ egg there.”	Do British robins migrate or stay mostly in one place?
Chapter 5: “He twittered and chirped and hopped along the wall as if he were telling her all sorts of things.”	Listen to recordings of robin song. What adjectives do you think of?

Chapter 5: "there was the robin just finishing his song and beginning to preen his feathers with his beak."	Why do birds preen? How do their oil glands help?
Chapter 7: "Do you think he remembers me?"	What clues show that robins have good memories?
Chapter 7: "She thought of the robin as one of the people."	What traits do robins have that make them familiar to people?
Chapter 11: "tha'll learn how to talk to th' robin same as I do."	Imitate a robin's call. What do you do to make the sounds?
Chapter 11: "give him th' rind o' th' bacon to peck at. They likes a bit o' fat wonderful."	List the different kinds of things robins eat.
Chapter 15: "He's buildin' his nest. He'll stay here if us don't flight him."	In what sorts of places will robins build their nests?
Chapter 17: "the robin has found a mate—and is building a nest."	How long does it take for robins' eggs to hatch? How long do they stay in the nest?