

HarperCollins 0064400220

Instruction Manual for The Secret Language by Ursula Nordstrom

Model: 0064400220

1. INTRODUCTION TO THE SECRET LANGUAGE

1.1 About the Book

The Secret Language, originally published in 1960, is an enchanting story by acclaimed children's book editor Ursula Nordstrom. It follows the journey of Victoria North, a shy new girl at Coburn Home School, who initially struggles with homesickness and strict rules. Her experience transforms when she befriends Martha Sherman, a spirited classmate. Martha introduces Victoria to the unique aspects of boarding school life, including midnight feasts and a special secret language they share. This friendship helps Victoria to eventually feel at home at Coburn.

The narrative explores themes of friendship, adjustment to new environments, and the development of personal connections. It captures the essence of childhood friendships and the unique logic of young girls.

1.2 About the Author and Illustrator

Ursula Nordstrom (Author): Nordstrom was a pivotal figure in children's literature, serving as the director of Harper's Department of Books for Boys and Girls from 1940 to 1973. She was known for her innovative vision and contributed to the creation of many classic children's books. *The Secret Language* is her only novel for young readers.

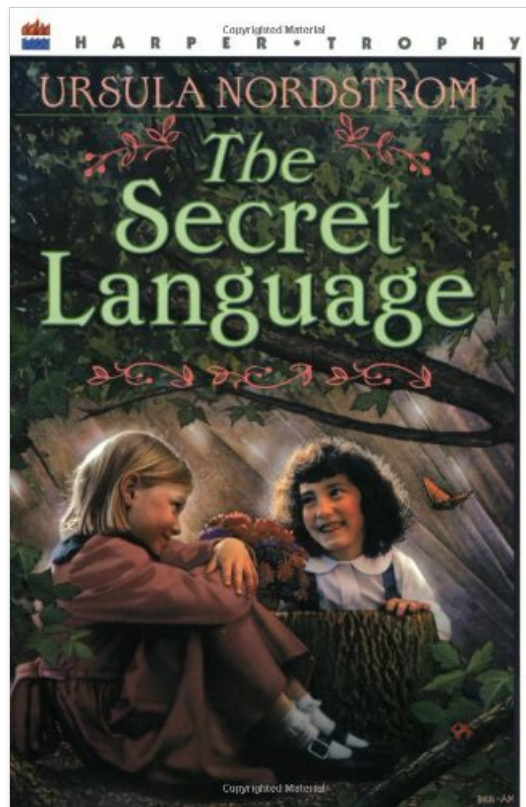
Mary Chalmers (Illustrator): Chalmers is a renowned illustrator of numerous books for young readers. Her illustrations for *The Secret Language* contribute to the book's gentle and acutely observed portrayal of the boarding school world.

2. GETTING STARTED WITH YOUR BOOK

To ensure an optimal reading experience, consider the following recommendations:

- **Environment:** Choose a quiet and comfortable space free from distractions to fully immerse yourself in the story.
- **Lighting:** Ensure adequate lighting to prevent eye strain, especially during extended reading sessions.

- **Comfort:** Find a comfortable posture that allows for relaxed reading.



This image displays the front cover of 'The Secret Language' paperback edition. It shows two young girls, likely Victoria and Martha, in a setting that suggests a boarding school, possibly sharing a secret or a moment of friendship.

3. READING AND ENGAGING WITH THE STORY

To fully appreciate *The Secret Language*, consider these approaches:

- **Pacing:** Read at a comfortable pace, allowing yourself to absorb the details of the boarding school environment and the characters' emotions.
- **Character Connection:** Pay attention to the development of Victoria and Martha's friendship. Observe how their interactions and shared experiences shape their bond.
- **The Secret Language:** Note the significance of the 'secret language' they create. Consider how it symbolizes their unique connection and their world apart from adults.
- **Themes:** Reflect on the themes presented, such as homesickness, finding belonging, the power of friendship, and navigating new social dynamics.
- **Discussion:** For younger readers, discussing the story with an adult can enhance understanding and provide opportunities to explore the emotional aspects of the narrative.

4. CARE AND PRESERVATION

Proper care will help maintain the condition of your book for years to come:

- **Handling:** Always handle the book with clean, dry hands. Avoid folding pages or bending the cover excessively.
- **Storage:** Store the book upright on a bookshelf or flat in a dry, cool place away from direct sunlight and humidity. Extreme temperatures can damage the paper and binding.
- **Protection:** Keep the book away from food, drinks, and pets to prevent spills or damage.
- **Cleaning:** For light dust, gently wipe the cover with a soft, dry cloth. Avoid using liquids or abrasive

cleaners.

5. TROUBLESHOOTING COMMON ISSUES

While books are generally straightforward, here are solutions for common concerns:

- **Damaged Pages:** If pages are torn, use clear, acid-free archival tape to repair them carefully. For significant damage, consider professional book repair.
- **Loose Binding:** If the binding becomes loose, avoid forcing the book open flat. Handle it gently to prevent further damage.
- **Difficulty Understanding Content:** If a reader finds certain concepts or vocabulary challenging, encourage re-reading sections, discussing with others, or looking up unfamiliar words.

6. PRODUCT SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Detail
Publisher	HarperCollins
Publication Date	September 13, 1972
Language	English
Print Length	176 pages
ISBN-10	0064400220
ISBN-13	978-0064400220
Item Weight	4.8 ounces
Reading Age	8 - 10 years
Dimensions	5.13 x 0.35 x 7.63 inches
Grade Level	3 - 4

7. SUPPORT AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For inquiries regarding *The Secret Language*, including questions about content, publication, or potential defects, please contact the publisher directly:

HarperCollins Publishers

Website: www.harpercollins.com

Refer to the publisher's website for specific contact information or customer service details.

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