

Important Note for Parents

This is an important note regarding the book *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett. Please take a moment to read this before beginning this book with your child.

Within this book, the word "crippled" is used several times.

We want to give parents a heads-up that this word is included in this book, so that they can decide if they want to alter the text as they read out loud to their child, address it with their child prior to their reading it (together or independently), etc.

This is largely considered an outdated, ableist, and harmful word. The caveat, though, is that in recent years many members of the disability have reclaimed this pejorative term. Viral hashtags such as #criplit and #cripthevote are prime examples of this. It is important to know that "crip" as a reclaimed term should only be used by disabled people in reference to themselves, or in reference to other disabled people in the spirit of community.

Though we do see it sometimes in older literature, it could be especially jarring or upsetting for families to stumble across it unexpectedly. We do not want our families to be caught off-guard as they are reading, and want to be sure that parents are armed with information to have a brief discussion with their child about why it is a problematic word choice for many in the disability community before sending them to read independently, should they choose to do so.

Please consider reading the links below if you want or need more information.

- <https://therollingexplorer.com/ableist-language-to-avoid-and-acceptable-alternatives-cripple-edition/>
- <https://www.accessibility.com/glossary/cripple-crippled>
- <https://www.yahoo.com/lifestyle/crip-camp-documentary-derogatory-term-americans-with-disabilities-act-150018850.html>
- <https://cdsc.umn.edu/cds/terms>

Please note that this message is intended to give parents a heads-up before reading, so they are not caught off guard, and are equipped to pivot or to discuss as they see fit. It is *not* intended to comment on or direct word choices or preferences for anyone in the disability community. As with many words and terms, we understand that some members of the disability community do not take issue with this particular term. However, we wanted our parents to be aware of it as they are reading the book.

Consultant: Ashley Harris Whaley, disabilityreframed.com