



800 Memorial Dr.
Barron, WI 54812
612-440-7510

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www.barronspotlighters.org
barronspotlighters@gmail.com

Help us decorate the halls of the BACC!

The Barron Spotlighters Community Theatre is proud to bring *The Secret Garden* to the stage at the Barron Area Community Center!

As a part of *The Secret Garden* School Matinee offered April 16, 2026, the Barron Spotlighters are looking dress up the halls of the BACC with collages made by students! Since *Mary Lennox* is such a complex character, we thought it would be fun to have students' "picture" her story in collage, with layers of symbolic images. Collaging is a thoughtful, symbolic way to reflect on a book, one that embeds students' interpretations as they look for images that remind them of the story.

We hope this project helps kids make connections to the story as they're drawn to an image. With each picture they choose they can ask themselves - *What is it about this picture that makes me think of this book?* And, *Why?* A broken toy, for instance, might make someone think of Colin – because he's so ill-tempered and throws things. Kids are analyzing the setting, mood, plot, and characters within the story!

Collages should be made on 8.5x11 cardstock and have the title of the story embedded somewhere in the collage. Explain to the kids that they'll be looking for any images or words that remind them of the story, then cutting them out and gluing them onto their paper to give a layered effect. They don't need to replicate scenes or find exact images of characters – just pictures that suggest the book/story. Tell them that looking for images is like a treasure hunt – you never know what you'll find!

Completed collages can be sent in with your registration, mailed separately, or dropped off on the day of the performance. All collages received will be displayed in the lobby of the Community Center during April 17-19 performances of the show, sooner if they are received before the matinee. There are no prizes for this project, but any classroom that sends in collages will receive packets of flower seeds so they can grow their own secret garden!

For more information, please contact Dave Blumer, Barron Spotlighters Board Member by email, phone, or text. We are looking forward to a lobby full of beautiful artwork! Collages can be returned after the run if desired. Thank You!

Martha Mikula, Director

Dave Blumer
715-642-0635
Dblumerleaps@gmail.com