

## The Borrowers

Mary Norton

### Chapter One *Retrieval*

1. Page 1 / 2 : Why did Mrs May's breakfast room seem as if it was filled with sadness? Copy the phrase that tells you so. (1 mark)
2. Page 2. Name the things Mrs May taught Kate (3 marks)
3. Page 2. Why did Kate need the crotchet hook? (1 mark).  
Why is this information in brackets? (1 mark)
4. Page 4. Why does Mrs May think there must be such a thing as 'Borrowers?' 1 mark
5. *Inference* What do the items borrowed have in common? 1 mark
6. Why does Mrs May think her brother made up the story about the Borrowers? (2 marks)
7. 3 mark question: What is Mrs May like? Give 3 different opinions and back up each opinion with evidence copied from the text.

### Chapter Two

1. Page 13 find the word 'intersecting'. Read the whole sentence it is in. Using the sentence, what could 'intersecting' mean? 1 mark
2. Page 14: why do you think Pod 'risks his life' each time he gets a potato? Give two reasons. 2 marks
3. Name three items that grown up humans use that have been used in sitting room and say how each has been used.
4. Page 17: why did Homily like Arrietty to write? Copy the part from the text that tells you so. 1 mark
5. Page 21: why does the last line in the chapter end with an ellipsis? Give two reasons. 2 marks

### Chapter Three

1. Page 22: why is Arrietty going to end up smelling? 1 mark
2. Why does Homily blame herself for Pod being late home? Pages 23 and 24.1 mark
3. Page 25. Find the word 'heathen'. Read the sentence this word is in and the sentences around it. What do you think 'heathen' could mean?
4. Page 26: what does Homily do so Pod does not realise she was upset? 2 marks.
5. 3 marks: What do you think of Arrietty? Give three different words to show your opinion of her but back each up with evidence from the text.

### Chapter Four

1. Page 29. 'There was silence between them'. Why do you think this was? 2 marks
2. Page 29: What do you think 'emigrate' means? Use the text to help you work out the meaning. 1 mark
3. Why is Pod's news so serious?
4. Imagine you are Homily. What would you be thinking if Pod had told you he had been seen? Think of 3 different things for 3 marks. Draw a thought bubble around your answer.
5. Homily and Pod respond to the fact Pod has been seen in different ways. Write of two main differences that you note.

## Chapter Five

1. Page 35. Why does Arrietty's bedroom ceiling have pictures of ladies on it? 1 mark
2. Page 35. What does it mean 'Arrietty had stared without seeing'?  
Read the sentences that follow this phrase to help you work out what is meant by this line. 2 marks
3. Page 36. Why are the aunts referred to as 'giants'? 1 mark
4. Page 39. Why is Arrietty's family the only one left in the house? 2 marks
5. Why did the Overmantels just eat breakfast food? 1 mark

## Chapter Six

1. Page 49. Why did Egglestina go upstairs out of her home? 1 mark
2. Page 52. Why does Arrietty start sobbing? What does it mean to be 'cooped up'? 2 marks
3. Page 53. Why was Arrietty shocked? 1 mark.
4. Page 56. Why does Arrietty feel a 'glow of warmth'? What is she happy about? 2 marks

*Reasoning* 5. Look back at the families that have been mentioned who were Borrowers. Which do you like the sound of the most? Why? 2 marks.

Discuss your choice with a partner- can you convince your partner to change his/her mind on their choice?

## Chapter Seven

1. Page 57: why do you think Arrietty was 'especially good'? 2 marks
2. Page 58: why does Pod only borrow items from the kitchen? 1 mark
3. Page 60: what is the 'moment' Arrietty refers to? 1 mark
4. Page 62: brackets have been used twice. What kind of information has been placed into the brackets? 1 mark
5. Page 63: What is the 'pendulum'? Work this out from reading the text.
6. Why does Pod stop Arrietty from pulling the fibres out to make the brush? 2 marks.

*Descriptive Language:* It is the first time Arrietty has been out of her home. Find the descriptive phrases used to describe being outside. What effect does each have on the reader?

## Chapter Eight

1. Page 67: Why does Pod advise Arrietty not to climb something like a shoe scraper? 1 mark
2. Pages 68 / 69: why does Arrietty enjoy the running so much? 2 marks
3. Page 72. Why would the air be filled with scent? 1 mark
4. Page 72: Find phrases that show Arrietty is not afraid of the creatures she comes across. Make sure you find the best phrases. 2 marks
5. Page 73: why does Arrietty already know what wood lice are like? 1 mark
6. What does this chapter show about Arrietty's character? Write three words to describe her and back each up with evidence from the text.

## Chapter Nine

1. At the start of the chapter the boy's eye is described. How many sentences are used by the author to describe the eye? Why do you think more than one sentence is used?
2. Page 76. There was not really an earthquake – why is this word used?
3. Copy phrases that show Arrietty is not scared of the boy. 2 marks
4. Page 80: why does Arrietty find it hard to believe that there are more people the size of the boy? 1 mark
5. What do you think of the boy and the way he is treating Arrietty in their first meeting? 2 marks

## Chapter Ten

1. Page 84: why does the boy's lip tremble? If you are unsure, read the part before this to know what he is thinking about. 1 mark
2. Page 85: 'the boy sat thoughtfully' and speaks 'after a while'. What has he been thinking about? 2 marks
3. Page 88: what did the boy talk about to prove there were more human beings in the world? 2 marks
4. What three questions would you have for the boy if you were Arrietty and did not know anything about human beings? 3 marks
5. What do you think is going to happen next in the story now that Arrietty has been out and talked with the boy?
6. What would Homily say to Arrietty if she knew she had spoken to a human being? Think of three different things and draw a speech bubble around your answer.

## Chapter Eleven

1. Page 93: what did Arrietty use as her chair? 1 mark
2. Page 95: why does Arrietty not say what has happened with her? Do you think she was right to do so? Explain your answer. 2 marks
3. Page 97: why does Arrietty use initials of the people in her diary? 1 mark
4. 3 marks: write three different things Arrietty is probably thinking about.

## Chapter Twelve

1. Page 99: why did Arrietty stare through the grating? 1 mark
2. Page 100: why do you think Pod finally gives in and goes out to get the blotting paper for Homily? 1 mark
3. Page 101: how does Pod travel up things? 1 mark
4. Page 102: Homily had wanted the blotting paper for a long time but 'hardly thanked' them. What was on her mind instead? Copy out the part of the text that lets you know this. 2 marks
5. Page 103: why has the boy been looking under the mats? 1 mark
6. Page 104: copy out the phrase that refers to someone about to leave their job.
7. Why does Mrs Driver want to leave her job? Copy out the phrase that tells you the reason. 1 mark

### Chapter Thirteen

1. Page 108. What does 'idle' mean? 1 mark
2. Page 111: why did Arrietty not mind the darkness? Copy the phrase that proves this. 1 mark
3. Page 114: why do you think the boy says 'creeping' twice in his line? 1 mark
4. Why is Arrietty first dismayed that the letter has come back? 1 mark
5. Why do you think Pod only looks at Arrietty and not at the boy?

### Chapter Fourteen

1. At the start of the chapter Pod does not speak. What must Arrietty be thinking at this point? 3 marks
2. Page 119: copy the two phrases that show Homily was worried that Arrietty had been speaking to the boy. 2 marks
3. Page 119: what do you think 'pleaded' means? 1 mark
4. Why is Arrietty pleading with her mum?
5. Page 120: what does 'imperative' mean? 1 mark
6. Why does Pod say Arrietty is placing them in danger? 2 marks
7. Imagine you are Pod. Write three things you would be planning or thinking at the end of this chapter. Draw a thought bubble around your answer.

## Chapter Fifteen

1. Pod and Homily talk for hours and hours at the start of the chapter. Write what their conversation could be. Avoid using just one sentence for each time they speak but have several sentences for some of the speech. Use each of your punctuation marks too.
2. How must have Homily felt when her roof was lifted by the boy? Write three thoughts that must have been running through her head.
3. Why do you think the boy had brought the dresser for the family?
4. Why did they ask for the roof to be nailed down lightly?

## Chapter Sixteen

1. Page 137. Why is the term 'golden age' used? 2 marks
2. Page 139. Why was Arrietty allowed to meet the boy? 1 mark
3. Pages 139/ 140: why was Pod 'dishevelled and dusty'? What must 'dishevelled' mean? 2 marks
4. Why is Homily so happy? 2 marks.
5. What do you think Mrs Driver may do, now she has noticed items are missing? Write the three next steps you think she will take.



## Chapter Seventeen

1. Page 154: read the sentence to work out what 'tentatively' must mean?
2. Imagine you are Mrs Driver and speaking to a police man- what would you say? 3 marks
3. What motivated Mrs Driver to try and find out what was going on?
4. What do you think of Mrs Driver? Explain each of your opinions. 3 marks

## Chapter Eighteen

1. Page 156. Why is 'rubbish' in inverted commas?
2. Page 158. Why does Pod not want to be moved to the doll house? Copy from the text. 2 marks
3. Page 159: thinking about what you know about Homily, why is she not happy about moving to the outside? 2 marks
4. Page 161. Homily 'seemed appeased'. Read the sentences around this phrase. What must this phrase mean? 1 mark
5. What do you think of Pod from this chapter? He has to convince Homily of the need to move out. How does he do this? Choose three words to describe his approach and find evidence in the text
6. Page 163: why does Mrs Driver have a 'malicious gleam?' What does this phrase mean? 2 marks
7. Page 165: the boy cries at the end of the chapter. Write down three things he must be thinking.

## Chapter Nineteen

1. Page 167: why does Kate gasp? 1 mark. What does it mean to gasp?
2. Why was the boy locked up and sent to India?
3. What would you have done if you were guardian of the boy? Would you have treated him in the same way? Why? 3 marks

## Chapter Twenty

1. Page 183 What would the Borrowers have used to guide them on their way out? 1 mark
2. Why did Kate feel sorry for Homily? Copy evidence from the text.
3. What dangers would there be living outside? Name three different things you can think of, use the text for some of your ideas.

## The Whole Book

Imagine Homily had set up a new home underground. What would she have used from the outside world for her new home? Write a paragraph to describe her new home, using the style that Norton would write in.

Who was your favourite character in the book? Why? Explain as fully as you can.

What do you think of the author's style of writing? Think of words to describe it.

What do you think may have given the idea for this story?

Reading the blurb at the back. The day Arrietty meets the boy is described as 'fateful' why did it turn out to be fateful?

Challenge: pick a card with a name of a character on it. Argue with your group that this character was the most *interesting* character... jot down your ideas and bring your debate!

