

Drama Analysis

This pack contains:

1. Definitions for analyzing drama
2. An example of a drama for you to read
3. An example of how to complete a drama analysis worksheet
4. An example of how to complete a written drama analysis essay

Analyzing drama is like listening to a movie, but not seeing the movie. If we can't see the movie, we must listen to what the characters say to tell us about them. We also must know what the characters are doing because actions tell us a lot about people. It is important to know what kind of people or characters are in the play, where the play takes place, and what is happening.

Plays often use narrators to tell us many of the above items. Plays also can have a character give us much of this important information.

This packet is designed to help you understand how to analyze drama.

5.

DEFINITIONS FOR DRAMA ANALYSIS	
Protagonist	The main character who is trying to get somewhere or get something done
Antagonist	The character or force that is working against the Protagonist
Setting	Where the play takes place
Mood	Is the play serious, funny, sad, etc.
Conflict	<p>All stories have some sort of struggle or conflict. What is the conflict? Conflict can be any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> --people against people/society/businesses/government --people against something inside, like their feelings/heart/brain --people against nature
Character Analysis/ Descriptions	<p>Look at what the characters say and what they do. Think of how you would describe their emotions, their intelligence, their courage, their honesty, etc. Which ones are good? Which ones are not good? If you met one of these characters in real life, what type of things would you expect them to say or to do? Imagine that the characters showed up in the GED class. How would they behave? Characters can be many things:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> --honest, brave, intelligent, polite, kind --dishonest, cowardly, unintelligent, rude, afraid --funny, pretty, happy --scary, ugly, sad --big, loud, clumsy --short, quiet, graceful
Predictions	<p>Can you tell what will happen? You are only reading a small part of a large play. What do you think happens after? Make predictions about what will happen with the characters after you are done reading. What would happen to the characters if you met them? How would you expect them to treat you?</p>
Classification of the Play	Is the play a: comedy, tragedy, history, fantasy, or a social statement
Retell the Play	Be able to summarize what happens in the play. Know how the characters feel about each other. Be able to explain why the characters do what they do.
Dialogue	This is what the characters say. Find examples where the characters say things that explain how they feel or how they think. Things characters say are very important to understand.
Action	This is what the characters do. Character actions are important to understand. Be ready to give examples of character actions that show us what kind of person the character really is.
Who is telling the story?	Stories can be told by a narrator, by someone in the story, or by someone who is neither of these. Someone who knows what will happen is called an omniscient (all-knowing) person.

THE BORROWER AND THE BOY

By Mary Norton

Reader's Theater Edition #29

Adapted for reader's theater (or readers theatre) by Aaron Shepard, from [the book](#) *The Borrowers*, Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, New York, 1953

For more reader's theater, visit [Aaron Shepard's RT Page](#) at www.aaronshp.com/rt

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PREVIEW: Young Arrietty knows that nothing worse can happen to a Borrower than to be seen by a human bean—and now she's talking to one!

GENRE: Fantasy

CULTURE: British (English)

THEME: Points of view

READERS: 5

READER AGES: 11–14

LENGTH: 10 minutes

ROLES: Narrators 1 & 2, Arrietty, Boy, Pod

NOTES: *The Borrowers* is the first book in a series that also includes *The Borrowers Afield*, *The Borrowers Afloat*, *The Borrowers Aloft*, and *The Borrowers Avenged*. For best effect, place NARRATOR 1 at far left, and NARRATOR 2 at far right, as seen from the audience, then place BOY closest to NARRATOR 1, and ARRIETTY closest to NARRATOR 2. BOY can double as POD.

NARRATOR 1: Imagine you are nearly fourteen years old but are only a few inches tall and live under the floor of a great house in the country. And imagine your tiny father one day takes you upstairs and outdoors for the first time—and on that very first day you meet a being that seems like a giant.

NARRATOR 2: That's what happened to Arrietty, one of the little people called the Borrowers. While her father was at work by the front door of the house, she ran off under a cherry tree to sit among the grass and wildflowers. But then something moved above her on the bank. Something glittered. Arrietty stared.

NARRATOR 1: It was an eye. An eye like her own, but enormous. A *glaring* eye. Then the eye blinked. A great fringe of lashes came curving down and flew up again out of sight.

NARRATOR 2: Arrietty sat breathless with fear. Cautiously, she moved her legs. She would slide noiselessly in among the grass stems and slither away down the bank.

BOY: (*in a low voice*) Don't move!

NARRATOR 1: The voice, like the eye, was enormous, but somehow hushed. Arrietty, her heart pounding in her ears, heard the breath again drawing swiftly into the vast lungs.

BOY: Or I shall hit you with my stick!

NARRATOR 2: Suddenly Arrietty became calm. Her voice, crystal thin and harebell clear, came tinkling on the air.

ARRIETTY: Why?

BOY: (*surprised*) In case you ran toward me quickly through the grass. In case you came and scrabbled at me with your nasty little hands.

NARRATOR 1: Arrietty stared at the eye. She held herself quite still.

BOY: Did you come out of the house?

ARRIETTY: Yes.

BOY: From *where* in the house?

ARRIETTY: I'm not going to tell you!

BOY: Then I'll hit you with my stick!

ARRIETTY: All right, hit me!

BOY: I'll pick you up and break you in half!

ARRIETTY: All right.

NARRATOR 2: Arrietty stood up and took two paces forward.

BOY: (*gasps*)

NARRATOR 1: There was an earthquake in the grass. He spun away from her and sat up, a great mountain in a green jersey.

BOY: (*loudly*) Stay where you are!

NARRATOR 2: Arrietty stared up at him. Breathless she felt, and light with fear.

ARRIETTY: I'd guess you're about nine.

BOY: You're wrong. I'm ten.

NARRATOR 1: He looked down at her, breathing deeply.

BOY: How old are *you*?

ARRIETTY: Fourteen. Next June.

NARRATOR 2: There was silence while Arrietty waited, trembling a little.

BOY: Can you read?

ARRIETTY: Of course. Can't you?

BOY: No. I mean, yes. I mean, not so well.

ARRIETTY: I can read *anything*—if someone could hold the book and turn the pages.

BOY: Could you read out loud?

ARRIETTY: Of course.

BOY: Would you wait here while I run upstairs and get a book now?

ARRIETTY: Well—

BOY: I won't be but a minute.

NARRATOR 1: He began to move away, but turned suddenly and came back to her. He stood a moment, as though embarrassed.

BOY: Can you fly?

ARRIETTY: (*surprised*) No! Can you?

BOY: Of course not! I'm not a fairy!

ARRIETTY: Well, nor am I, nor is *anybody*. I don't *believe* in them.

BOY: (*confused*) You don't *believe* in them?

ARRIETTY: No! Do you?

BOY: Of course not! But . . . but supposing you saw a little man, about as tall as a pencil, with a blue patch in his trousers, halfway up a window curtain, carrying a doll's teacup. Would *you* say it was a fairy?

ARRIETTY: No, I'd say it was my father!

BOY: Oh. Are there many people like you?

ARRIETTY: No. None. We're all different.

BOY: I mean as *small* as you.

ARRIETTY: (*laughs*) What a funny question! Surely you don't think there are many people in the world *your* size?

BOY: There are more *my* size than *yours*.

ARRIETTY: (*laughs again*) Honestly! Do you really think . . . I mean, whatever sort of a world would it be? Those great chairs—I've *seen* them. Fancy if you had to make chairs that size for *everyone*. And the stuff for their *clothes*—miles and miles of it, *tents* of it—and the sewing! And their great houses—reaching up so you can hardly see the ceilings—their great beds, the *food* they eat—great smoking *mountains* of it!

That's why my father says it's a good thing they're dying out! Just a few, my father says—that's all we need to keep us going. Otherwise, he says, the whole thing gets—what did he say?—*exaggerated*.

BOY: What do you mean, "keep us going"?

NARRATOR 2: So Arrietty told him about borrowing—how difficult it was, and how dangerous. She told him about the storerooms under the floor, about her mother, Homily, and her father, Pod. She told him about Pod's exploits, his skill—how he would venture bravely into the house above to borrow whatever his family needed.

BOY: "Borrowing." Is that what you call it?

ARRIETTY: What *else* could you call it?

BOY: I'd call it stealing.

ARRIETTY: (*laughs hard*) But we *are* Borrowers, like you're a . . . a "human bean," or whatever it's called. We're part of the house! You might as well say that the fire grate steals the coal from the coal scuttle!

BOY: Then what is stealing?

ARRIETTY: (*seriously*) Don't you know? Stealing is . . . Well, suppose my Uncle Hendreary borrowed something from the house and then my father took it from *him*. But Borrowers don't steal!

BOY: Except from human beings.

ARRIETTY: (*laughs harder still*) Oh dear, you *are* funny! Human beans are *for* Borrowers—like bread's for butter!

NARRATOR 1: The boy was silent awhile. A sigh of wind rustled the cherry tree and shivered among the blossoms.

BOY: Well, I don't believe it. I don't believe that's what we're for at all, and I don't believe we're dying out!

ARRIETTY: (*impatiently*) Oh, goodness! Just use your common sense! You're the only real human bean I ever saw, and I only know of three more. But I know of lots and lots of Borrowers!

BOY: Then where are they now? Tell me that.

ARRIETTY: Well, my Uncle Hendreary has a house in the country, and four children.

BOY: But where are the others?

ARRIETTY: (*confused*) Oh, they're somewhere.

NARRATOR 2: She shivered slightly in the boy's cold shadow.

BOY: (*coldly*) Well, I've only seen two Borrowers, but I've seen hundreds and hundreds and hundreds and hundreds and hundreds

ARRIETTY: (*softly, to herself, as he speaks*) Oh, no.

BOY: of human beings.

NARRATOR 2: Arrietty stood very still. She did not look at him.

ARRIETTY: I don't believe you.

BOY: All right, then I'll *tell* you.

ARRIETTY: I *still* won't believe you.

BOY: Listen!

NARRATOR 1: And he told her about railway stations and football matches and racecourses and royal processions and Albert Hall concerts. He told her about India and China and North America and the British Commonwealth. He told her about the July sales.

BOY: Not hundreds, but thousands and millions and billions and trillions of great big enormous people! *Now* do you believe me?

NARRATOR 2: Arrietty stared up at him with frightened eyes.

ARRIETTY: (*softly*) I don't know.

BOY: As for *you*, I don't believe that there are any more Borrowers anywhere in the world! I believe you're the last three.

ARRIETTY: We're not! There's Aunt Lupy and Uncle Hendreary and all the cousins.

BOY: I bet they're dead. And what's more, no one will ever believe I've seen *you*. And you'll be the very last, because you're the youngest. One day, you'll be the only Borrower left in the world!

NARRATOR 1: He sat still, waiting, but she did not look up.

BOY: (*without malice*) Now you're crying.

ARRIETTY: (*not looking at him*) I'm going home.

BOY: Don't go. Not yet.

ARRIETTY: Yes, I'm going.

BOY: (*pleading*) Let me just get the book. Please? I'll just be a minute!

ARRIETTY: (*absently*) All right.

NARRATOR 2: He was gone. And she stood there alone in the sunshine, shoulder deep in grass. What had happened seemed too big for thought. Not only had she been seen, but she had been talked to. Not only had she been talked to, but she had—

POD: (*in a low voice*) Arrietty! Come over here!

NARRATOR 1: She spun around, and there was Pod on the path, round-faced, kind, familiar. Obediently she started over to him.

POD: What d'you want to go in the grass for? I might never have seen you! Hurry up, now. Your mother'll have tea waiting.

(*POD and ARRIETTY leave.*)

EXAMPLE OF HOW TO COMPLETE A DRAMA ANALYSIS

The Borrower Meets the Boy	
Protagonist	Arrietty
Antagonist	Boy
Setting	A house in the country
Mood	Serious
Conflict	Arrietty has conflict with Boy.
Character Analysis/ Descriptions	Arrietty is small, intelligent, brave, polite, kind She is a Borrower – only a few inches tall. She is 14 Boy is giant, not so smart, afraid, mean, not kind He is a giant. He is 10.
Predictions	I think that Boy and Arrietty will meet again. He will probably be angry that she did not wait for him to return. Arrietty will be too smart for Boy. She will make friends with him.
Classification of the Play	This play is a fantasy.
Retell the Play	Arrietty, a Borrower, is surprised to meet a giant boy. He is afraid of Arrietty. They talk. We learn that Boy and Arrietty do not know facts about each other's worlds. Boy wants Arrietty to read for him. He leaves to go get a book. Arrietty waits for him, but another Borrower finds her and tells her it is time to go home.
Dialogue	Boy threatens to hit Arrietty with a stick – this shows he is mean and maybe afraid. He also says that he would hit her if she attacked him. He is afraid of her and of Borrowers.
Action	There is not a lot of action. Boy and Arrietty talk during most of the play. Boy leaves to get a book. Another Borrower named Pod arrives and tells Arrietty that they need to go home.
Who is telling the story?	Two narrators tell us the story and describe the action.

Use the words in this chart to complete the following drama analysis.	
fiction	protagonist
mean, afraid, and not very smart	human beans
Boy	The Borrower Meets the Boy
believe each other	magic
hit her with a stick	Borrowers
brave, polite, and smart	do not know much about each other
home in the country	dying off and that there are not many left
she is afraid	Borrowers

This is an analysis for a play called, _____ .
 This play is _____. It is a children's story. The setting for this play is a
 _____ .

In this play, very little creatures called _____ live in a world with giant
 people. _____ go into the world of giants when they need to take
 something.

The _____ of this play is a Borrower named Arrietty. She is
 _____. For example, when she first meets
 boy she does not run even though _____. _____ is the antagonist.
 He is _____. For example, when he first meets
 Arrietty, he threatens to _____ .

Boy and Arrietty show that they _____. For
 example, Arrietty calls giants _____. In addition, Boy asks if Arrietty is
 _____. Arrietty laughs when he asks her. Arrietty and Boy also do not
 _____. For example, Arrietty says that she has been told humans are
 _____. Boy
 laughs when he hears this.

Write in your own words, a couple of sentences about what you thought of the drama reading. What did
 you like? What did you not like?

