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 dramas is like listening to a movie, but not seeing the movie. If we can’t see them 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.
### DEFINITIONS FOR DRAMA ANALYSIS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Protagonist</td>
<td>The main character who is trying to get somewhere or get something done</td>
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<tr>
<td>Antagonist</td>
<td>The character or force that is working against the Protagonist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Setting</td>
<td>Where the play takes place</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mood</td>
<td>Is the play serious, funny, sad, etc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conflict</td>
<td>All stories have some sort of struggle or conflict. What is the conflict?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Character Analysis/Descriptions</td>
<td>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: --honest, brave, intelligent, polite, kind --dishonest, cowardly, unintelligent, rude, afraid --funny, pretty, happy --scary, ugly, sad --big, loud, clumsy --short, quiet, graceful</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Predictions</td>
<td>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?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classification of the Play</td>
<td>Is the play a: comedy, tragedy, history, fantasy, or a social statement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retell the Play</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dialogue</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who is telling the story?</td>
<td>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.</td>
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</table>
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

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For more reader’s theater, visit Aaron Shepard’s RT Page at www.aaronshep.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.

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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?

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Protagonist</th>
<th>Arrietty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Antagonist</td>
<td>Boy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Setting</td>
<td>A house in the country</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mood</td>
<td>Serious</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conflict</td>
<td>Arrietty has conflict with Boy.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>fiction</th>
<th>protagonist</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>mean, afraid, and not very smart</td>
<td>human beans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boy</td>
<td>The Borrower Meets the Boy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>believe each other</td>
<td>magic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hit her with a stick</td>
<td>Borrowers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>brave, polite, and smart</td>
<td>do not know much about each other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>home in the country</td>
<td>dying off and that there are not many left</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>she is afraid</td>
<td>Borrowers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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?