Battle of the Books
Questions and Answers for The Borrowers by Mary Norton

1. Who was Mrs. May? She was an older relation of Kate’s who lived at her house and told her about the Borrowers.
2. What did Kate do with Mrs. May? She went to see her around tea-time and Mrs. May taught her to crochet.
3. What else did Mrs. May teach Kate? She taught her how to wind wool, how to straighten out a drawer, and how to lay a sheet of tissue paper above the items in a drawer.
4. What were Kate and Mrs. May doing the day Mrs. May told her about the Borrowers? They were making a bed quilt.
5. Why wasn’t Kate working? She couldn’t find her crochet hook.
6. What did Mrs. May think happened to it? The Borrowers took it.
7. Why did Kate think that Borrowers must exist? Because so many things got lost, like safety pins, needles, hair pins and thimbles.
8. Did Mrs. May ever see a Borrower? No.
9. Who did she know who had seen one? Her brother.
10. What happened to Mrs. May’s brother? He was killed when he was a soldier.
11. Where did Mrs. May and her brother and sister grow up? In India.
12. Why did her brother go to live with their great-Aunt while they were young? Because he had rheumatic fever and he went to her house in the country to get stronger.
13. What did Mrs. May’s brother say had happened at his aunt’s house? He said he got to know the Borrowers and he became a bit of a borrower himself.
14. Did Mrs. May believe in the Borrowers? She wasn’t sure.
15. When did Mrs. May first hear the story of the Borrowers? On the boat on the way back to India with her brother.
16. Why were the Borrowers so small and hidden? Because they were frightened.
17. Why could Borrowers now only live in houses which were old and quiet? They needed a routine, to know when certain rooms were empty and when they were occupied.
18. Why was Aunt Sophy’s house ideal? Because so few people lived there, and Aunt Sophy couldn’t get out of bed. There was very little activity in the house.
19. Where did Mrs. May’s brother sleep in Aunt Sophy’s house? In the old nursery, which was across the hall from the schoolroom.
20. What was in the school room? It was stuffed full of junk, such as old furniture and toys that weren’t used anymore.
21. What was in the directly downstairs from the boy’s room? A grandfather clock.
22. What was underneath the grandfather clock? A hole.
23. Why was the hole never discovered? No one ever moved the clock.
24. Was the Borrower’s home close to the hold under the clock? No, the hole was the entrance to their home, but then there were a series of tunnels and passageways, blocked by different sorts of gates, that eventually led to their home.
25. Why did Pod have so many gates? So mice couldn’t get into their house.
26. Who was the only Borrower who knew how to get out to the hole under the clock? Pod.

27. What allowed Arrietty a glimpse of the outside world? There was a grating that opened up to the garden outside, and Arrietty would sit and look at the gravel path and flowers that she could see out this “window.”

28. What did the Borrowers use as wallpaper? Scraps of old letters taken from the garbage can upstairs.

29. Who was blamed for the missing chess piece, when its absence was discovered upstairs? The former maid, Rosa Pickhatchet.

30. What did Arrietty write in? She wrote in her copy of Tom Thumb Diary and Proverb Book.

31. What was the Borrower’s fireplace and chimney made out of? A cogwheel taken from the stables.

32. Where did the smoke from the fire go? A funnel was over top of the fireplace, and the funnel was connected to a series of pipes that took the smoke up into the upstairs kitchen’s fireplace flue.

33. What did the Borrowers use for carpet in their sitting room? Red blotting paper.

34. Why did Arrietty only write one line for each day in her diary? She wanted to save room, because she figured she’d never have another diary.

35. What did Arrietty write in her diary that day, March 22? She wrote “Mother worried.”

36. Whose fault did Homily say it was that Pod was late coming back for dinner? She said it was her own fault.

37. Why did she think it was her fault? She had asked him to replace a cup that Arrietty had broken by getting another one out of a high cupboard, and Homily was afraid that Pod would have a hard time climbing the curtain to get to the cupboard and to get down.

38. What did Arrietty want to try to do? She wanted to learn to borrow.

39. How did Homily feel about that? She didn’t like the idea of it; she thought it was too dangerous.

40. Did Pod manage to get the tea cup and saucer? Yes.

41. Why did Homily send Arrietty to bed? Pod was upset about something and they wanted to speak in private.

42. What was Pod upset about? He had been seen by a boy.

43. Who was the last Borrower to be seen? Uncle Hendreary.

44. What happened to Uncle Hendreary? He had to “emigrate” to a badger hole.

45. Why didn’t Homily want to live outside, in a badger hole? She thought it was a “rough” way to live and was not an appropriate way for Arrietty to grow up.

46. Why was Homily so surprised to hear that a boy had seen Pod? Because there had been no children in the house for such a long time.

47. Where was the boy and where were Pod when they saw each other? Pod was in the schoolroom getting the cup, and the boy was across the hall in bed in the nursery.

48. Why was it harder for Pod getting down the curtain than up? He had to be careful because he had the cup in his hands, and if he dropped it, it would break. He was going down very slowly.
49. What did the boy do when he saw Pod? He helped him by taking the cup so Pod could shimmy down the curtain.

50. How was Arrietty different from Eggletina? Eggletina never knew that there was another world above the tunnels and home of the Borrowers.

51. What did Pod and Homily decide to tell Arrietty? They decided to tell her about what happened to Eggletina and what would happen if Borrowers were “seen.”

52. What was Arrietty’s bedroom built out of? Two cigar boxes.

53. Was Arrietty asleep when Homily came to get her? No, she was listening to her parents’ worried voices through the wall.

54. Who were the three “giants” that lived upstairs, according to Homily? Great-Aunt Sophy, Mrs. Driver and Crampfurl, the gardener.

55. Why did Arrietty think Uncle Hendreary had emigrated? To be outside, run in the grass and feel the sunshine.

56. Why did Homily say he had really left? Because he had been seen.

57. Who saw Uncle Hendreary, and when? Rosa Pickhatchet saw him on April 23, 1892.

58. Why did Pod think Uncle Hendreary had climbed the drawing room mantle? To get a liver pill for Aunt Lupy.

59. How did he get caught? Rosa Pickhatchet, a maid, dusted him, thinking he was a figurine, but then he sneezed.

60. Why didn’t Pod go in the drawing room much? Because everything was noticed there; something missing from there would be noticed. Also, there was rarely any food there, because there was rarely any company.

61. Why did Homily say that of all the Borrower families that had lived in the house, they were the only family that had stayed? Because Pod was such a good borrower.

62. Who were the Overmantels? They were a family that had lived behind the mantle in the morning room. The men smoked and drank too much alcohol, and the women were conceited, according to Homily.

63. What did the Overmantels eat? They only ate breakfast food, as that was the only meal that was served in the morning room, where they lived.

64. What happened to the Overmantels? They had to move because once Aunt Sophy’s husband died and Aunt Sophy was confined to bed, no one ate or made fires in the morning room.

65. How did the Borrowers develop their last names? It was based on where in the house they lived. Harpsichord, Overmantel, Clock, Rainpipe.

66. What information did Homily provide to prove that their family was educated? She bragged that Pod’s father could count up to fifty-seven, Pod could count close to a thousand, and he also knew the alphabet.

67. What did the Harpsichords have to eat? Leftovers from afternoon tea, such as muffins, cake and jam.

68. Why did Pod and Homily say they had so many gates in their tunnels? To keep out mice, rats, and cats, and to keep Arrietty from going upstairs, which was a dangerous place.

69. What happened to Eggletina? She didn’t know that upstairs existed, and there were very few gates back then, so she wandered off. Unfortunately, this was soon
after Uncle Hendreary, her father, had been seen, and the big people had gotten a cat. No one ever knew what happened to Eggletina; she never came back.

70. What did Uncle Hendreary and his family do after Eggletina disappeared? They emigrated to the badger’s set.

71. Did Arrietty want to emigrate? Yes.

72. Why did Arrietty want to emigrate? She was tired of living her whole life stuck inside. She was lonely and bored.

73. How were Homily and Pod’s childhoods different from Arrietty’s? They had other friends to play with, because there were other Borrower families living in the house. They didn’t feel so isolated.

74. What did Homily suggest that Pod should do? Take Arrietty borrowing with him.

75. What did Pod think of the idea? He thought it was too dangerous, especially after he had just been seen.

76. Why did Homily think Arrietty had to learn to borrow? Because if something happened to her parents, she couldn’t survive if she couldn’t borrow. Also, a little bit of freedom might satisfy her, so she wouldn’t be desiring to go out into wild outdoors.

77. How did Arrietty feel about going borrowing? She was very excited and happy about it.

78. How long was it between their talk and the time when Arrietty got to go borrowing with Pod? Three weeks.

79. How did Arrietty behave during that time? She was on her best behavior and very helpful, in the hopes of being allowed to go out with her father.

80. Why did Pod need to go borrowing? Homily needed new bristles for her scrubbing brush.

81. What sort of borrowing had Pod been doing since he had been seen? He had only wanted to go into the kitchen for food; he had avoided any other rooms in the house.

82. Where did Pod need to go to get the bristles for the brush? To the front door.

83. Why did they bring three bags when they went out? In case they saw anything else they needed while they were there.

84. What was used to fasten the first gate out of the Borrowers’ house? A safety pin, which Arrietty was too small to open by herself.

85. Why did Pod leave all the gates open behind him? In case he had to get back to the safety of his house in a hurry.

86. How did they get up into the house? They went up through a hole under the grandfather clock.

87. Why did Arrietty run over to the mat and her father? Because he signaled her that no one was around and she could come out from under the clock.

88. What was a rule that Pod gave to Arrietty about climbing? Never climb down anything that wasn’t fixed in place, because if a person moved it, the Borrower would be stuck wherever he or she had climbed to.

89. Where did Arrietty want to go while Pod got his brush bristles? She wanted to run around the house on the outside and find the grating that she so often looked through from the inside, and say “hi” to Homily.
90. What did Homily ask Arrietty to tell Pod she needed, while they were up there? She needed more red blotting paper.
91. What was Homily going to do after she talked to Arrietty? She was going to throw the wash water out through the grating.
92. What did Arrietty do while Pod finished his work? She ran to look at the flowers.
93. What did Arrietty see in the grass on the bank? An eye.
94. What color was the eye? Blue, like the color of the sky.
95. What did Arrietty think was going to happen? Whatever had happened to Eggletina.
96. What did the boy tell Arrietty to do? Not to move; the boy was scared of Arrietty.
97. How old did the boy say he was? Ten.
98. How old was Arrietty? Almost fourteen.
99. Why couldn’t the boy read? Because he was from India, and was therefore bilingual, so he hadn’t yet learned to read.
100. What did the boy want Arrietty to do? To wait while he went to get a book for her to read to him.
101. What did Arrietty ask the boy to do, if he was going to go back in the house? To go in through a different door, so he didn’t scare Pod, who was working in the front hall.
102. Why did the boy ask Arrietty if she could fly? Because he thought she was a fairy.
103. Who did Arrietty say had seen a fairy? Her mother, Homily.
104. What did Arrietty say were happening to the “big” people, according to her father? They were dying out.
105. What did Aunt Sophy think when she saw Pod? She thought he was a vision that she had because she drank too much Madeira.
106. What did the boy think of Aunt Sophy? He thought she was cross. She gave him schoolwork to do and checked whether his ears were clean.
107. What did the boy think was a better word for what the little people did, rather than “borrowing”? Stealing.
108. Why did Arrietty think “human beans” existed? For the borrowers to borrow from.
109. What did the boy say about the number of Borrowers compared to the number of human beings? He said that there were many, many human beings, but that Arrietty, Pod and Homily might be the last Borrowers left.
110. How did Arrietty feel about that? She was scared.
111. What did the boy offer to do for her? He offered to go find Uncle Hendreary and the others. If Arrietty wrote them a letter, he would bring it to them.
112. Where did Arrietty say she’d leave the letter? Under the mat by the front door.
113. Where did the boy go then? To get a book for Arrietty to read to him.
114. What happened while he was gone? Pod came and told Arrietty that it was time to go home.
115. How was Homily feeling when Pod and Arrietty got home? She was very excited and anxious to hear all about Arrietty’s experiences.
116. What did the family have for tea? They had chestnuts, currants, cinnamon breadcrumbs and shrimp.
117. Why didn’t Pod get Homily the blotting paper? He had his “feeling.”
118. What was the feeling? It’s an instinct that a Borrower would have if there was a person around.
119. How did Homily and Pod feel their “feelings?” Pod felt it in the back of his head and his fingers, and Homily felt it in her ankles and knees.
120. How did Homily explain the fact that Arrietty didn’t have the feeling? She said she was young and needed to practice.
121. Why did Arrietty rip a piece of paper out of her diary? So she could write a letter to Uncle Hendreary.
122. Why couldn’t Arrietty go out to put the letter under the mat for several days? Because Pod didn’t want to borrow. He was working on cleaning up and repairing the storeroom, which he did every year.
123. Where did Arrietty have the letter? She carried it with her inside her shirt.
124. What happened when Arrietty tried to open the gate herself, impatient with waiting for her father? She couldn’t get it open.
125. Where did Arrietty and Pod go on the fourth day? Up to get blotting paper for Homily for the sitting room.
126. Who did Arrietty think of when she went into the morning room? She saw the overmantel and thought of the Overmantels, what they had been like and how they had never invited Homily over to their place.
127. Where did Arrietty go when Pod climbed up to get the paper? She ran into the hall to put the letter under the mat.
128. How did Pod get the paper down from the desk? He let it drop, and then he picked it up when he climbed down.
129. Why was Homily nervous when they returned? Because she had heard Mrs. Driver and Crampfurl talking about the boy, so she knew that he was still in the house.
130. Why was Arrietty interested in what Mrs. Driver had said? Mrs. Driver was complaining about the boy continuously looking under the mat in the hall. So Arrietty knew that he was looking for the letter. She was worried that he would stop looking and would therefore not find the letter that she had just placed there.
131. Why did Arrietty spend the next three nights standing on the stool under the “big” kitchen? She was listening to Mrs. Driver and Crampfurl, hoping to hear something about the boy.
132. What did her parents think she was doing? Practicing to get her “feeling.”
133. What had Crampfurl seen the boy doing? He was running around outside, calling down rabbit holes for an “Uncle” somebody.
134. What did Crampfurl think the boy was doing? Looking for his ferret.
135. What did the boy ask Crampfurl when he came up with his gun? He asked him if there were any badger sets around there.
136. What was he looking for? Uncle Hendreary’s house, to give him the letter.
137. Why did Arrietty want to find the boy? She wanted to find out if he had found Uncle Hendreary.
138. What was Arrietty worried about? She was afraid that the Borrowers were dying out. She was afraid of being the last one, and of living forever in the dark tunnels under the house.
139. Where had Pod gone? He had gone to borrow in Aunt Sophy’s room.
140. Why wouldn’t he be back for a long time? Because he liked to spend time up
there talking to her.
141. How long did Homily say Pod would be gone? At least an hour and a half.
142. Where did Arrietty go? She went to the store rooms to find a hat pin and then
she went out to find the boy.
143. Why did Arrietty choose to go out right then? Because Pod was already out, and
so the gates had been left open in anticipation of his return.
144. Where did Arrietty need to go, once she got out from the hole under the clock?
She needed to go up to the night nursery, where the boy would be in bed.
145. What did she hear when she got to the top of the stairs? She could hear Aunt
Sophy and her father talking.
146. Why did Arrietty like to run on the hard floor more than on the carpet? She
could go faster, which made her feel free.
147. What was Arrietty’s explanation for why she wasn’t there when the boy came
back with the book? Because she had to go home for tea.
148. Why did the boy bring Arrietty’s letter back? Because Uncle Hendreary had
written a reply.
149. What was Uncle Hendreary’s message? “Tell your Aunt Lupy to come home.”
150. What happened then? Pod found Arrietty and made her come home.
151. Were Homily and Pod angry or frightened that Arrietty had been talking to the
boy? They were frightened.
152. Why didn’t Pod think that their family and Uncle Hendreary’s family could
“stick together?” Because the Hendrearys would never move back to the house and
Homily would never live outside with no hot water.
153. What was so dangerous about Arrietty talking to the boy? Because now he knew
where they lived, and he even knew where Uncle Hendreary lived too.
154. What was the meaning of Uncle Hendreary’s letter? That Aunt Lupy had set off
to go to the house, and had never made it there. Uncle Hendreary thought she had.
155. What did Aunt Lupy’s disappearance prove even more to Pod? How dangerous
the fields between the house and the badger set were.
156. What was Arrietty’s explanation for why she had talked to the boy? Because she
had been accidentally seen, and she couldn’t help it.
157. What did Homily’s parents do as she lay in bed waiting to fall asleep? They
talked and talked and roamed around.
158. What two things did Arrietty want? She wanted her comfortable, safe life, but
she also wanted the adventure of being able to go out in the world,
159. What did Homily finally do before she went to bed? She curled her hair.
160. How did Homily feel when she was startled awake? Her mouth was full of grit
and she felt a draft.
161. What was happening? Someone above had taken off their ceiling and was
sticking a screwdriver down into their room, prying their ceiling completely off.
162. Who was taking their ceiling off? The boy.
163. What did Homily say to the boy? She told him to put their ceiling back.
164. Why was the boy there? He had some doll furniture to give to them.
165. What actions by the boy seemed to most upset Homily and Pod? They became very anxious when he put his hand down into their house, because he could have grabbed one of them if he’d wanted to.
166. Why was the boy reluctant to nail down the ceiling? Because he had more things to give him.
167. What did he have? He had more furniture from the doll house in the schoolroom.
168. What agreement did they come to on the ceiling? He was to nail them down, but very lightly, so he could bring it up again to give them stuff. Homily wanted the things from the doll house.
169. What happened every night after that, for a time? The boy brought great treasures to the Borrowers.
170. Why did all this activity bother Pod? Because he was constantly having to rearrange the furniture to accommodate the new acquisitions.
171. What was the boy’s payment for his work? Arrietty read to him every afternoon.
172. What sadness did they Borrowers feel about their new possessions? There were no visitors or friends to show off to.
173. Were the Borrowers happy during this time? Yes, Arrietty enjoyed reading to the boy and getting to know him, and Homily and Pod were happy with the new items for their house.
174. What did they do once all the items had been gleaned from the doll house? They asked the boy to take some things from the drawing room for them, which they later realized was a mistake.
175. How did Aunt Sophy change in this time? She began walking around her room from time to time, rather than just staying in bed.
176. Who first noticed that items were missing from the drawing room? Mrs. Driver.
177. Did Mrs. Driver ever take things from the house? Occasionally she took some wine, a handkerchief or some stockings, but she would never take something out of the drawing room.
178. Who did Mrs. Driver suspect of taking the things? She thought of Crampfurl, the boy, and the man who wound the clocks, but eventually she decided that it was Aunt Sophy herself, who was possibly trying to frame her.
179. What sort of mood was Mrs. Driver in that night? She was grumpy and suspicious with everyone in the house.
180. What did Mrs. Driver do after the boy was in bed? She went through all his things, his suitcase and drawers.
181. Why did Mrs. Driver set her alarm clock for midnight? She wanted to get up and catch whoever was stealing things from the drawing room.
182. What did Mrs. Driver see when she woke up and went out into the hall? A flicker of candlelight.
183. What did Mrs. Driver hear as she went down the stairs? She heard the door from the kitchen to the hall swing shut; someone had just been in the kitchen.
184. What did Mrs. Driver do then? She noticed something funny under the floor board that was by the stove, so she pulled up the board and saw into Homily and Pod’s bedroom!
185. How did Mrs. Driver react? She screamed like crazy.
186. Who came in, hearing her cries? Crampfurl.
187. What did Mrs. Driver think it was? A nest of some sort; she had seen the little people running about.
188. What did Crampfurl think it was? Just a storage place where the boy hid “treasures.”
189. What did Mrs. Driver think the little people were? She was sure if they were mice or if they were miniature people.
190. What did Mrs. Driver and Crampfurl do then? They went through all the Borrowers’ stuff and were amazed at all the valuables that were in there, including Aunt Sophy’s emerald watch.
191. Who did Mrs. Driver want to call then? The police.
192. What was the boy doing at that time? He was waiting in bed, afraid of being pursued.
193. When did he finally get back out of bed? After one, when he thought everyone was back in bed.
194. What had happened to the Borrowers’ house? It had been destroyed by Mrs. Driver and Crampfurl.
195. Where did the Borrowers say they’d been hiding for the past hour or so? Under the clock.
196. Why was Pod worried? Because he heard Mrs. Driver and Crampfurl say that they were going to bring out the police, a cat and a rat-catcher. He knew that the house would not be safe any longer.
197. Where did the boy suggest they go? To live in the dollhouse, on top of the shelf.
198. Why wouldn’t that work, according to Pod? Because they wouldn’t be able to get down, and they’d have no water.
199. Why couldn’t the boy bring them what they needed? Because he’d be leaving soon.
200. What was Pod’s solution? They had to emigrate to the badger set.
201. Why was Arrietty crying? Because she was happy how things were, in their house with the nice things and the boy for company.
202. What plan did they come up with? The boy would take them to the dollhouse for the night, and then he would take them the next day to the badger set, and come back with supplies for them.
203. How was the boy going to carry them up to the dollhouse? In the clothes pin bag.
204. What happened as they were about to go? Mrs. Driver came into the kitchen.
205. What did she say to the boy? She told him he was a thief and he was going to be locked up.
206. Where did Mrs. Driver take the boy? She took him up to the nursery and locked him in, so he could not help the Borrowers anymore.
207. What did Mrs. May mean when she said, “And that is really the end.”? She meant that they were done making the quilt.
208. Why did Mrs. May say that it was the end of the story? Because the boy (Mrs. May’s brother) never saw the Borrowers again.
209. How did Kate feel on hearing that that was the end of the story? She was very upset and started crying.
210. But was there more to the story? Yes.
211. Why did the boy have to leave a few days after the Borrowers home was discovered? Because there was a boat that was going to India, and he needed to be on it.
212. Where did the boy stay until he left for India? He was kept locked up in the nursery.
213. Why was Mrs. Driver so mad when the policeman came? Because the policeman who came had been, as a boy, chased away by Mrs. Driver many times for “stealing apples.” And the policeman, now grown was laughing and making fun of Mrs. Driver for saying that there was a family of little people living down beneath the floor boards.
214. What did Aunt Sophy and the policeman think that Mrs. Driver was doing when she saw the little people? They thought she was drinking too much alcohol.
215. What happened when Crampfurl’s cat came into the house? He just stole food from the kitchen, and then ran away when the rat-catcher came with his dogs.
216. Did Mrs. Driver catch the Borrowers? No, but what she did to them was worse.
217. What did the boy smell as he was getting ready to catch his boat? The smell of the chemicals the rat-catcher was using.
218. What did Aunt Sophy think Driver should do if she didn’t like the Borowers? “Keep the bottle corked,” meaning don’t drink so much wine.
219. How did Mrs. Driver intend to show Aunt Sophy that the Borrowers were real? She was going to bring their corpses up after the rat-catcher was done.
220. What had happened to the clock? It had been moved, and the hole under it that had served as a passageway for the Borrowers had been sealed with cement.
221. How much time did the boy have before the cab was coming to take him to the station? Ten minutes.
222. Why did Mrs. Driver take him into the kitchen? So they could see the rat-catcher catch the Borrowers.
223. What was the rat-catcher going to do? He had blocked all the exits except the one in the kitchen, and then he was going to get them to come running out by pumping poison gas down the tunnel.
224. Why had the policeman come? He wanted to see what was going to happen.
225. Who was Rich William? He was the rat-catcher.
226. When did the boy have a chance to escape? Mrs. Driver took some cups away to wash, and the men were all occupied with the hole in the kitchen floor.
227. What did the boy take from the stack of the rat-catcher’s tools? He took a pickax.
228. Where did the boy go with the pickax? He went out to the hall and tried to dig open the cement that was blocking the Borrowers’ hole under where the clock had been.
229. Was the boy able to open the hole? No, because there was steel under the cement.
230. What did the boy see coming up to the house? His cab.
231. Where did the boy go then? To the grating that was on the outside of the house, that led to the Borrowers home.
232. What did he do? He cracked open the grating with the pickax so the Borrowers could escape before they choked on the smoke.
233. What did he do with the pickax before he ran toward his cab? He threw it behind the cherry tree.
234. Did the boy see the Borrowers come outside? No, because he had to leave.
235. How did Mrs. May think the Borrowers found their way to the Hendrearys’ house? They followed the ridge of the gas pipe.
236. What did Mrs. May think the Borrowers ate in their new house? Nuts, corn, which they could grind into flour, and fish, berries, eggs and fresh greens.
237. What did Mrs. May think about the danger the Borrowers would face in their new environment? She thought there was danger everywhere, even for humans, and some humans faced worse dangers than the Borrowers ever would, such as war. She thought they’d learn how to be safe among wild animals.
238. Where did Mrs. May think the Borrowers lived? She thought they used the badger’s set as merely an entrance way to an elaborate system of tunnels which would lead to a carved out chamber near the gas-pipe.
239. What did the Borrowers use the gas-pipe for? For light, heat and cooking fuel.
240. Did Mrs. May ever see the Borrowers? No.
241. What did she give them? She brought a bag full of doll furniture, tea, coffee and other staples, plus supplies such as fabric and needles.
242. What did Mrs. May find that made her think she had found the right place where the Borrowers lived? She found an oak-apple which had been hollowed out and polished, just like the one the Borrowers used as a teapot.
243. What happened to the supplies Mrs. May left for the Borrowers? They were taken by someone, but she didn’t see who. She thought the Borrowers found the bag and took it.
244. What book of Arrietty’s did Mrs. May find? The book with the blank pages, called “Memoranda.”
245. When did Mrs. May find it? Not until three weeks after she found the pillowcase of supplies was gone, right before she left Aunt Sophy’s house.
246. What made Mrs. May not quite sure that the book she found had been written in by Arrietty and not by her brother? Arrietty’s handwriting looked a bit like her brother’s handwriting.