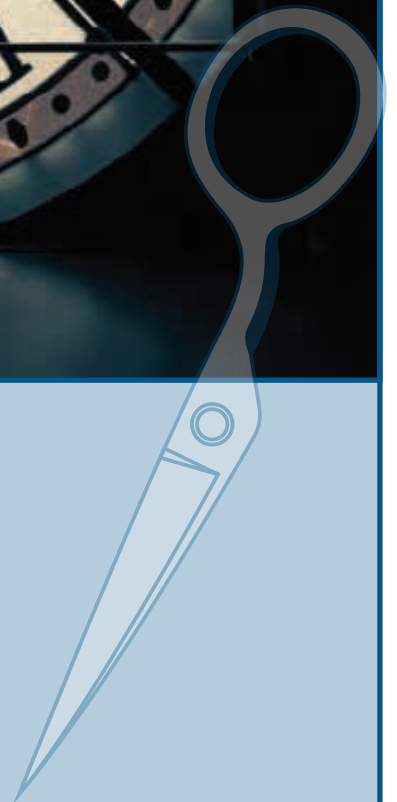
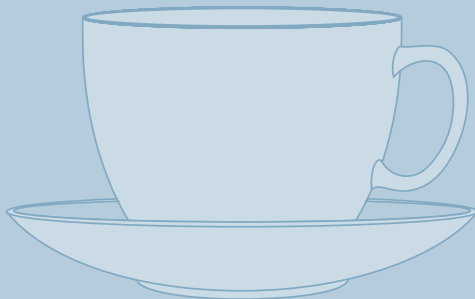
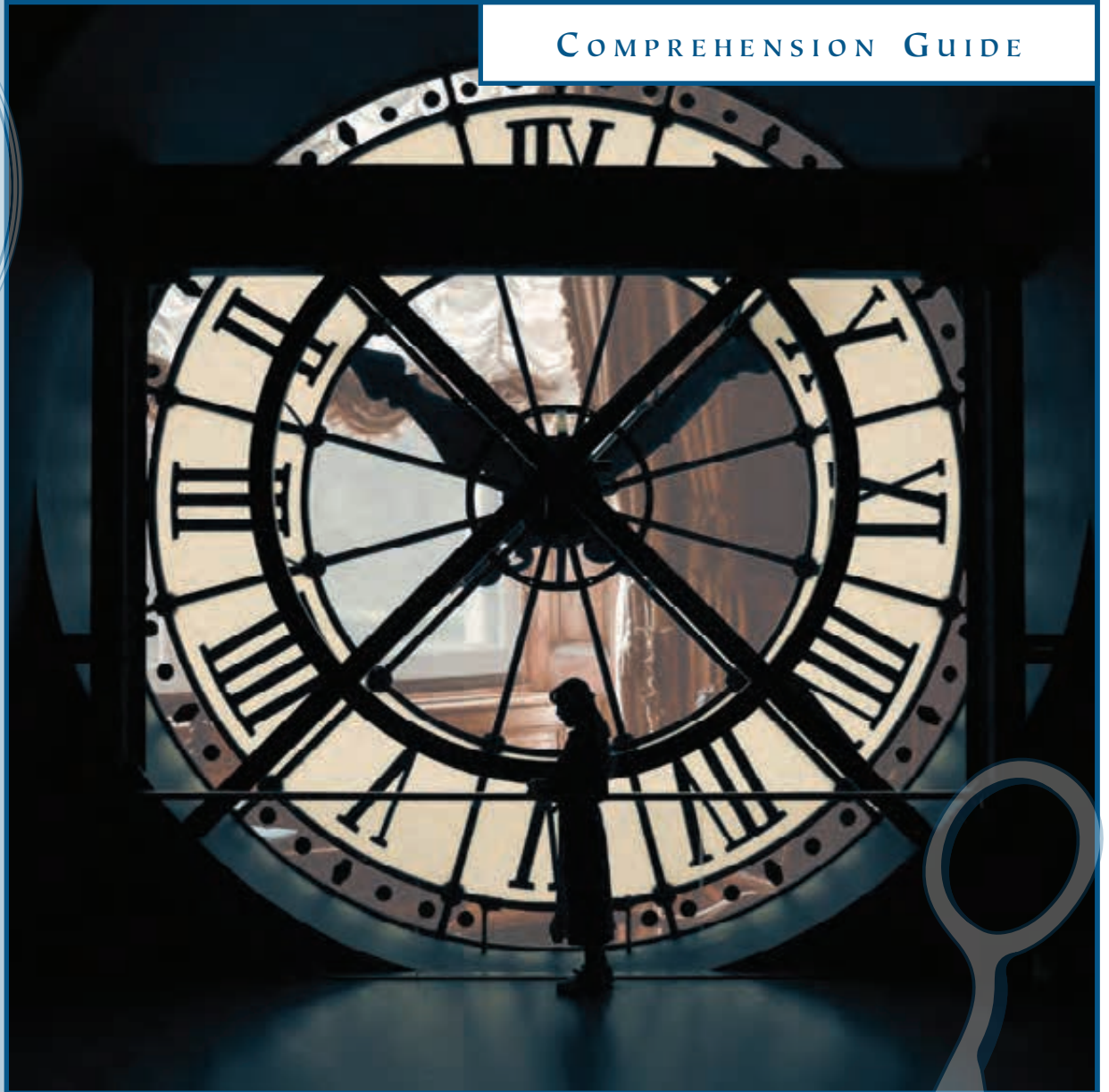


# THE BORROWERS

COMPREHENSION GUIDE



THE BORROWERS  
*by Mary Norton*

Comprehension Questions  
by Alexia Detweiler

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# THE BORROWERS

## *How to Use this Guide*

This guide is intended to help you study, understand, and enjoy *The Borrowers*. You might ask if a guide is really necessary to read a book. Is the student not just working to improve reading skills while being taught to enjoy reading a good book? Certainly, it is the case that the more a child reads, the more he should improve his skills, but quantity is not the only issue. Once a child has received adequate phonetic training he should learn how to read a book. Most educators using this guide will have children in the grammar stage, generally understood to be during the elementary years in classical education. (For a thorough understanding of classical Christian education, a reading of *Recovering the Lost Tools of Learning*, by Douglas Wilson is highly recommended.) The basic goals of reading in the grammar stage are as follows:

The student should be able to:

1. Fluently read a given selection orally.
2. Show an increased desire for reading.
3. Show comprehension on a literal and inferential level.
4. Demonstrate an increased vocabulary.
5. Identify basic biblical values in the literature being read.
6. Identify various styles (myths, poems, fantasy, fiction, non fiction, etc.)

Answers to the questions are found in the back of the guide. Although the answers are written in complete sentences, they are not as detailed as you should expect from your students. They should restate the question in their answer, and the thoughts should be complete and thorough.

*Example:*

**Question:** What was happening in the beginning of this chapter?

**Answer:** In the beginning of the chapter a storm was coming up.

Such writing practice trains the student to answer thoroughly, completely, and with proper grammar. Another reason is to encourage integration. We want students to understand that how they write something is as important as what they write.

The question of grading is one that always arises. Unless otherwise indicated you should assume that each question is worth one point.

May you and your students gain a great appreciation for this wonderful book.





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# THE BORROWERS

## *Chapter 1*

1. List some of the things Mrs. May taught Kate.

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2. Why does Kate think there must be such a thing as “Borrowers”?

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3. What type of households do Borrowers like to live in?

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4. Who claimed to have seen the Borrowers?

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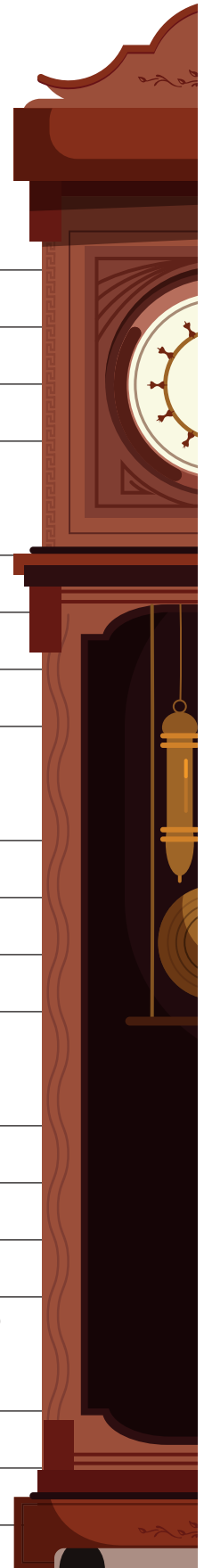
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5. What was special about the grandfather clock at Great-Aunt Sophy’s house?

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# THE BORROWERS

## Chapter 1—Finger Knitting Project

Mrs. May taught Kate many wonderful things including how to crochet. Similar to crochet, knitting is the forming of a fabric or garment by interlacing yarn or thread in connected loops with needles. If you don't have knitting needles, no problem! For this project, you will learn to knit with your fingers.

### SUPPLIES

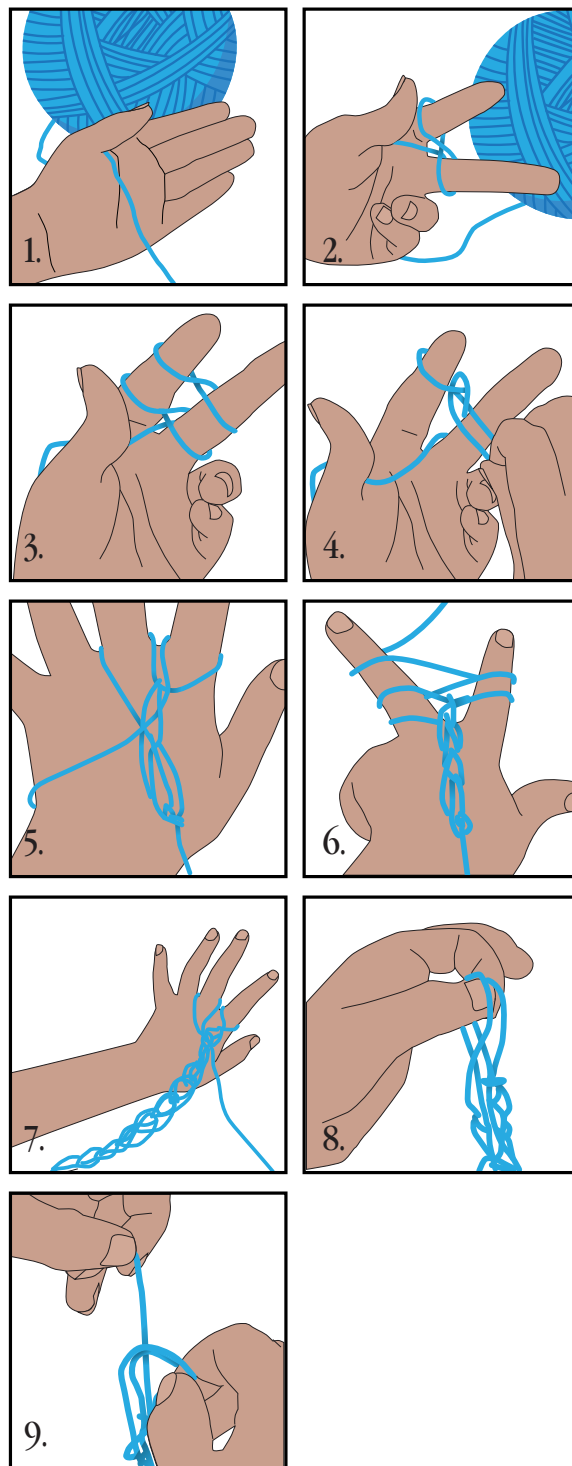
yarn (any thickness; try 8-ply and up)

scissors

your fingers

### DIRECTIONS

1. Clamp the end of the yarn between your thumb and the palm of your hand. If you are right-handed clamp it in your left hand, and if you are left-handed do the opposite.
2. Create a figure eight with the yarn around your first two fingers.
3. Create a second figure eight directly above it.
4. Leaving the second loop in place, lift the bottom loop over the top of it and slip it off the end of your finger; repeat with the second finger.
5. You can now let go of the end which has been clamped between your thumb and the palm of your hand. Give it a gentle tug.
6. Repeat the stitch by making another figure eight, lifting the bottom loops over the top loops and slipping them off your fingers.
7. Continue knitting using this technique.
8. When you are happy with the length, slip both of the loops off the ends of your fingers and hold them in one hand.
9. Snip the yarn with your scissors and thread the end of it back through both loops, gently tugging the end of your rope. Congratulations! You are now a knitter!



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# THE BORROWERS

## Chapter 2

1. Why was Homily upset with the way Arrietty rolled the potato?

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2. Circle the items *not* included in the Borrowers' sitting room.

|                                     |                    |                           |                                     |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| old letters                         | match boxes        | chess piece<br>(a knight) | postage stamps of<br>Queen Victoria |
| half a pair of<br>manicure scissors | miniature scissors | red velvet cloth          | a cork      hair pins               |

3. How did Arrietty learn to read and write?

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4. Research the following words and then match the word with its definition.

|                   |                                                                    |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| pâté de foie gras | a long needle with a large eye for<br>use in fixing holes in socks |
| blotting paper    | a wheel with projections on the<br>side, like a gear               |
| cogwheel          | absorbent paper used to soak up<br>excess ink when writing         |
| darning needle    | a smooth rich paste made from<br>fattened goose or duck liver      |



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# THE BORROWERS

## *Chapter 2—Borrowers Home Diorama Project*

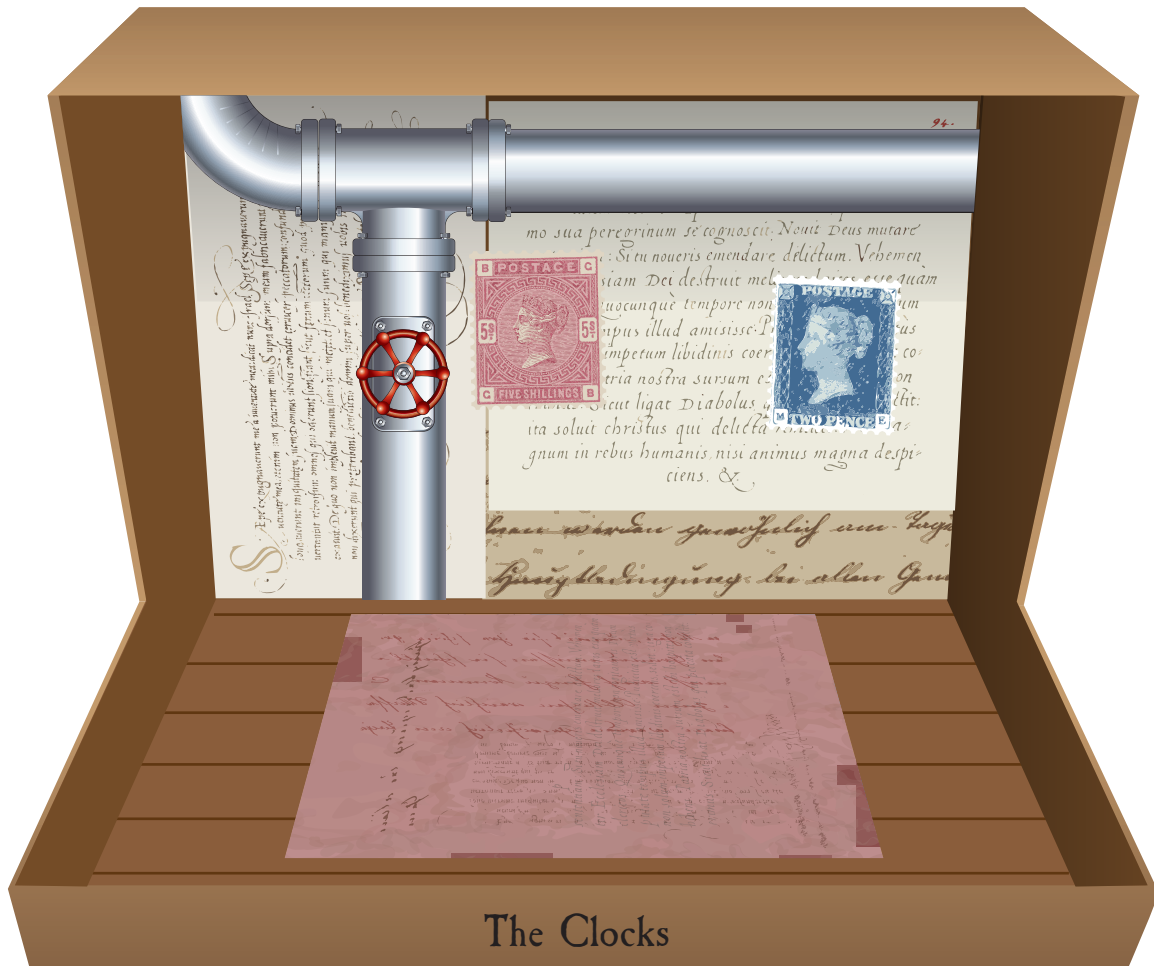
Make a diorama of the Clock's home as described in the book.

### SUPPLIES

cardboard shoebox  
construction paper  
scissors  
crayons/markers/colored pencils  
glue or tape

### DIRECTIONS

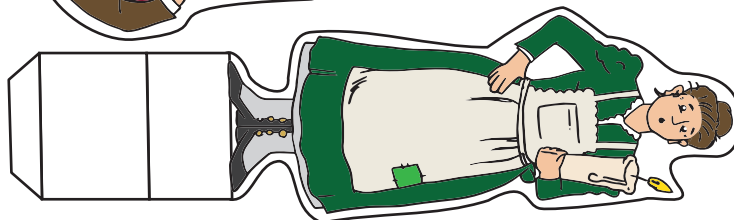
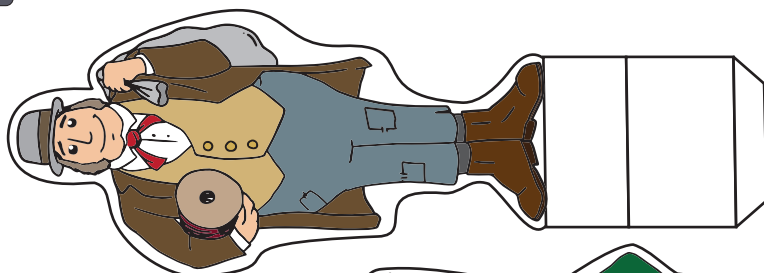
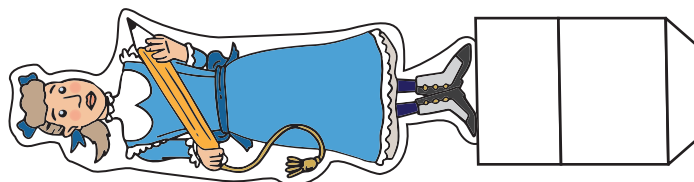
Cut out the objects on the next two pages. Using construction paper and markers, design the inside of the box to look like their home. Add the figures, then place all the found objects you have that make up their furniture and other possessions.



The Clocks



**D**octrina Spiritus non curiositatem acuit, Sed charitatem accendit. Ipse est christianus qui in domo sua peregrinum se cognoscit. Nouit Deus mutare sententiam: Si tu noueris emendare delictum. Vehementer Ecclesiam Dei destruit meliores laicos esse quam clericos. Quocunque tempore non cogitaueris Deum putate tempus illud amisisse. Pudicitia est virtus non solum impetum libidinis coercens, sed et signa cohibens. Patria nostra sursum est, ibi hospites non erimus. Sicut ligat Diabolus, qui peccata conelicit: ita soluit christus qui delicta remittit. Nil magnum in rebus humanis, nisi animus magna despicies. &



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# THE BORROWERS

## *Chapter 2—Miniature Book Project*

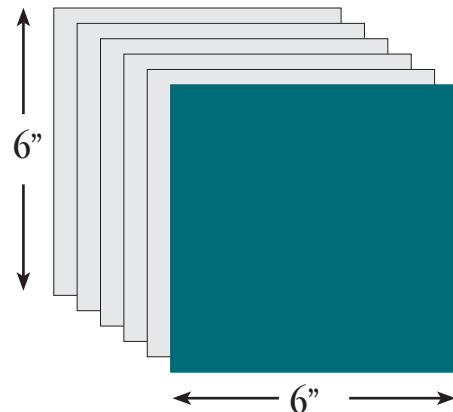
Make your own origami mini-book like the ones Arrietty reads.

### SUPPLIES

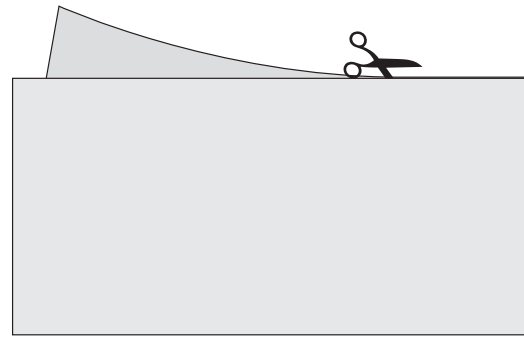
four 6" x 6" sheets of paper for pages  
one 6" x 6" sheet of paper for the cover  
scissors or craft knife  
glue or tape binder clip

### DIRECTIONS (SEE THE DIAGRAMS ON THE NEXT PAGE)

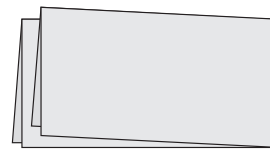
1. Fold all four text sheets in half, then cut on the fold. Use seven sheets to make a 10-page book, so set one sheet aside.
2. Fold all seven pages the long way again, then fold in half the opposite direction three times to create a small square that resembles a "M" or "W" when unfolded.
3. Lay all seven out to resemble a pattern of "M-W-M-W-M-W-M" when viewed from above.
4. Starting from left side tuck the two left page pieces together and continue with the remainder. Flatten and glue the sections together for a better hold.
5. Use binder clip to hold together while they dry.
6. Fold cover sheet in half and cut on fold. Using the cover sheet halves, gently fold to find a midpoint, then unfold. Laying the cover side down, fold bottom edge just shy of the center. Repeat and fold top just shy of the center.
7. Wrap cover around center pages, matching the edges on the opposite side. Pinch then later fold the location of both sides of the spine and also where the pages end and the cover continues. Fold all pinched spots on the cover.
8. Tuck the left and right sides of the pages into the cover and assemble into a book.



1.



2.

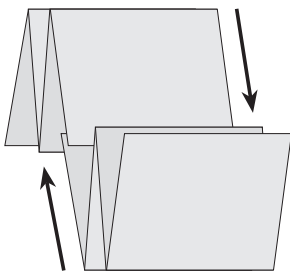


3.

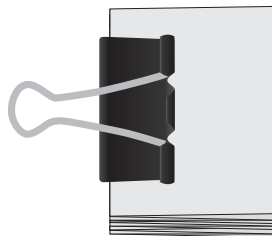


Top view

4.



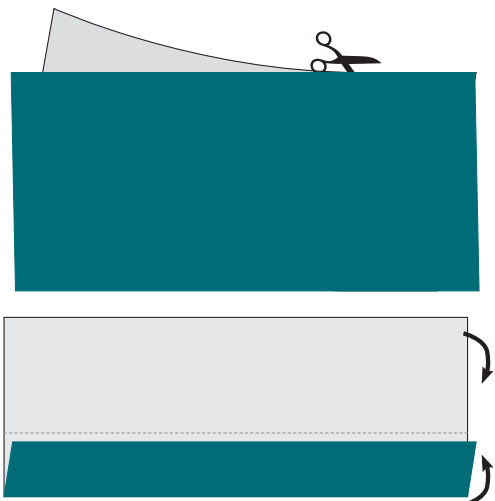
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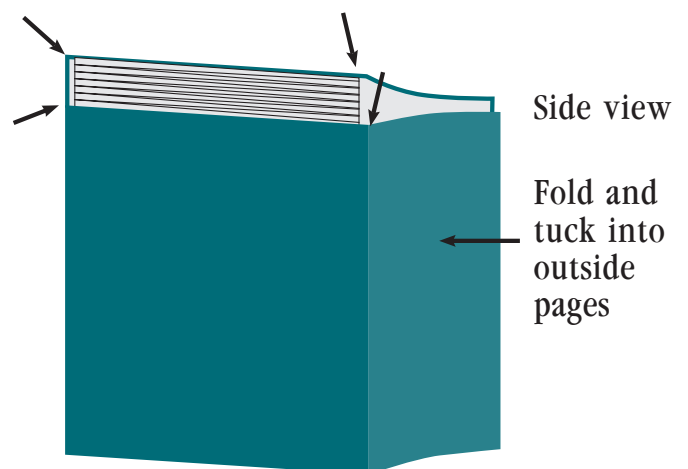
6.



7.



8.



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# THE BORROWERS

## *Chapter 3*

1. What did Pod go to get upstairs?

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2. Why was Homily worried about Pod?

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3. Who does Homily blame for Pod's absence?

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4. Why do you think Homily didn't want Arrietty to borrow?

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# THE BORROWERS

## *Chapter 3—Vegetable Soup Project*

Homily can often be found in the kitchen cooking or cleaning up dishes. Try her recipe for vegetable soup.

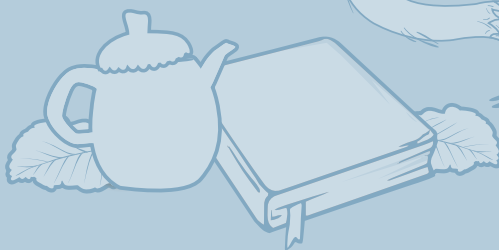
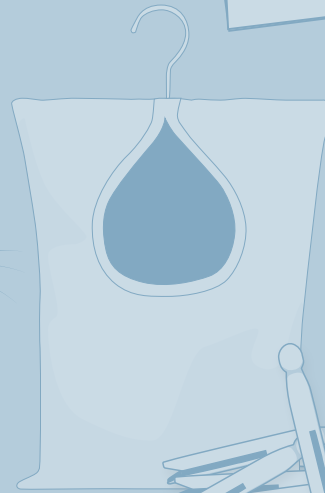
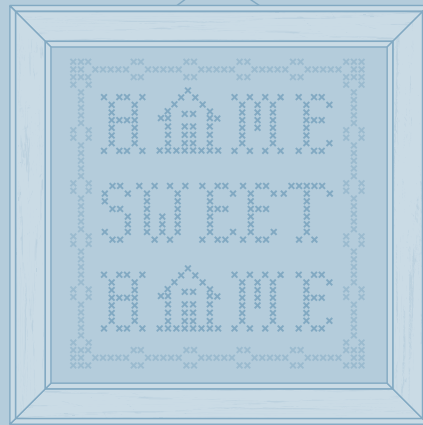
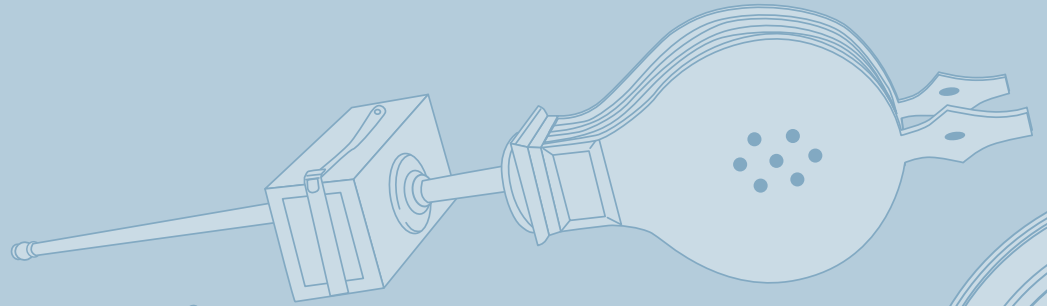
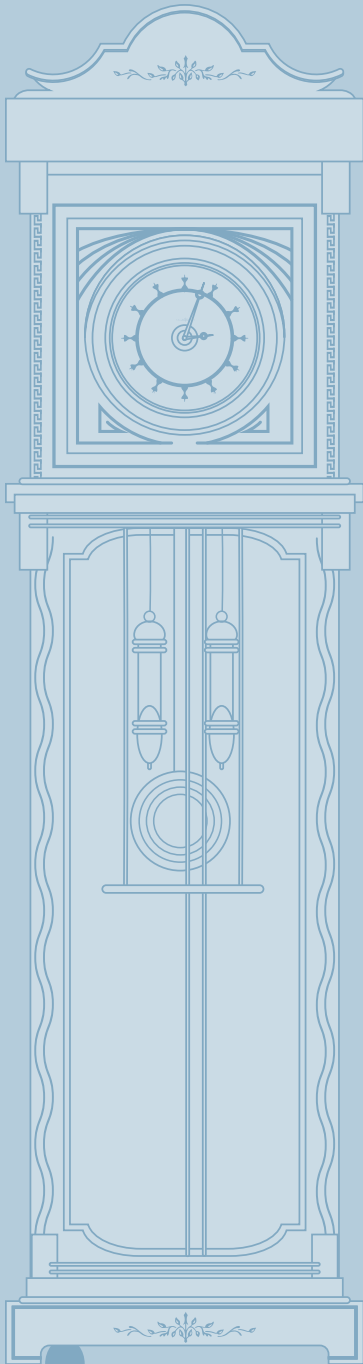
### SUPPLIES

2 Tbsp olive oil  
1 medium yellow onion, chopped  
2 large carrots, chopped  
1 cup chopped celery  
28 oz canned diced tomatoes  
60 oz vegetable broth, low-sodium  
3 medium potatoes, diced  
1 cup green beans, chopped  
3 bay leaves  
2 tsp salt, or to taste  
1 tsp ground black pepper  
1 cup frozen sweet corn  
1 cup frozen sweet peas  
1/2 cup green onions, chopped  
1/4 cup fresh parsley, chopped

### DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat a heavy soup pot or dutch oven over medium heat and add 2 Tbsp olive oil. Add chopped onions and carrots and saute for 6-8 minutes, stirring occasionally until golden.
2. Add celery, canned tomatoes (with juice), broth, potatoes, green beans, bay leaves, salt, and pepper. Bring it to a boil then reduce heat to a simmer and cook for 25 minutes.
3. Once the vegetables are tender, add corn, sweet peas, green onion, and parsley. Season with salt to taste and simmer for another 5-8 minutes. Remove from heat and serve warm.





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