

the borrowers afield 2 mary norton

The Borrowers Afield 2: Mary Norton is a continuation of the beloved series that has enchanted readers with its imaginative portrayal of tiny people living secretly among us. Mary Norton, the author, crafted a world that blends fantasy with reality, capturing the hearts of both children and adults. In "The Borrowers Afield," the second book in the Borrowers series, readers embark on an exhilarating adventure that explores themes of bravery, family, and the quest for belonging. This article delves into the plot, characters, themes, and the impact of Norton's work in the literary world.

Overview of the Borrowers Series

The Borrowers series, initiated with "The Borrowers" published in 1952, introduces readers to a family of tiny people, the Clock family, who live in the nooks and crannies of a human household. The series is characterized by its innovative storytelling, rich character development, and the enchanting concept of little people borrowing from the world of humans to survive.

- Primary Themes:
- Survival and Resourcefulness
- Adventure and Exploration
- Family and Belonging

Norton's work has inspired various adaptations, including films, plays, and animated series, further solidifying its place in children's literature.

Plot Summary of The Borrowers Afield

"The Borrowers Afield" picks up where the first book left off, following the adventures of the Clock family—Pod, Homily, and their daughter Arrietty. The story unfolds as they are forced to leave their familiar home due to the threat of discovery by humans. This new journey takes them into the outside world, a place filled with both wonder and peril.

Key Events

1. **The Move:** The Clock family is compelled to leave their cozy home in search of safety. This decision marks a pivotal moment in their lives and sets the stage for the adventures that follow.
2. **Encountering New Friends:** As they navigate the world outside, they meet other Borrowers, as well as a variety of creatures and humans. These

encounters broaden their understanding of their place in the world and the possibilities that come with it.

3. Challenges and Perils: The family faces many challenges, including threats from humans and the dangers of the environment. These obstacles test their courage and adaptability.

4. Finding a New Home: The search for a new home becomes a central theme as they explore various options, ultimately leading them to discover what truly makes a home.

Character Analysis

The characters in "The Borrowers Afield" are richly developed, each contributing to the narrative's depth and complexity.

Pod Clock

Pod is the father figure of the Clock family, embodying bravery and resourcefulness. His determination to protect his family drives much of the plot. Throughout their adventures, he showcases leadership qualities and ingenuity, often devising clever solutions to the challenges they face.

Homily Clock

Homily, the mother, represents the nurturing aspect of the family. She is practical and cautious, often worrying about the dangers lurking in the outside world. Her character adds emotional depth to the story, illustrating the balance of courage and fear.

Arrietty Clock

Arrietty, the young daughter, is curious and adventurous, embodying the spirit of exploration. Her desire to understand the world beyond her home leads her to take risks, making her a relatable character for readers. Arrietty's journey of self-discovery is central to the narrative, highlighting themes of growth and independence.

Themes Explored in The Borrowers Afield

Mary Norton skillfully weaves several themes throughout "The Borrowers

Afield," making it a rich text for analysis.

Adventure and Exploration

The quest for adventure is a driving force in the narrative. The Clock family's journey into the outside world symbolizes the universal desire for exploration and the unknown. It encourages readers to embrace curiosity and the spirit of adventure.

Family and Belonging

The importance of family is a recurring theme in the book. Despite the challenges they face, the bond between the Clock family members remains strong. Their love and support for one another highlight the notion that home is not just a physical space but a feeling of belonging and connection.

Bravery and Resourcefulness

The characters often find themselves in precarious situations, requiring them to be brave and resourceful. The narrative reinforces the idea that courage comes in many forms, and even the smallest beings can have a significant impact on their world.

Impact and Legacy of Mary Norton's Work

Mary Norton's "The Borrowers Afield" and the entire Borrowers series have left a lasting impact on children's literature. They have not only entertained generations of readers but have also inspired critical thinking about the themes of the stories.

Influence on Literature

- **Imagination and Creativity:** Norton's work encourages readers to imagine a world where the ordinary becomes extraordinary. The concept of Borrowers captures the imagination, leading to discussions about perspective and the value of creativity.

- **Adaptations:** The Borrowers series has inspired various adaptations, from animated films to stage productions. These adaptations have introduced the story to new audiences, ensuring its relevance in popular culture.

Critical Reception

Norton's writing has received acclaim for its enchanting prose and well-crafted characters. Critics and readers alike appreciate her ability to blend whimsy with profound themes, making her work accessible and meaningful.

Conclusion

"The Borrowers Afield" is more than just a continuation of a beloved story; it is a rich exploration of themes that resonate with readers of all ages. Mary Norton's ability to create a world filled with adventure, character depth, and emotional resonance ensures that her work remains a cherished part of children's literature. As readers journey with the Clock family, they are reminded of the importance of family, the thrill of adventure, and the courage it takes to face the unknown. Through her storytelling, Norton not only entertains but also inspires, leaving an indelible mark on the literary landscape. The legacy of "The Borrowers Afield" continues to thrive, inviting new generations to discover the magic within its pages.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main premise of 'The Borrowers Afield' by Mary Norton?

The main premise of 'The Borrowers Afield' revolves around the adventures of the Clock family, tiny people who live secretly in the house of humans, as they venture into the outside world for the first time.

How does 'The Borrowers Afield' differ from the first book in the series?

Unlike the first book, which focuses on the Clock family's life in their home, 'The Borrowers Afield' introduces new settings and challenges as the family explores the outside world, highlighting their adaptability and resourcefulness.

Who are the main characters in 'The Borrowers Afield'?

The main characters include Pod, Homily, and their daughter Arrietty Clock, who embark on adventures that test their courage and ingenuity as Borrowers.

What themes are explored in 'The Borrowers Afield'?

Themes of adventure, family, bravery, and the contrast between the tiny Borrowers' world and the larger human world are central to 'The Borrowers Afield'.

What challenges do the Borrowers face in their exploration?

The Borrowers face various challenges such as avoiding humans, finding food and shelter in the outside world, and dealing with the dangers posed by larger creatures.

Is 'The Borrowers Afield' suitable for children?

'The Borrowers Afield' is suitable for children, featuring engaging storytelling and imaginative scenarios that captivate young readers while imparting important lessons about courage and family.

How does Mary Norton use language to create a sense of scale in 'The Borrowers Afield'?

Mary Norton uses descriptive language and vivid imagery to create a sense of scale, making the world of the Borrowers feel both enchanting and perilous, effectively conveying their smallness in a vast human environment.

Are there any adaptations of 'The Borrowers Afield'?

Yes, 'The Borrowers Afield' has inspired adaptations in various media, including animated films and television series that bring the story and its characters to life for new audiences.

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