***Borrowers***

***Chapter 18***

***Summary and Analysis***

***Summary:***

* The boy is awake in bed, and hears the whole uproar. He had been on his way to the borrowers' house with a screwdriver when he heard Mrs. Driver exclaim on the stairs and ran back into his room.
* That was at midnight. Now he hears the clock strike one. It must be safe now to return, right?
* The boy rushes to tell the borrowers that it is no longer safe for them to live in their clock, and that he'll help them escape to the great outdoors.
* Homily can't bear the thought, but Pod knows it's the only way, and Arrietty is super psyched to live in freedom. Anything's better than a musty old clock, right?
* The boy calms Homily down by saying that he will help them get some supplies of food and carpets from the dollhouse.
* He decides to carry the family upstairs in a clothespin bag (because Homily says she would rather die than be carried out in the boy's hands).
* But just as he's loading the family into the bag, Mrs. Driver appears.
* Gulp.
* She accuses the boy of being a thief, just like the little people, but the boy defends them by saying they are "borrowers," and that he is a borrower, too.
* He begs her to let him move them from the house and not to hurt them.
* No dice.
* Mrs. Driver, who really is not a very nice lady, pushes the boy roughly into his room and locks him in there, where he cries himself to sleep under the blankets.