***Borrowers***

***Chapter 19***

***Summary and Analysis***

***Summary:***

* "And that," says Mrs. May "is really the end" (19.1).
* What? The end of the story? No way! It can't end that way.
* Can it?
* Well, sort of.
* Mrs. May explains to Kate that "stories never really end. They can go on and on and on. It's just that sometimes, at a certain point, one stops telling them" (19.15).
* Together, they finish the story by imagining how the policeman who comes the next day doesn't believe Mrs. Driver (it turns out the policeman is a young man named Ernie, who used to be bullied by Mrs. Driver in his youth).
* He merely thinks she took a few too many sips from Great-Aunt Sophy's bottle of Madeira wine and was just imagining the little people.
* It does sound kind of crazy when you think about it, doesn't it?
* Mrs. Driver then gets a cat, but the cat "borrows" fish and bowls of egg sauce, instead of eating the borrowers. They have to get a dog to chase out the cat.
* The mean old lady doesn't give up, though. She hires a rat-catcher named Rich William, a dangerous man also known as "the pig-killer" who has a "gun, a hatchet, a spade, a pickax, and a contraption with bellows for smoking things out" (19.41).
* Uh-oh. Have the borrowers met their match?
* Hardly. When Rich William tries to smoke the borrowers out using poisoned fumes, the boy escapes from his room, grabs a pickax, and bravely knocks a hole in the grating to give the borrowers some breathing room.
* But are they safe and unharmed?