***Borrowers***

***Chapter 4***

***Summary and Analysis***

***Summary:***

Pod tells Arrietty to run off to bed, while he tells Homily some pretty bad news.

He's been "seen."

Oh no. Not "seen"! Wait a minute—what does he mean? And why is it so bad?

Doesn't everybody see everybody else all the stinkin' time?

Pod tells his wife that as he was trying to climb down the curtain with the teacup and saucer, he was seen by a boy.

Homily freaks out again, rambling on about how they will have to emigrate—that is, move to a new land—like Hendreary and his wife Aunt Lupy, who now live in a badger hole with their four children. That does not sound ideal.

Homily says she and her cultured and educated daughter could never adjust to eating mice and nuts and berries and living among the earthworms like the Hendrearys do. Ew.

Pod tries to calm his wife down by saying that the boy actually helped him get down, and seemed very gentle. So hey, it's all good in the hood.

But Homily reminds him that Eggletina was about Arrietty's age when she was snatched by a cat after Hendreary was seen upstairs. Me-ouch.

The same thing won't happen to their Arrietty, Pod says, because her cousin Eggletina didn't know about how dangerous "Upstairs" is.

When Homily points out that they never actually told their daughter, they decide to tell her tonight.

The sooner the better.

***Important Quotations:***

***Quotation 1:***

To go and live like Hendreary and Lupy in a badger's set! The other side of the world, that's where they say it is—all among the earthworms.

[…]

"Nuts, that's what they eat. And berries. I wouldn't wonder if they don't eat mice—" (4.23, 24)

***Explanation:***

Why do you think Homily is more afraid of emigrating—because of the actual dangers of living on "the other side of the world," or because of how others will see her once she's moved there?

***Quotation 2:***

"No one," said Homily slowly, "hasn't never been 'seen' since Uncle Hendreary and he was the first they say for 45 years." A thought struck her and she gripped the table. "It's no good, Pod, I won't emigrate!" (4.20)

***Explanation:***

Our hearts go out to Homily in this moment, but we can't help but wonder if she's afraid for Pod, or if she's really afraid of emigrating. Which prospect is worse?