

Arrietty Study Notes



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- Directed by:** Hiromasa Yonebayashi
- Certificate:** U (contains no material likely to offend or harm)
- Running time:** 94 mins
- Release date:** 29 July 2011

Synopsis:

This is a story of a family of 'little people'. Beneath the floorboards of a mansion in the suburbs of Tokyo, tiny fourteen-year old Arrietty lives with her equally tiny parents. Arrietty and her family live by 'borrowing'. Everything they have, they make from the things they have borrowed from the two old ladies that live in the house. Arrietty's parents have always warned her to stay out of sight. Once seen, little people always have to move on. But the adventurous Arrietty doesn't listen...

These Study Notes are suitable for KS1/2 Literacy, Geography, Numeracy, DT, ICT and PSHE.

Before watching the film

1. *Arrietty* is loosely based on the classic children's novel, 'The Borrowers' by Mary Horton. Read the blurb for the book and start reading it as a class novel. Compare the back cover blurb with the full synopsis of the film and trailer at www.arriettymovie.co.uk. What similarities and differences do you notice? Think about the setting, main characters and plot.
2. The film's story takes place in Koganei, in Tokyo, Japan. Use books and the internet to research these places. Look for answers to these questions:
 - Are these places towns, cities, regions or countries?
 - What is the population of each?
 - How would you travel there?
 - What might tourists see and do in Tokyo and Koganei?
 - What jobs do people do there?
3. *Arrietty* and her family are approximately 10cm tall. Look at this measurement on a ruler.
 - Now draw an 'actual size' picture of *Arrietty*.
 - Look for objects in your classroom that are the same size as her. What can you find? What might she be able to use these objects for?
 - Measure yourself in cm. How many 'little people' like *Arrietty* would have to stand on each other's heads to be as tall as you?

After watching the film

1. As a class, look for household objects and recycling that *Arrietty* might find useful, but make sure you ask permission before you 'borrow' them! Look for cotton reels, paper clips, tissue boxes, yoghurt pots etc. What useful things can you make for *Arrietty* with these objects? Make a living room or bedroom for the film's characters using the things you've collected.
2. Imagine you were shrunk down to just 10cm tall! Where would be the most exciting places for you to explore in your school, or your home? Cut out photos of yourself and make a photo story by placing your cut outs in different places around the school. You could use your photos, set and props as inspiration for your own longer story about 'little people'.
3. What do you think is the difference between borrowing and stealing? What about recycling? What do you think *Arrietty* and her family is doing in the film?

Written by Matthew Poyton