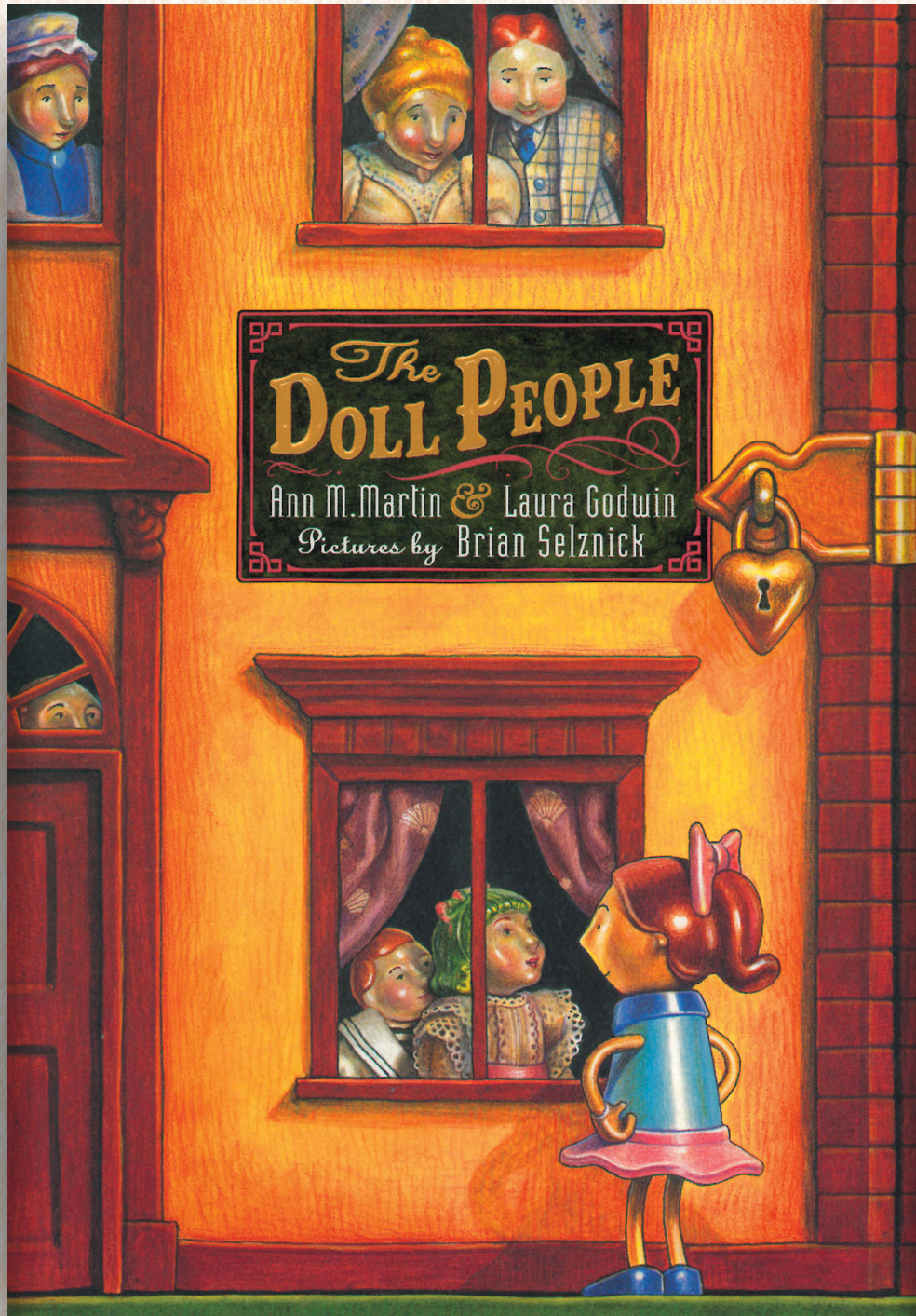


LITTLE, BROWN AND COMPANY BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS

Educator's Guide | Ages 8–12



PRE-READING: ACTIVATING PRIOR KNOWLEDGE

- Think about the toys that you have in your collection. Which are your favorites? Why? How do you believe toys are different today versus one hundred years ago? What kinds of toys did children play with one hundred years ago? Go online and research toys during that period. Select one toy, write a summary of your findings that details reasons the toy was popular and how the toy was used, and provide visual examples. Be sure to include a list of sources.
- Brainstorming is a very important part of the writing process. When we are finished reading The Doll People series, you will write your own doll story. To help you begin thinking about story ideas, use blank pieces of construction paper to draw the following:
 - ♦ A dollhouse
 - ♦ Each room inside the dollhouse (kitchen, family room, bedrooms, etc.) with furniture and decorations
 - ♦ The family that lives in the dollhouse

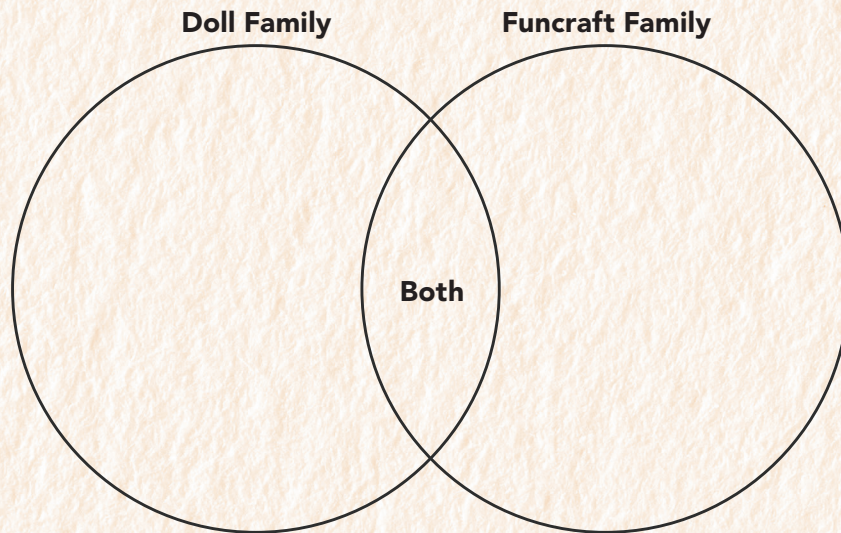
Be sure to label the items in your drawings. As you read, pay attention to the decorations inside the Doll and Funcraft homes. Anytime you come across a new idea, refer to your original picture and add the details.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. The Doll family traveled from England to 26 Wetherby Lane in 1898. What clues in the text tell us that it was a long journey? Provide evidence from the story. Locate England on a map; figure out the travel distance from England to the United States. Based on the map, how long would the journey take by boat? As you read, search for information that might help you identify the part of the United States where the Doll family lives.
 - ♦ CLUE: Research the location of the storm that Auntie Sarah references in her journal to narrow down the region.
2. In the beginning of the story, Annabelle states that she feels very “bored”. Have you ever felt extremely bored? When? Why might Annabelle feel this way? Which of her actions show that she is trying to add excitement to her life? What are the possible effects of her actions? How do these decisions impact her family? Provide details from the text to support your answer.
3. Nora’s new dolls (the Funcrafts) have many similarities and differences to the older *antique* Doll family. Using the Venn diagram, compare and contrast the Funcraft and Doll families, be sure to add new ideas as you read. Based on your diagram, how have dolls changed over the last one hundred years? Be specific and include examples from the text.

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The Doll People



4. Review the illustrations on pages 140 and 141. The images depicted are from Auntie Sarah's journal. Why do you think the author and illustrator included these illustrations? How do these pictures help the reader better understand the story? Based on the drawings, it is clear that Annabelle and Auntie Sarah have very different feelings about spiders. Why might a spider be interesting or scary to a doll?
5. We only learn about the human Palmer family through their interactions with the dolls and Annabelle's thoughts. Based on how Annabelle perceives the Palmers, what do we know about them? Using the graphic organizer below, think about the members of the Palmer family (i.e., Grandma Katherine, Kate, or Nora) and provide six characteristics that each person possesses. Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Grandma Katherine	Kate	Nora

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The Doll People

6. On two occasions, Annabelle finds that information is *mysteriously* added to Auntie Sarah's journal. Should Annabelle trust the new information? Why or why not? Who or what do you believe is responsible for the additions? How does the new information impact Annabelle's actions?
7. When Annabelle and Tiffany locate Auntie Sarah in the attic, they describe her as "expressionless". Find the sentence in the book that contains the word *expressionless*. Looking at the parts of the word, can you figure out what it means? Can you make an expressionless face to a partner? Who would look more expressionless, someone who is excited or someone who is sleeping?
8. In the last chapter, Grandma Katherine and Kate discuss their opinions about whether the dolls are *alive*. What events may have led to this idea? Do you believe the secret lives of the Doll family are in danger? Why or why not?
9. The members of the Doll family have many fears. Why are they afraid of so many things? What are the possible effects of taking new risks? What are the possible benefits? How does the Doll family respond to challenging events in the story? How has the Doll family changed from the beginning to the end of the story? Be specific and provide examples from the text.
10. Look at the original drawing of your dollhouse and dolls (pre-reading activity). What new details did you add to the house as you read? Why are the additional parts of your home important? Which parts of the story made you think about this new detail? Provide evidence from the text.

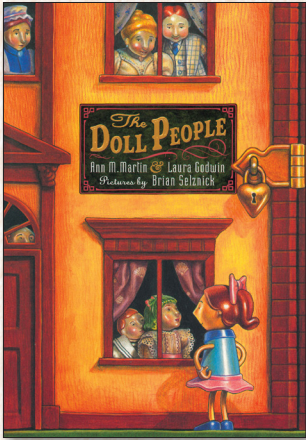
ACTIVITIES

- The Doll family has lived over one hundred years. Therefore, they have belonged to the same family through multiple generations. It is important to remember that every generation encounters different events like wars, political turnover, updated laws, etc. Create a ten-year timeline using any dates between 1890–1990. Your timeline must include events the Doll family may have heard of through human discussion, the newspaper, or the radio. Use research resources such as books or websites that discuss the historical events of the ten-year period. Select one event from your timeline and create a newspaper article with illustrations that detail the event. Be prepared to present your newspaper article to a partner.
- ♦ **EXTENSION ACTIVITY:** Consider how families have changed from the 1890s until today. Provide at least five examples of how families are similar and five examples of how they are different. Form groups of three students and conduct small group discussions about the list.



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About the Book



HC: 9780786803613

PB: 9780786812400

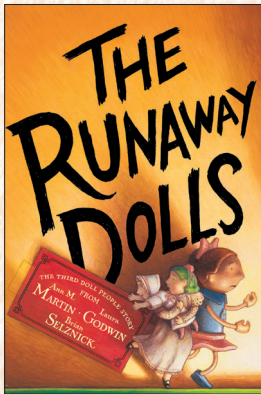
In the first installment of this incredible series, the Doll family meets their new and very different neighbors, the Funcraft family. Unlike the Doll family, the Funcrafts are made of plastic, love taking risks, and are always ready for new adventures. Annabelle Doll is excited to have a new friend named Tiffany Funcraft. After the girls meet, Annabelle tells Tiffany that she has secretly discovered her missing aunt's journal. Together the girls form the Society for Exploration and the Location of Missing Persons (SELMP) and create a plan to solve the forty-

five-year-old mystery. Join Tiffany and Annabelle for a timeless story of friendship and bravery, and an unforgettable adventure.

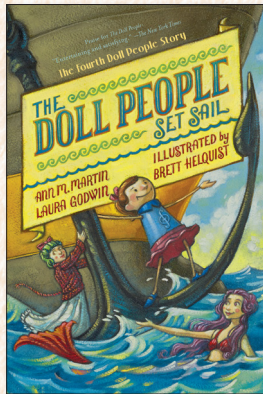
Read All About The Dolls!



PB: 9780786852970



PB: 9780786855858



PB: 9781423139980

About the Authors



Ann M. Martin is the bestselling author of the momentous *Baby-Sitters Club* series as well as the *Main Street* series. Her other acclaimed novels include *A Dog's Life*, *Belle Teal*, *Rain Reign*, and the Newbery Honor Book *A Corner of the Universe*. She lives in upstate New York.



Laura Godwin lives and works in New York City but grew up in Alberta, Canada. She has written many well-loved books for children, including *Owl Sees Owl*, *Christmas in the Manger*, *This Is the Construction Worker*, and *Oh, Cats!*

About the Illustrator



Brian Selznick is the author and illustrator of the *New York Times* bestselling *Invention of Hugo Cabret*, winner of the Caldecott Medal and a National Book Award nominee. He is also the author and illustrator of *Wonderstruck*, *The Marvels*, *Kaleidoscope*, and *Big Tree*, and he's illustrated many other books for children, including *Frindle* by Andrew Clements. Brian lives in Brooklyn and San Diego.