

Spider

Answer the following questions carefully and be prepared to share your ideas with others in your class.

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1. What sort of mood is Arthur in when he returns from his bicycle ride? How would you attribute this?
2. How do you know that Mr Daily does not believe in Arthur's apparent enthusiasm? Find some examples from the text as evidence.
3. Arthur speculates about the landlord's true feelings about what he is doing; why do you think Hill presents the landlord in this way?
4. Describe Samuel Daily's house. What sort of impression do you get of it, as a reader?
5. Why do you think Hill depicts Mrs Dargives, 'a quiet, shy-seeming, powdery-looking little woman, even more ill at ease in her surroundings than he,?' What purpose might this description of her serve?
6. Samuel Daily is presented as a very successful businessman but one who is rather isolated by his prosperity; why do you think Hill has created such a character as the one who befriends Arthur?
7. The two men talk for a long time before they discuss the Drablow estate; what do they talk about first and why do you think they take so long to turn to the main subject of their meeting?
8. Describe the dog that Daily loans Arthur and explain why you think Hill includes the loan of the dog in her novel.