Descriptive Prose

From Katherine Mansfield’s *The Garden Party*
The General Meaning

The passage is about a musical party.
The Detailed Meaning

The writer gives a clear description of the three musicians of the garden party. The first one is rather fat with a red face. He wears dirty white flannel trousers and a blue coat with a red handkerchief and a small straw hat. He plays the guitar.
The Detailed Meaning

The second one is a little young man. He wears white canvas shoes. His face is covered by a felt hat which looks like a broken wing. He plays the flute.
To be continued

The third musician is a tall and thin fellow. He wears boots with very old button and draws ribbons out of a fiddle.
To be continued

The three musicians stand unsmiling but they are not serious, in the sunlight opposite the fruit shop. The first one “the pink spider” plays the guitar, the second one “the little squat hand” plays the flue while the third one plays the fiddle.
The Writer’s Intention

The writer intends to describe a strange party by providing an exact description of the three musicians.
Devices

1. Simile: a felt hat like a broken wing to indicate that the hat is very old.
2. Metaphor: a. The pink spider to refer to the red skin of the musician’s hand.
   b. The little squat hand to refer to the short and thick hand.
   c. Dingy is used to indicate that the man is not well-arranged
Devices

D. Bursting over-ripe button boots to indicate that the boots are very old.
E. Draws ribbons means playing the music, the fiddle.
F. Reluctant flute: the flute used is not fit for music.