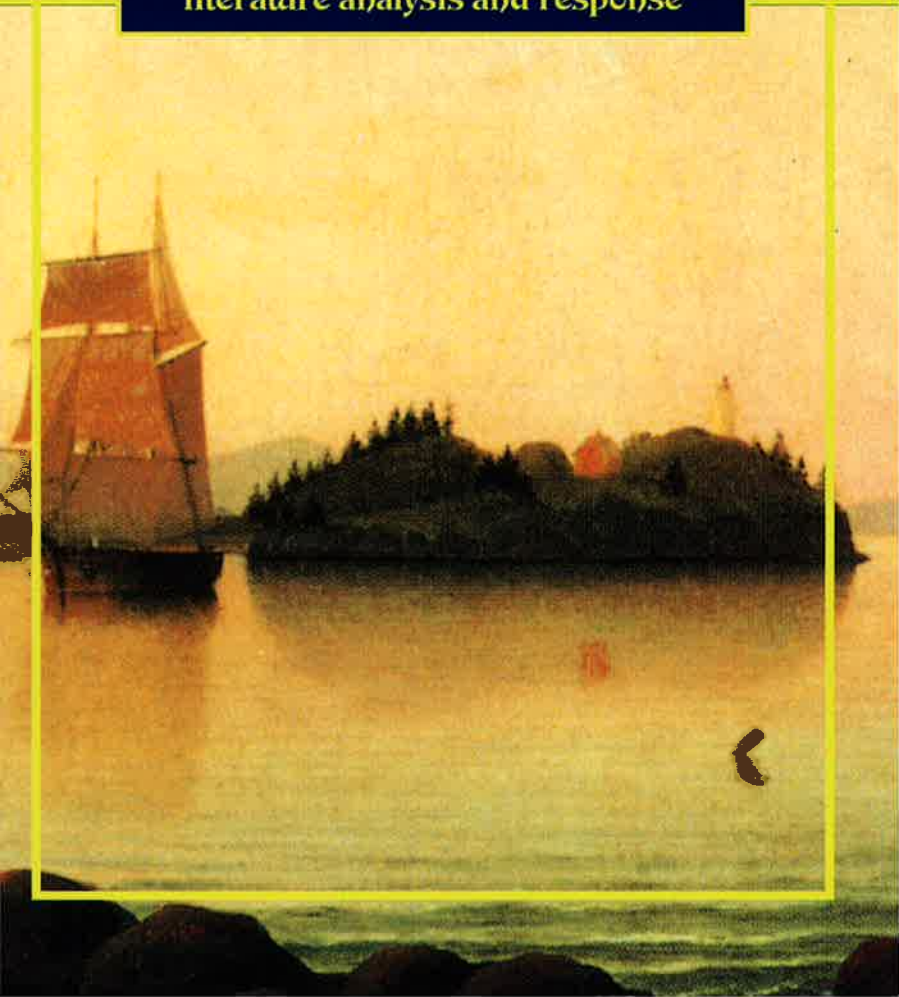


Stanford House Classics - Elementary

PETER PAN

James Matthew Barrie

literature analysis and response



Peter Pan

James Matthew Barrie

J.M. BARRIE (1860 - 1937)

Sir James Matthew Barrie was born in Scotland. He was the ninth of ten children.

After graduating from the University of Edinburgh in 1882, Barrie moved to London, where he started work as a journalist. In 1891 Barrie published *The Little Minister*, a novel that brought him fame. Other works followed.

In 1904 *Peter Pan* first appeared as a play. It was an immediate success. Barrie did not publish this well-loved story in book form until 1911.

Before his death, Barrie bequeathed the royalties from *Peter Pan* to the Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children in London.



Stanford House

PETER PAN

WENDY DARLING

All children grow up. Wendy knew she must grow up¹ after she was two. Two is the beginning of the end. Wendy's mother was a lovely woman, with a romantic mind and a sweet mouth. Her name was Mrs. Darling. Her husband, Mr. Darling, was a practical man. He knew about stocks and shares².

Wendy was born first, then John and Michael. They had a nurse³. This nurse was a Newfoundland dog, named Nana. Her kennel was in the nursery. It was lovely to see her escorting⁴ the children to school. She usually carried an umbrella in her mouth in case of rain. There never was a happier family until the coming of Peter Pan.

One day some leaves of a tree were found on the nursery floor. Mrs. Darling was puzzling over them when Wendy said with a smile:

"I believe it was Peter again!"

"What do you mean?" asked her mother.

Wendy explained that Peter sometimes came to the nursery in the night and sat on her bed. Unfortunately, she never woke.

"I think he comes in by the window." Wendy said.

"Impossible!" replied Mrs. Darling.

But after thinking back to her childhood, Mrs. Darling remembered a Peter Pan who lived with the fairies. She had believed in him then. But now that she was grown, she doubted he existed. Wendy must have had a dream.

Nevertheless, Mrs. Darling was sure that the leaves did not come from any tree that grew in England.

1. Supply the missing adjectives:

- a) Wendy's mother was a woman.
- b) She had a mind and a mouth.
- c) Mr. Darling was a man.

2. Supply the missing verb:

- a) All children
- b) Wendy knew that she must
- c) Now that Mrs. Darling was, she doubted Peter Pan existed.

3. Are the following statements TRUE (T) or FALSE (F)?

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| a) Wendy was born last. | T | F |
| b) The nurse's name was Nana. | T | F |
| c) The children went to school alone. | T | F |
| d) The Darlings were a very happy family. | T | F |
| e) Wendy always woke when Peter came. | T | F |
| f) Mrs. Darling remembered Peter from her childhood. | T | F |
| g) The leaves on the nursery floor came from an English tree. | T | F |

-
- 1. **grow up** : *become an adult.*
 - 2. **stocks and shares**: *buying (or selling) part of a company to make money.*
 - 3. **nurse**: *nanny or woman to help take care of the children*
 - 4. **escort**: *accompany.*

PETER'S SHADOW

One night all the children were in bed. Mrs. Darling was asleep by the fire. Suddenly the window of the nursery blew open, and a boy dropped on the floor. He was accompanied by a strange light.

Mrs. Darling woke up and saw the boy. She knew at once¹ that it was Peter Pan. He was a lovely boy, dressed in leaves. He had all his first teeth.

Mrs. Darling screamed, the door opened, and Nana entered. Nana growled² and sprang at the boy. The boy jumped out the window. Again Mrs. Darling screamed, this time because she thought he had been killed. She ran down to the street to look for his little body. But it was not there.

She returned to the nursery, and found Nana with something in her mouth. It was the boy's shadow⁴! She decided to roll the shadow up and put it carefully into a drawer³.

A week later, on Friday, Mr. and Mrs. Darling were invited to a party. Mrs. Darling was wearing her white evening gown. Mr. Darling got angry with Nana, and dragged her from the nursery.

"The proper place for you is the yard," he cried as he tied Nana up.

Mrs. Darling felt a nameless fear in her heart.

"Oh, how I wish that I wasn't going to a party tonight!" she sighed.

Soon after Mr. and Mrs. Darling left the house, the children fell asleep. Suddenly a bright light started flying in the room. It went in and out of the drawers. It flew into pockets. It was looking for Peter's shadow. It was a fairy called Tinker Bell.

A moment later Peter dropped in through the window.

"Tinker Bell," he called softly, after making sure that the children were asleep. "Tink, where are you? Where did they put my shadow?"

4. Fill in the missing prepositions:

- a) Mrs. Darling was asleep the fire.
- b) A boy dropped the floor.
- c) He was accompanied a strange light.
- d) He was dressed leaves.
- e) Nana sprang the boy.
- f) The boy jumped the window.
- g) She ran down the street.
- h) She returned the nursery.
- i) She put it carefully the drawer.
- j) Mr. and Mrs. Darling were invited a party.
- k) Mr. Darling got angry Nana.
- l) He dragged her the nursery.
- m) Mrs. Darling felt a nameless fear her heart.
- n) A bright light went and of the drawers.
- o) Peter dropped in the window.

5. Answer the following questions. Use short answers:

- a) Did Mrs. Darling recognize Peter immediately after she saw him?
.....
- b) Was Peter alone?
.....
- c) Was Nana very pleased to see Peter Pan?
.....
- d) Did Nana eat Peter's shadow?
.....
- e) On the evening of the party, did Mr. Darling leave Nana in the nursery?
.....
- f) Was Tinker Bell looking for Peter's shadow?
.....

1. at once: *immediately.*

2. growl: *make an angry sound.*

3. drawer: *a sliding box in a table.*

4. shadow: *a dark image created by shining light on a body.*

In a moment he had his shadow. He tried to stick it on¹ with soap. He tried and tried, but failed. He then sat on the floor and cried. His sobs woke Wendy.

“Boy,” she asked politely, “why are you crying?”

“What’s your name?” he asked.

“Wendy Darling,” she replied. “What is your name?”

“Peter Pan. I was crying because I can’t get my shadow to stick,” Peter said.

“I’ll sew it on for you” Wendy said and she sewed the shadow onto Peter’s foot.

Peter started to jump around with happiness.

Wendy asked Peter how old he was.

“I don’t know,” he replied uneasily². “I ran away the day I was born.”

Wendy was surprised but interested. Peter continued. “It was because I heard father and mother talking about what I was to be when I became a man. I don’t ever want to be a man. I always want to be a little boy and have fun³!”

“But where do you live now?” Wendy asked.

“With the lost boys. In Neverland,” Peter replied.

Peter admitted that he liked coming to the nursery window to listen to Wendy’s stories.

“I know lots of stories, Peter,” Wendy said.

Peter gripped her and began to pull her toward the window.

“Let me go!” Wendy ordered.

“Wendy come with me and tell stories to the other boys!” Peter begged.

“Oh, dear, I can’t. Think of mummy! Besides, I can’t fly.”

“I’ll teach you. I’ll show you mermaids⁴! You can be the boys’ mother!” Peter promised.

Wendy couldn’t resist. She ran to John’s and Michael’s beds.

“Wake up,” she cried. “Peter Pan has come and he

6. Fill in the missing parts of the irregular verbs used on page 8:

	INFINITIVE	PAST	PAST PARTICIPLE
a)	.....	had	.....
b)	.....	sat	.....
c)	.....	woke	.....
d)	to sew	.....	.....
e)	.....	was	.....
f)	.....	ran	.....
g)	.....	heard	.....
h)	.....	became	.....
i)	to know	.....	.....
j)	.....	began	.....
k)	to tell	.....	.....
l)	to think	.....	.....
m)	to fly	.....	.....
n)	to teach	.....	.....

7. Answer the following questions:

- Why was Peter Pan crying?
.....
- How did Wendy attach Peter’s shadow?
.....
- Why did Peter Pan run away from his parents? How old was he at that time?
.....
- Why did Peter like coming to the nursery window?
.....
- Why didn’t Wendy want to go with Peter at first?
.....

- stick on: *attach*.
- uneasily: *in a worried way*.
- have fun: *enjoy oneself*.
- mermaid: *mythological creature - half-woman, half fish*.