

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**PETER PAN BY J.M. BARRIE:**  
**A STUDY GUIDE**

**Study Guide Directions:** As you read J.M. Barrie's Peter Pan, fill in the questions below in complete sentences to show your understanding of the reading. You are required to complete this study guide along with the assigned reading. Each question counts for one point, and the vocabulary section counts as two points.

**Characters** (Fill in information about these characters to keep track.):

Peter Pan –

Wendy Moira Angela Darling –

John and Michael Darling –

Mrs. Darling –

Mr. (George) Darling –

Nana –

Liza –

Tootles, Nibs, Slightly, Curly, and the Twins –

Tinker Bell –

Captain (James) Hook –

Tiger Lily –

Lean Wolf and Great Big Little Panther –

Jane –

Margaret –

### **Chapter One: “Peter Breaks Through”**

Vocabulary:

Conspicuous-  
Perambulator –  
Rhubarb –  
Pinafore –  
Gaiety –  
Coracles –  
Tedious –  
Trifle –  
Gnashed –

1. “All children, except one, grow up.” What tone does this quotation set for the story?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Explain how Wendy realizes that growing up is inevitable.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. How did Mr. Darling end up marrying Mrs. Darling? Describe the dynamic of their marriage.

4. Of what social status are the Darlings? What evidence is there to support this status?
  
5. Why is Nana a good nanny? What tasks does she fulfill with the children? Why would the “neighbors talk” over Nana if she is a good nanny?
  
6. According to Mrs. Darling, what is the bedtime practice for all “good mothers”?
  
7. How does Mrs. Darling first learn of Peter? Where is Neverland? Explain what can be found on the map of Neverland.
  
8. “Children have the strangest adventures...met their dead father and had a game with him.” Are children able to deal with more life events because adults are *too* aware of their activities and surroundings? Why/ why not?
  
9. What is the significance of “the leaves”?

10. How does Mrs. Darling and Peter Pan's first meeting go? What does "he gnashed the little pearls at her" mean?

## **Chapter Two: "The Shadow"**

Vocabulary:

Pomp –  
Mea culpa –  
Upbraid –  
Placid –  
Trifle –  
Romp –  
Vindictive –  
Perturbed –

1. How does Nana end up with Peter's shadow? Where does Mrs. Darling put it and when does she take the opportunity to tell Mr. Darling?
2. Define *foreshadowing*. Find an instance of foreshadowing on page fifteen.
3. How does Mrs. Darling "lose" Michael's medicine? How does Mr. Darling get Michael to take the medicine?
4. What do you think of Mr. Darling's sense of humor? (Or humour?)

5. Describe the change that occur in the Darling household at the end of chapter two. Why does Nana bark “with danger”? How are the “stars in the Milky Way” involved?

### **Chapter 3: “Come Away, Come Away!”**

embonpoint-  
contemptuously-  
indignantly-  
draggled-  
conceit-  
hauteur-

1. Why is Peter sneaking around the Darlings' home with Tinker Bell?
2. Why does Wendy initially believe that Peter is crying?
3. How does Barrie explore the appropriate roles for males and females during the early twentieth century in this chapter? Share three adjectives to describe Wendy and three adjectives to describe Peter. Analyze your collection of adjectives here. What conclusion can you reach?
4. Explain Peter Pan's understanding of “kissing.” What is Peter's “kiss” to Wendy? ....Peter?

5. Peter states, "I don't ever want to be a man...I want always to be a little boy and to have fun" (32). Some psychologists have termed this behavior the "Peter Pan Syndrome." Do you know anyone who acts this way?
6. How does Peter Pan convince Wendy to fly away with him? Do Peter's tactics in conversation conflict with the view you originally held of Peter Pan?

#### **Chapter 4: "The Flight"**

implicitly-  
rollicking-  
whelps-  
topper-

1. What concerns do Wendy, Michael, and John have on this initial flight? How is Peter reckless with the three of them?
2. What did Peter forget to show them during "Follow my Leader"?
3. Why can't the group land in Neverland? How is this fact upsetting to the children?
4. "Thus, sharply, did the terrified three learn the difference between an island of make-believe and the same island come true" (56). Explain this difference they realize.

### **Chapter 5: "The Island Come True"**

Directions: Your turn! For the Chapter Five reading, develop seven to ten focus questions of your own with completed answers. Work to highlight the more significant events of the chapter and strive to make deeper connections within the text (symbolism, characterization, themes, etc.).

### **Chapter 6: "The Little House"**

tidings-

1. Explain Tootles's statement of "When ladies used to come to me in dreams, I said, 'Pretty mother, pretty mother.' But when at last she really came, I shot her."
2. Why do The Lost Boys not cheer for Peter's return?
3. Who saves Tootles from Peter's anger and stabbing?
4. How does "the kiss" play a significant role in saving Wendy?
5. What are some ways to characterize Tinker Bell in this chapter? Why does Peter end his friendship with Tink?
6. What is the difference between the boys' "make-believe" and Peter's "make-believe" as described on page seventy-nine?
7. Describe Wendy's dream house.

### **Chapter 7: "The Home Under the Ground"**

sneered-  
fibre-  
fastidious-  
contemptuous-  
rampageous-  
spinsters-  
melancholy-  
sanguinary-  
succulence-

1. What does Peter invest time in creating for Wendy, Michael, and John? Why does he do this?
2. How does Wendy take time for herself? Does she have company?
3. What evidence is there that Wendy misses her parents? What is she concerned about in terms of Michael and John?
4. Explain the following quotation: "(A) Write an essay of not less than 40 words on How I spent my last Holidays, or The Characters of Father and Mother compared. Only one of these to be attempted.' Or '(1) Describe Mother's laugh; (2) Describe Father's laugh; (3) Describe Mother's Party Dress; (4) Describe the Kennel and its Inmate."
5. Does Wendy enjoy her life in Neverland with Peter Pan? Why/ why not?



## **Chapter 8: "The Mermaid's Lagoon"**

interlopers-  
incisive-  
marooned-  
vain-  
affrighted-  
brimstone-  
gall-  
cozening-

1. How does the behavior of the mermaids contrast with Wendy's admiration of them?
2. Why do Wendy, John, and Michael sit on the rock "for half an hour"?
3. What occurs at Marooners' Rock that "send that shiver through the sea to say it was coming"? How is there some evidence here to support Freud's theory that Wendy "rejects the maternal role"?
4. How does Peter save the day? Explain his clever trick.
5. What is the meaning of Hook's statement, "[t]he nest must have fallen into the water, but would the mother desert her eggs? No."?
6. How does this scene in the book play out? Explain Peter's fear.

### **Chapter 9: "The Never Bird"**

gallant-  
stave-  
scurvy-  
tarpaulin-  
barque-

1. What is one characteristic of the Never bird? How the Never bird similar to Peter Pan?
2. Explain how the Never bird helps Peter in his time of need.

### **Chapter 10: "The Happy Home"**

prostrating-  
boudoir-  
impudent-  
progeny-  
calabash-  
recriminations-  
buffet- (verb)

1. What important result came from the fight at the lagoon? How will this be helpful to Peter and The Lost Boys in the future?
2. Define *irony*. What *irony* is involved in the use of the phrase "the Great White Father" as a term for Peter Pan?
3. What does "Peter Pan has spoken" signal? What about "Father knows best"? What messages about gender do these lines in the text convey to little children?

4. Discuss the changing roles between The Lost Boys, Michael, and John in this chapter. How do the role changes interfere with Wendy's perspective on being the housewife?
5. What is the "one more glad hour"?

### **Chapter 11: "Wendy's Story"**

admonished-  
descendent-

1. Where does Wendy get the ideas for "her story"?
2. Provide "Peter's story."
3. What promise does Wendy make to The Lost Boys? Why does Peter refuse to be involved?
4. What dreadful event happens on the last page of this chapter? Provide details.

### **Chapter 12: "The Children are Carried Off"**

unscrupulous-  
wiliness-  
stockade-  
undulating-  
perfidious-

phalanx-

1. What Native American stereotype is reinforced on page 137? Include a quotation. How does this statement compare with Disney's portrayal of Native Americans?
2. What was the end result of the conflict between the pirates and "the redskins"? Provide details from the event.

### **Chapter 13: "Do You Believe in Fairies"**

distingue-  
haughtily-  
sufficient of this-  
subterranean-  
tenement-  
vex-  
impertinent-  
exultation-  
dregs-

1. Why is Hook's treatment of Wendy different from the other characters captured?
2. How did Peter "dry up any trickle of pity" that Hook had for him?
3. What qualities shared about Hook makes his character seem less evil? Share three such qualities.

4. What is Hook's "yellow liquid"? How does he use this weapon against Peter?
  
5. What news does Tink bring to Peter? What is Peter's plan to make Wendy happy? Why is Tink upset about this
  
6. How does Peter save Tink?
  
7. Identify the character who says "Hook or me this time." What does this statement mean?

### **Chapter 14: "The Pirate Ship"**

rakish-  
industrious-  
gait-  
presentiment-  
dissolution-  
impotent-  
bacchanalian-  
diffidently-

1. What does Hook reveal about his name? Why does he repeat "good form"?
  
2. The Lost Boys, John, and Michael seem to be entertained by the pirates. How does Wendy feel about them? What are her "last words"?
  
3. What is Hook's worst fear? Where did this fear come from?

4. Who surprises the boys at the end of this chapter?

### **Chapter 15: "Hook or Me This Time"**

carrion-  
blithely-

1. What "odd thing" does Peter use to his advantage at the beginning of this chapter?
2. Define foreshadowing. How is the lyric in Hook's song about "Davy Jones" foreshadowing?
3. How do the Lost Boys, Michael, and John escape the pirates?

### **Chapter 16: "The Return Home"**

1. What is the reunion like at The Darling residence? What changes have taken place?

### **Chapter 17: "When Wendy Grew Up"**

banns-

1. What became of the Lost Boys?
2. Who is "Jane"? What does Wendy explain about Peter Pan? What is his relationship with her at the end of the book?