

# PETER PAN



- Represents fantasy, whimsy, childhood and the spirit of adventure as fundamental elements of the English culture and character -

I. Make questions to which the underlined words are the answers:

**Peter Pan** is a character created by 1) Scottish novelist and playwright 2) J. M. Barrie (1860–1937). A mischievous boy who can fly and magically refuses 3) to grow up, Peter Pan spends his never-ending childhood adventuring on the small island of 4) Neverland as the leader of his gang the *Lost Boys*, interacting 5) with mermaids, Indians, fairies, and pirates, and from time to time meeting ordinary children from the world outside. In addition to two distinct works by Barrie, the character has been featured 6) in a variety of media and merchandise, both adapting and expanding on Barrie's works.

Peter Pan first appeared 7) in a section of *The Little White Bird*, a 1902 novel written for adults. Following the highly successful debut of the play about Peter Pan in 1904, Barrie's publishers, Hodder and Stoughton, extracted chapters 13–18 of *The Little White Bird* and republished them 8) in 1906 under the title *Peter Pan in Kensington Gardens*, with the addition of illustrations by Arthur Rackham.

The character's best-known adventure debuted on 27 December 1904, in the stage play *Peter Pan, or The Boy Who Wouldn't Grow Up*. The play was adapted and expanded somewhat 9) as a novel, published in 1911 as 10) *Peter and Wendy*, later as *Peter Pan and Wendy*, and still later as simply *Peter Pan*.

II. Starting from the text in exercise I, decide which of the following sentences are true and which are false:

1. Peter Pan appeared for the first time in a novel written for adults.
2. *Peter Pan in Kensington Gardens* was published in 1902.
3. This famous character was created by a female Welsh novelist.
4. *Peter Pan, or The Boy Who Wouldn't Grow Up* was a poetic adaptation of the story.
5. The character Peter Pan sometimes meets ordinary children from the world outside.

III. In each space, write the term derived from the word in brackets:

The notion of a boy who would never grow up was based on J. M. Barrie's older brother who died in an ice-skating accident the day before he turned 14, and thus always stayed a young boy in his mother's mind. 1) ..... (irony), the "boy who wouldn't grow up" has appeared at a variety of ages. In his original 2) ..... (appear) in *The Little White Bird* he was only seven days old. Although his age is not stated in Barrie's later play and novel, his 3) ..... (character) is clearly years older.

Barrie never described Peter's appearance in detail, even in the novel *Peter and Wendy*, leaving much of it to the 4) ..... (imagine) of the reader and the 5) ..... (interpret) of anyone adapting the character. Barrie mentions in "Peter and Wendy" that Peter Pan still had all of his baby teeth. He describes him as a beautiful boy with a beautiful smile, "clad in skeleton leaves and the juices that flow from trees". In the play, Peter's outfit is made of autumn leaves and cobwebs. His name and playing the flute vaguely suggest the 6) ..... (mythology) character Pan.

Peter is mainly an exaggerated stereotype of a 7) ..... (boast) and 8) ..... (care) boy. He is quick to point out how great he is, even when such claims are 9) ..... (question), such as when he congratulates *himself* for *Wendy's* successful reattachment of his shadow.

Peter has a nonchalant, devil-may-care attitude, and is 10) ..... (fear) cocky when it comes to putting himself in danger. Barrie writes that when Peter thought he was going to die on Marooner's Rock, he felt scared, yet he felt only one shudder run through him when any other person would have felt scared up until death. With his blissful unawareness of the tragedy of death, he says, "To die will be an awfully big adventure".



IV. Match the titles of Peter Pan's major stories with the descriptions:

- a) *Hook*
- b) *Peter Pan in Kensington Gardens*
- c) *Return to Never Land*
- d) *Peter Pan in Scarlet*
- e) *Peter Pan, or The Boy Who Wouldn't Grow Up/ Peter and Wendy*
- f) *Peter and the Starcatchers, Peter and the Shadow Thieves, Peter and the Secret of Rundoon, Peter and the Sword of Mercy*

1. Infant Peter flies from his home, makes friends with fairies, and takes up residence in Kensington Gardens. A "book-within-a-book" first published in Barrie's *The Little White Bird*.

2. Peter brings Wendy and her brothers to Never Land, where he has a climactic showdown with his nemesis Captain Hook. Originally told in Barrie's stage play and novel, and repeatedly adapted in various media.

3. Peter has grown up, forgotten about his life in Never Land, and has a wife and children of his own. While the family is in London visiting elderly Wendy, Captain Hook abducts Peter's children to lure him back for a final duel to the death. A film by Steven Spielberg.

4. During World War II, Wendy's slightly war-hardened daughter Jane is taken to Neverland by Captain Hook, but Peter saves her and asks her to be the Lost Boys' new "mother". A film by Disney.

5. Peter leaves a London orphanage for a series of adventures which offer an origin story for Captain Hook, fairies, his abilities, and the Lost Boys. Novels by Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson.

6. Wendy, John, and most of the Lost Boys return to Neverland, where Peter has begun to take Captain Hook's place. A novel by Geraldine McCaughrean, an official sequel to *Peter and Wendy*.

Answers:

II. 1-T; 2-F; 3-F; 4-F; 5-T.

III. 1-ironically; 2-appearance; 3-characterization; 4-imagination; 5-interpretation; 6-mythological; 7-boastful; 8-careless; 9-questionable; 10-fearlessly.

IV. 1-b); 2-e); 3-a); 4-c); 5-f); 6-d).