***Peter Pan and Wendy***

***Chapter 15***

***Hook or Me This Time***

***Synopsis:***

Readers are asked to recall that [Peter Pan](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/Peter-Pan/character-analysis/#Peter_Pan) had come across the crocodile while he was sneaking through the woods towards the pirate ship. Now it is revealed that when this happened, the crocodile was not ticking. Apparently the clock it swallowed so long ago has run down. Peter Pan starts ticking himself to frighten away any other wild animals he might encounter. It works well, except for one thing: the crocodile is attracted to the familiar sound and follows Peter.

Peter Pan is so consumed with his desire to get [Captain Hook](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/Peter-Pan/character-analysis/#Captain_Hook) that he forgets why he is ticking. In fact, he forgets that he is ticking at all. So he didn't plan to gain the advantage over Hook by pretending to be a crocodile, it just worked out that way by accident. That doesn't stop Peter from being immensely proud of himself anyway.

Peter Pan starts picking off the pirates, one by one. First he kills the quartermaster, Ed Teynte. John Darling helps by smothering the man's dying groan and then four of the lost boys slide the body overboard. Then Peter disappears into the cabin.

Meanwhile, Captain Hook tries to recover from the damage that his panicked behavior has done to his fierce image, so he treats the boys even worse than ever. He threatens to whip them before forcing them to walk overboard. Hooks sends the tattooed pirate named Jukes into the cabin to fetch the whip. Everyone hears a terrible screech followed by what only the lost boys know is Peter's crow. Now two pirates are dead, and when Hook orders the handsome Italian pirate Cecco into the cabin to find out what's in there, soon he is dead as well.

Starkey refuses to follow Captain Hook's order to go inside next. Hook accuses him of mutiny and demands that Starkey shake hands—with his hook. Starkey would rather drown than die that way, so he leaps overboard. Finally, Hook himself decides to investigate the cabin, but Peter chooses not to reveal himself yet.

Hook gets what he thinks is a brilliant idea: he can get rid of the lost boys and whatever is in the cabin by forcing them to go inside. Either they will all be killed, or they will overpower the intruder. Either way, Hook wins—or so he thinks. Instead, Peter Pan finds the key to unlock their chains. He cuts [Wendy Darling](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/Peter-Pan/character-analysis/#Wendy_Darling) free and wraps himself in her cloak so Hook won't know it's him. Then he crows as long as he can.

The pirates are terrified and claim in accordance with an old sailor's superstition that Wendy—as a female—has brought bad luck to the ship. "Fling the girl overboard," Captain Hook orders. Peter throws off Wendy's cloak and reveals himself, shaking Hook to the core of his being. "In that frightful moment I think his fierce heart broke," the narrator says. Peter and the boys attack, and the pirates panic. Some of the pirates jump overboard, but the others "fell an easy prey to the reeking swords" of the boys.

Eleven pirates are either killed or leap to their fates: all except Captain Hook. He fights fearlessly, although he does use one of the lost boys as a human shield. But finally Peter Pan orders the boys to put away their swords so he can face Hook alone. After a long duel, Peter is able to pierce Hook through the ribs. Peter refuses to administer the killing blow while Hook is unarmed, so he gestures to Hook to pick up his fallen weapon.

Hook continues to fight, not with the hope of surviving but to the last moments of his life preoccupied with showing that he and not Peter has good form. Ultimately Hook goes to his death, jumping overboard to escape Peter's sword but plunging into the jaws of the crocodile instead.

As soon as it's over, Wendy makes them all go to bed straightaway. Peter paces the deck for a long time before he finally goes to sleep, crying when he has a nightmare.

Even during the climactic action scene, the quirks in the way Peter's mind works are on display again. The narrator has referred numerous times to the curious gaps in Peter's memory. Peter even warns Wendy that he might suddenly forget her. "If you see me forgetting you," Peter says, "just keep on saying 'I'm Wendy' and I'll remember."

A child psychologist might say Peter had not yet developed the concept of "object permanence," something most one-year-olds are able to do. A neurologist might say this failure of short-term memory can be a symptom of brain damage or diseases such as Alzheimer's dementia. But Peter's memory lapses do not conform to the pattern of any real medical or psychological disorder. He forgets things that just happened and things that happened long ago. These are two different kinds of memory and are stored in different parts of the brain.

The author is not using Peter as a clinical case history about amnesia. Peter's inability to remember things is meant to be charming. For [Barrie](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/Peter-Pan/author/), childhood is a time of carefree innocence. He believes children live in the moment, untroubled by shadows cast by either the past or the future. Peter is the living embodiment of this definition of innocence, taken to the most extreme.

In this chapter Peter's amnesia gives him a crucial advantage over his adversary, [Captain Hook](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/Peter-Pan/character-analysis/#Captain_Hook). When Peter shows up at the Jolly Roger, still ticking like the crocodile, it's not an ingenious plan to unnerve Hook, it's a happy accident. Peter has totally forgotten he is still making that sound. Nonetheless, Peter is so puffed up with a sense of his own shrewdness that when he realizes what he's unintentionally done, he still congratulates himself. "How clever of me!" he thinks.

***Critical Analysis:***

After Peter swears to avenge Hook once and for all at the end of chapter thirteen, he stumbles upon the crocodile while traversing the island and notices that it is not making a ticking sound. He reasons that “the clock had run down,” and when he passes the other crocodiles, Peter makes a ticking sound to fool them and manages to make his way through them without incident. In his resolve to get to Hook, Peter continues to subconsciously make the ticking sound. 12 Peter, aboard the ship, begins to aid the boys in their escape; he strikes the first pirate to spot him, but the other boys manage to muffle the sound before throwing the pirate overboard. While Peter disappears into the cabin, Smee, Hook, and the others wait in terror for the ticking noise to return. When Smee assures the pirates that the sound is gone, Hook gleefully mocks the terrified prisoners with pirate songs and then asks them if they’d like to see his cat before they walk the plank. Hook commands Jukes to fetch the cat from the cabin, where Peter is currently hiding. As Hook continues singing, they hear a terrifying screech from the cabin, followed by Peter’s crowing noise, which the boys recognize. Cecco then stumbles out of the cabin to tell them that Jukes was stabbed and killed. Hook notices “the exultation of the boys” and orders Cecco to get him the “doodle-doo” from the cabin; afterward, they hear another “death-screech,” followed by the crowing sound. Frustrated, Hook then demands Starkey to go, but Starkey begs for mercy before leaping overboard. Hook thus decides to go into the cabin himself. Soon after, he stumbles out of the cabin without his lantern, telling the others that his light went out. Hook’s “reluctance to return” to the cabin prompts the other pirates to call him out on his cowardice, now believing that the ship is cursed. Irritated at the children’s gleeful reaction to this news, he orders the other pirates to force the children into the cabin to “fight the doodle-doo for their lives.” Meanwhile, Wendy—who is still tied to a mast—looks around anxiously for Peter to emerge. Luckily, Peter finds the keys to unchain the boys, and they arm themselves for battle. He goes first to free Wendy, taking her place on the mast. After mistaking Peter’s crowing for the children’s screams, the other pirates become incensed at Hook, who reasons with them by saying that it is bad luck to have a woman aboard, and everything will be fine once Wendy is off of the ship. When the pirates approach, Peter unveils himself. Further recognizing Hook’s incompetence, the pirates do not follow his orders, and the boys take advantage of this situation. The pirates scatter in fear, and the boys defeat them with ease. As the boys surround Hook, Peter charges forward, and they form a ring around “the two enemies.” The fight ensues, and it is unclear who will be victorious; however, this changes when Hook’s attempts to do his “favorite thrust” are ineffective. He instead tries to swipe at Peter with his iron hook, but Peter drives a sword into Hook’s ribs. Hook, now at Peter’s mercy, asks him what he is. Peter responds by saying that he is “a little bird that has broken out of the egg.” Peter invites Hook to continue dueling, and Hook, “fighting now without hope,” swings his sword erratically as Peter dodges his blows. Feeling determined to see Peter “in bad form,” Hook runs from the fight and fires the powder magazine. As Peter advances upon him, Hook jumps overboard. Unbeknownst to him, the crocodile is in the water, and Hook dies after it attacks him. Soon after, Wendy puts the boys to bed, except for Peter, who paces the deck before falling asleep. Wendy holds Peter—experiencing “one of his dreams”—in her arms as he cries.

***Summary and analysis part by part:***

***Summary part 1:***

When [Peter](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/peter-pan/characters/peter-pan) had been tiptoeing through the forest, he saw the infamous [crocodile](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/peter-pan/symbols/the-crocodile) creep by. When he noticed that it was no longer ticking, he himself began ticking, so that the hungry animals in the forest would become afraid of him and leave him in peace. Hearing the familiar sound, the crocodile followed silently after him. When Peter reached shore and started swimming to the ship he continued to tick, simply because he forgot to stop. Only when he saw the pirates quiet down fearfully did he realize that he was still ticking, and he felt very proud of his accidental cleverness.

***Analysis Part 1:***

Peter’s spirit-like, fateful quality is mostly his fearlessness and cleverness. He is like many other heroes, who seem inhuman but are not. Yet his particular form of power does have the quality of the inhuman, because it arises from an impossibility: from the carelessness and loveliness of having lived very little, and the deep sadness and weariness of having lived a long time (the simplest designations of a child and an adult).

***Summary part 2:***

By now, [Peter](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/peter-pan/characters/peter-pan) has climbed up onto the boat. A pirate passes by him, and Peter kills him quickly. [Slightly](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/peter-pan/characters) begins keeping count of the victims. Meanwhile, Peter quietly sneaks into the cabin. The other pirates notice that the ticking has stopped and [Hook](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/peter-pan/characters/captain-jas-hook) decides to resume the execution. He sends a pirate down into the cabin to get a “cat,” a complicated whip, and in a moment the pirates hear him scream horribly. They also hear a weird crowing sound. One peeks into the cabin and confirms that the pirate is dead. Another pirate dies in the same manner, and a fourth throws himself into the sea.

***Analysis Part 2:***How can it be that Peter has both lived little and lived long? He has seen life repeat itself in dispiriting cycles almost endlessly, but he has forgotten its particulars: all that’s left is the residue, a sadness and toughness of spirit. It makes him an excellent and forgivable murderer. It also makes a person love him (think of his baby teeth) and fear him all at once, just as Hook does.

***Summary Part 3:***

Now no other pirate is willing to enter the cabin, so [Hook](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/peter-pan/characters/captain-jas-hook) himself charges in. He comes out a minute later without his light, and obviously afraid. The other pirates mock him and suspect that the devil is involved. Finally Hook decides to send the children in to fight the mysterious intruder.

***Analysis Part 3:***

This is an interesting moment with regard to Peter’s idea of fairness. Peter has no qualms about murdering any number of pirates in the dark, but he spares Hook because the dark gives him an unfair advantage.

***Summary Part 4:***As the children enter the cabin, [Peter](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/peter-pan/characters/peter-pan) unlocks their chains. Peter and the children then emerge from the cabin quietly. Peter sneaks over to [Wendy](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/peter-pan/characters/wendy), unties her, puts on her shawl, and takes her place. Then he crows again. The pirates think that the sound means all the boys have died and they begin to turn against [Hook](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/peter-pan/characters/captain-jas-hook), who is exposing them to such unholy danger. To pacify them, Hook proposes that they drown Wendy, since a woman on a ship is always bad luck.

***Analysis Part 4:***

The supposed lawlessness of the pirate ship mimics the structures and habits of authoritarian nations. When the leader of a country becomes unpopular, and the country is in some sort of deep trouble, the leader will often deflect the people’s anger onto an innocent third party – a scapegoat. Here, the scapegoat is Wendy.

***Summary Part 5:***

He approaches the person in the shawl, who reveals himself to be [Peter](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/peter-pan/characters/peter-pan). In that moment of shock, says the narrator, [Hook](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/peter-pan/characters/captain-jas-hook)’s “fierce heart broke.” Nevertheless, the boys and the pirates begin a bloody battle. In the confusion, most of the pirates are killed or drowned.

***Analysis Part 5:***

Peter is what Hook hates most. The specter of good form is what Hook fears most. If hatred is always a product of fear, then Hook must hate Peter as a pure symbol of good form.

***Summary Part 6:***

The time has finally come for [Peter](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/peter-pan/characters/peter-pan) to battle [Hook](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/peter-pan/characters/captain-jas-hook). Peter is a wonderful swordsman, but Hook also fights excellently. For a while neither can touch the other, but then Peter stabs Hook through the ribs. The sight of his strange blood nauseates Hook and he drops his sword to the ground. Peter graciously invites Hook to pick it back up, and they resume fighting.

***Analysis Part 6:***

Hatred and fear are rejoined in this scene. Peter takes the shapes of a demon, a woman, and fate itself: since Peter is so terribly changeable, Hook begins to feel that good form is everywhere except in him, and anything except him. Hook's self-hatred is embodied in his nausea at his own blood.

***Summary Part 7:***

Suddenly [Hook](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/peter-pan/characters/captain-jas-hook) asks [Peter](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/peter-pan/characters/peter-pan) who he is. “I’m youth, I’m joy,” Peter answers, and Hook fears that this nonsense is a sign of good form. They fight again, but Hook is overcome with depression. All he wants is to see Peter show bad form. He lights an explosive strong enough to blow up the ship, but Peter simply throws it into the sea. Hook loses himself in memories of his youth, wide playing fields, and dignified clothes.

***Analysis Part 7:***

Peter’s is a lovely answer. It feels true on first reading, and so it should: it is, indeed, one part of Peter, the part he himself dreamt up when he first decided to run away and live with the fairies. But let’s put him back into context. He is blithely killing left and right. Hook is right: it is nonsense. And yet Peter believes it, and in doing so makes it true, and his unselfconsciousness in believing it is a kind of "good form," at least as Hook sees it. And Hook, in despair, thinks back to his own childhood.

***Summary Part 8:***

At last, [Hook](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/peter-pan/characters/captain-jas-hook) tires of fighting and jumps up onto the side of the ship. [Peter](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/peter-pan/characters/peter-pan) is flying at him, and Hook gestures for him to kick instead of striking; Peter grants his wish, and Hook falls into the ocean with the happy feeling that Peter finally showed bad form. The [crocodile](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/peter-pan/symbols/the-crocodile) is waiting for Hook in the water. The boys are thrilled by their victories but even more so by “the lateness of the hour.” They soon fall asleep in the pirates’ beds. Peter, that night, has a very bad nightmare.

***Analysis Part 8:***

Wendy says: “It is only the gay and innocent and heartless who can fly.” Peter is very courteous to Hook at the end. He can be courteous to the man he is about to kill because he does not hate that man or fear him, or feel much of anything at all. He is playing a game and playing it fairly. Perhaps his nightmares are the pains of a conscience that can never quite emerge, or that has been eternally suppressed.