***Peter Pan and Wendy***

***Chapter 3***

***Come Away, Come Away!***

***Synopsis:***

Peter Pan looks for his shadow in the nursery with his fairy, Tinker Bell. Frustrated, Peter cries because he is unable to attach his shadow to his body, and he tries to stick it on with soap. Wendy awakes to see Peter, and they introduce themselves to one another. When he tells Wendy he does not have a mother, her instinct is to console him; but he tells her he doesn’t want a mother and is instead upset because he is unable to stick his shadow to his body. Wendy thus sews Peter’s shadow to him. Afterward, Peter exclaims how clever he is for sewing on his shadow, upsetting Wendy, as he has taken credit for her idea. Peter then approaches her and tells her that “one girl is more use than twenty boys.” Wendy finds this sentiment especially charming and offers to give him a kiss. As she leans forward to kiss Peter—who does not know what a kiss is—he puts an acorn button in her hand. Wendy responds by telling him she will “wear his kiss on a chain around her neck.”

Wendy asks Peter how old he is. He replies that he doesn’t know and that he never wants to grow up. She continues to ask him questions and is especially curious about fairies. Peter tells her that fairies are born out of a baby’s laughter and that every time a child says that they do not believe in fairies, a fairy dies. He also explains that “the tinker of bells” is the fairy language. As Peter realizes that he stuck Tinker Bell in a drawer, Wendy expresses excitement to meet her.

After Wendy questions Peter about his home, he tells her that he lives with “the lost boys,” who are abandoned children sent to Neverland. He expresses to her that the boys are lonely without any girls around. Wendy, enamored with the way Peter talks about girls, asks to kiss him again but refers to a kiss as a “thimble.” After she kisses him, Peter asks to give her a thimble, and while kissing Wendy, Tinker Bell pulls Wendy’s hair. Tinker Bell tells Peter she will pull Wendy’s hair every time Peter and Wendy kiss.

Wendy learns that Peter has been listening to Mrs. Darling’s stories from outside their bedroom window. As he overheard Mrs. Darling reading *Cinderella* to them, Peter became enamored with the story. He thus becomes overjoyed when Wendy tells him that Cinderella and the prince live happily ever after. Peter then tells Wendy that she should come with him to Neverland so she can share the ending to *Cinderella* to the other lost boys. She is flattered but fearful of flying and of leaving her mother. Peter insists to Wendy that if she comes with him, she can tuck the boys in at night and will be treated with respect. John, who has since woken up, asks Peter how to fly. He responds, “You just think lovely wonderful thoughts . . . until they lift you up in the air.” Peter then blows fairy dust on the three Darling children, which enables them to fly. He continues to convince Wendy, John, and Michael to come with him and Tinker Bell to Neverland, and he does so by enticing them with adventures with pirates and mermaids.

Meanwhile, Nana forces her way into the Darlings’ dinner party, signaling to the parents that something is wrong with the children. Immediately, Mr. and Mrs. Darling run out of the dinner party and onto the street. As they look into the nursery window from outside, they see the children flying around the room. The parents then race to the nursery to get to the children on time, but they are too late. The stars cause the window to swing open, and the children fly with Peter into the night sky.

***Critical Analysis:***

First [Tinker Bell](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/Peter-Pan/character-analysis/#Tinker_Bell) and then [Peter Pan](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/Peter-Pan/character-analysis/#Peter_Pan) returns through the nursery window. He is looking for the shadow Nana tore away from him. His joy quickly turns to tears when he can't reattach his shadow to his body. His cries awaken Wendy, who after learning that Peter doesn't have a mother assumes that is why he is so sad. "'I wasn't crying about mothers,' he said, rather indignantly." In fact, Peter claims not to want a mother at all, considering them "very overrated persons." He tells [Wendy Darling](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/Peter-Pan/character-analysis/#Wendy_Darling) he is upset about his shadow, which she fixes by sewing it back on for him.

Peter Pan is elated about getting his shadow back, acting as if he had done it himself. "How clever I am!" he boasts. His lack of gratitude appalls Wendy, and she hides from him under her blankets. But he manages to charm her by stating that one girl is worth 20 boys, to which Wendy responds by offering him a kiss. Peter has no idea what that is, but when Wendy gives him a thimble he assumes a kiss is a gift, so he gives her a button made out of an acorn. She wears the button on a chain around her neck—something the narrator assures us will later save her life.

Peter flatters Wendy and she ends up giving him a real kiss. In response, Tinker Bell pulls Wendy's hair. Wendy realizes that Tinker Bell is jealous, but Peter does not. His interest in Wendy doesn't seem to be about her personally but rather in finding a surrogate mother. Peter promises to teach her to fly if she will come with him to Neverland and tell stories to him and the "lost boys." They are children who fell out of their baby carriages and were never reclaimed by their parents.

Nana breaks free of her chains and races to the party to get Mr. and [Mrs. Darling](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/Peter-Pan/character-analysis/#Mrs._Darling). But it is too late. Peter has blown fairy dust on the three children and taught them to fly. They have already sailed out the window by the time the Darlings return.

***Critical Study:***

Like Wendy, this is the first time readers have the chance to get to know Peter—and he reveals himself to be a mercurial character who defies easy categorization. Is Peter friend or foe? Is his plea that Wendy join him in Neverland an innocent invitation or something more sinister? With her canine intuition, Nana certainly thinks Peter is a threat. Wendy herself takes a lot of persuasion, and several times seems to change her mind about whether she wants to go to Neverland or not. Yet in the end she and both her brothers voluntarily leave with Peter.

Why is Peter's true nature so elusive? Part of it may be that it is impossible today to come to the book without preconceptions about the character. [J.M. Barrie](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/Peter-Pan/author/) may have created [Peter Pan](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/Peter-Pan/character-analysis/#Peter_Pan), but Peter long ago escaped his author and attained iconic status in popular culture as the symbol of eternal youth. Readers may be familiar with the lighthearted version of Peter Pan made famous in the 1953 Disney animated movie. In this iteration Peter is an appealing boyish hero who uses magic to liberate Wendy and her brothers from the suffocating rules of middle-class childhood.

When readers familiar with these versions of Peter first encounter the original in these pages, it may be confusing. He is not necessarily the Peter they expect. His ego is boundless. Peter somehow manages to convince himself he has sewn on his shadow. However, Wendy has done so just a few moments earlier. Wendy calls him conceited and even the narrator admits, "There never was a cockier boy."

But it is perhaps in the sly way the convinces Wendy to come with him to Neverland that best shows Peter's dual nature. One moment he is all innocent charm, and even seems to be progressive when he tells Wendy that "one girl is more use than twenty boys." But each time Wendy shows reluctance about leaving with him, Peter masterfully manipulates her by telling her a sad story about how he ended up in Neverland. When that fails, he doesn't hesitate to use force, grabbing her by the arm at one point and dragging her towards the window.

For all his praise of the superior cleverness of girls, Peter is heartless when it comes to one girl who is already in his life. This is the fairy [Tinker Bell](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/Peter-Pan/character-analysis/#Tinker_Bell). He doesn't even notice when he accidentally traps her in a drawer. Nor does he realize how much she likes him. At the moment, he's too focused on getting what he wants from Wendy—someone to tell him stories and mend his clothes.

But Peter also tells lovely stories. You learn to fly by thinking "wonderful thoughts" that lift you into the air. And in a phrase that Disney filmmakers took word-for-word from the book and made famous in their movie, you find the way to Neverland by following the stars. "Second to the right," says Peter, "then straight on till morning." This is the side of Peter Pan that enchants readers.

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

***Summary part 1:***

The light flickering around [Peter Pan](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/peter-pan/characters/peter-pan) is a tiny fairy named [Tinker Bell](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/peter-pan/characters/tinker-bell), who begins looking for Peter’s shadow as soon as they fly into the nursery. When she speaks it sounds like many little bells, and it is incomprehensible to ordinary humans. She tells Peter that his shadow is in the chest of drawers. But when he tries to put his shadow back on, it will not stick. He begins to cry in frustration.

***Analysis Part 1:***

Peter is an impossible magical being. But when we ask “what is Peter Pan?” we are really asking “what is a child?” For Peter, at first, seems to be a child without any trace of adulthood. Wendy begins to become an adult at only two years old, when she sacrifices the dream of being a child forever. But Peter never seems to sacrifice any dreams, or acquire any adult traits.

***Summary Part 2:***

[Wendy](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/peter-pan/characters/wendy) wakes up and they introduce themselves. She is surprised by [Peter](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/peter-pan/characters/peter-pan)’s short name and his explanation of directions to where he lives: “second to the right and straight on till morning.” She is especially shocked that he does not have a mother. When she understands why he is upset, she decides to sew the shadow onto his heels herself. As soon as it’s done, Peter becomes very pleased with himself: he thinks all the credit is his. He has a very short memory, and he is very arrogant.

***Analysis part 2:***

In the short time that Peter has spent in the nursery, he has caused a lot of trouble: he has been careless about Tinker Bell and ungrateful to Wendy. He has hurt them both, if only a little, because he does not know how to consider the feelings of others. But they love him anyway because of his child's charm, and even to them that love is mysterious.

***Summary Part 3:***

[Wendy](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/peter-pan/characters/wendy) takes offense at his ingratitude and hides in bed. [Peter Pan](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/peter-pan/characters/peter-pan) then becomes apologetic and tells her “one girl is more use than twenty boys.” Wendy is very flattered and emerges from under her blanket. She offers to give him a [kiss](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/peter-pan/symbols/the-kiss). When Peter does not understand what she means, she gives him a thimble instead, and he gives her a button. She puts it on a chain around her neck for good luck.

***Analysis Part 3:***

Wendy is just as susceptible to flattery as Peter Pan, since she, too, is a child and has not completed her transformation into adulthood. Does Peter really mean what he says? He is trying to win her forgiveness, so the compliment seems deliberate. Is Peter capable of deceit?

***Summary Part 4:***

[Peter](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/peter-pan/characters/peter-pan) tells [Wendy](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/peter-pan/characters/wendy) that he ran away from his father and mother to live with the fairies in Kensington Gardens, so that he doesn’t ever have to become a man and can have fun forever. He explains that fairies are born from babies’ laughter, and that a fairy dies every time a child says she doesn’t believe in fairies.

***Analysis Part 4:***

An eternal child seems like a very grand and moving thing. But Peter’s motivations do not seem to be very grand. He is repelled by adults, by their largeness and heaviness and the boredom of their lives. He does not see anything of value there, and that is his blindness.

***Summary Part 5:***

Suddenly he realizes that [Tinker Bell](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/peter-pan/characters/tinker-bell) is stuck in a drawer, and laughs a very wonderful childish laugh. When he lets her out, she is angry and rude, but [Wendy](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/peter-pan/characters/wendy) is enchanted nonetheless. “She is a quite a common fairy,” [Peter](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/peter-pan/characters/peter-pan) says, explaining that Tink repairs kitchenware. Peter goes on to say that he lives in Neverland with the lost boys, children who fall out of baby carriages. He hints that they need a girl to take care of them. Wendy is so pleased that she gives him a real [kiss](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/peter-pan/symbols/the-kiss), which she calls a thimble, and Peter gives her one in return. Tinker Bell pulls her hair jealously.

***Analysis Part 5:***

Just as Mrs. Darling is a little bit of a sorceress, Tinker Bell is a little bit of a drudge. Though Neverland is an imaginary place, it still has chores. Perhaps it is unsatisfying to imagine a place entirely free of drudgery, even for a child. Peter goes to Neverland by choice, but the other children go by necessity – because they have no real homes.

***Summary Part 6:***

[Peter](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/peter-pan/characters/peter-pan) tells her that he has been coming to the nursery to listen to stories, since neither he nor the lost boys know any good stories. [Wendy](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/peter-pan/characters/wendy) tells him the end of Cinderella, which [Mrs. Darling](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/peter-pan/characters/mrs-darling) has been reciting for the children at bedtime, and when Peter jumps up to go tell the other boys she begs him to stay – she can tell him many more.

***Analysis Part 6:***

Peter Pan and the lost boys live out real fairy tales, but they are still desperate to hear one told. They have gone on numberless adventures, but they still feel that they have no stories of their own. They need a storyteller.

***Summary part 7:***

[Peter](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/peter-pan/characters/peter-pan) asks [Wendy](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/peter-pan/characters/wendy) to come with him and tell stories to all the boys. He tempts her by describing Neverland magic, and all the motherly tasks she could perform there. He also promises to take [John](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/peter-pan/characters/john) and [Michael](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/peter-pan/characters) along. Wendy wakes up her brothers and tells them Peter Pan is here and he is going to teach them to fly. Meanwhile, [Nana](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/peter-pan/characters) is barking loudly to alert the Darling parents to the danger in the nursery. Finally, she breaks the chain and runs to the party where they are spending the evening. The Darlings rush back to the house at once.

***Analysis Part 7:***

Peter Pan is generally quite contemptuous of mothers. He thinks mothers are unnecessary, and cause a great deal of trouble and annoyance. But he is clearly asking Wendy to come be a mother to him and the other boys. Does he need her to perform simple but boring tasks, like sewing? Does he need her to perform a certain kind of motherly magic, like Mrs. Darling’s mind-sorting? Or does he just want a mother?

***Summary part 8:***

Meanwhile, [Peter](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/peter-pan/characters/peter-pan) shows the children how to fly. He blows some fairy dust on them, tells them to wiggle, and up they go. As soon as they get the hang of it, they decide to fly to Neverland at once. By the time the Darlings reach the bedroom, it is empty.

***Analysis Part 8:***

Fairies are created from children’s laughter, and fairy dust must be made of the same thing. To make them fly, Peter blows childlikeness at the children. He makes them more fully children.