***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:***

[Mrs. Darling](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/peter-pan/characters/mrs-darling) gives a startled shout when she sees the boy, and [Nana](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/peter-pan/characters) runs into the room and growls. [Peter](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/peter-pan/characters/peter-pan) quickly jumps out the window, but Nana traps his shadow by closing the window on it. Mrs. Darling folds it carefully into a drawer in the nursery in case he ever comes back for it.

***Analysis Part 1:***

An old superstition tells us that demons have no shadows. Peter Pan has a shadow, but it is detachable. The other characters do not seem to have detachable shadows, yet nobody is surprised to see one come off.

***Summary Part 2:***

She doesn’t tell [Mr. Darling](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/peter-pan/characters/mr-darling) about the shadow until the following Friday. The ill-fated evening begins in an ordinary way. [Michael](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/peter-pan/characters) is refusing to take a bath, and [Mrs. Darling](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/peter-pan/characters/mrs-darling) is dressing for her evening out. [Wendy](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/peter-pan/characters/wendy) and [John](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/peter-pan/characters/john) are pretending to be Mr. and Mrs. Darling on the day of John’s birth. Mr. Darling comes in complaining about his tie, which he can’t get to tie properly, and Mrs. Darling ties it for him soothingly. Then they all dance around.

***Analysis part 2:***

Children and childhood are the most important topics in this book, but the adults on the sidelines also seem to have a wonderful time. Is it the adultness of their daily life that is enjoyable, or the traces of childhood that remain in it? Similarly, do Wendy and John enjoy playing adult, or do they enjoy bringing childhood into adulthood?

***Summary Part 3:***

[Nana](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/peter-pan/characters) bumps into [Mr. Darling](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/peter-pan/characters/mr-darling) and gets some hair on his pants, and he begins to criticize her capacities as a nurse. Nana has come in to give [Michael](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/peter-pan/characters) his medicine. To encourage Michael to take it without complaint, Mr. Darling brags that he has always taken his medicine very bravely. [Wendy](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/peter-pan/characters/wendy) helpfully suggests that Mr. Darling take his medicine along with Michael. Mr. Darling had hidden the medicine, because he hates it, but Wendy had found it and put it back in its place. He is unhappy to see Wendy bring it into the room. He promises to take it at the same time as Michael takes his; but when Michael swallows his spoonful, Mr. Darling hides his behind his back. Everyone is very disappointed.

***Analysis Part 3:***

Though Mr. Darling is balding, financially savvy, and a father of three, he sometimes has trouble acting properly adult. He is often silly, and he doubts that his family respects him. As an adult, he is meant to be extremely honorable and brave – braver than the toddler Michael. But his aversion to foul-tasting medicine is identical to Michael’s. He is supposed to pretend otherwise, but he can’t manage it. He and the children both dislike watching the child/adult distinction break down.

***Summary Part 4:***

To distract from his embarrassment, [Mr. Darling](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/peter-pan/characters/mr-darling) tries to play a clever trick. He pours his creamy-colored medicine into [Nana](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/peter-pan/characters)’s bowl. Nana drinks a little and then gives Mr. Darling a very reproachful look. Everyone is angry with him, and he is angrily embarrassed, and finally he demands that Nana be tied up in the yard. He takes her out and ties her up himself, despite her anxious barking – she is afraid to leave the children unguarded, with a person like [Peter Pan](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/peter-pan/characters/peter-pan) lurking around.

***Analysis Part 4:***

The difficult task of acting like an adult, and therefore ignoring the natural impulses of a child, leaves Mr. Darling with a very mixed-up sense of self-worth. Because he can never quite believe himself to be fully adult – and neither, he suspects, can the others – he has a chronic pain in his ego. Sometimes it becomes acute and he does mean and foolish things.

***Summary Part 5:***

[Mrs. Darling](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/peter-pan/characters/mrs-darling) sadly puts the children to bed. [Nana](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/peter-pan/characters) is barking loudly outside, and [Wendy](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/peter-pan/characters/wendy) explains that the dog senses danger. Mrs. Darling is anxious, but she gathers herself, says goodnight, and leaves with [Mr. Darling](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/peter-pan/characters/mr-darling) to a nearby party. When they are safely out of the way, the stars signal to [Peter](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/peter-pan/characters/peter-pan) to come indoors.

***Analysis Part 5:***

Adult realism blinds the Darlings. The dog and the stars and the child know something the adults don’t know, or choose not to know, or are forced by their own adulthood not to know.