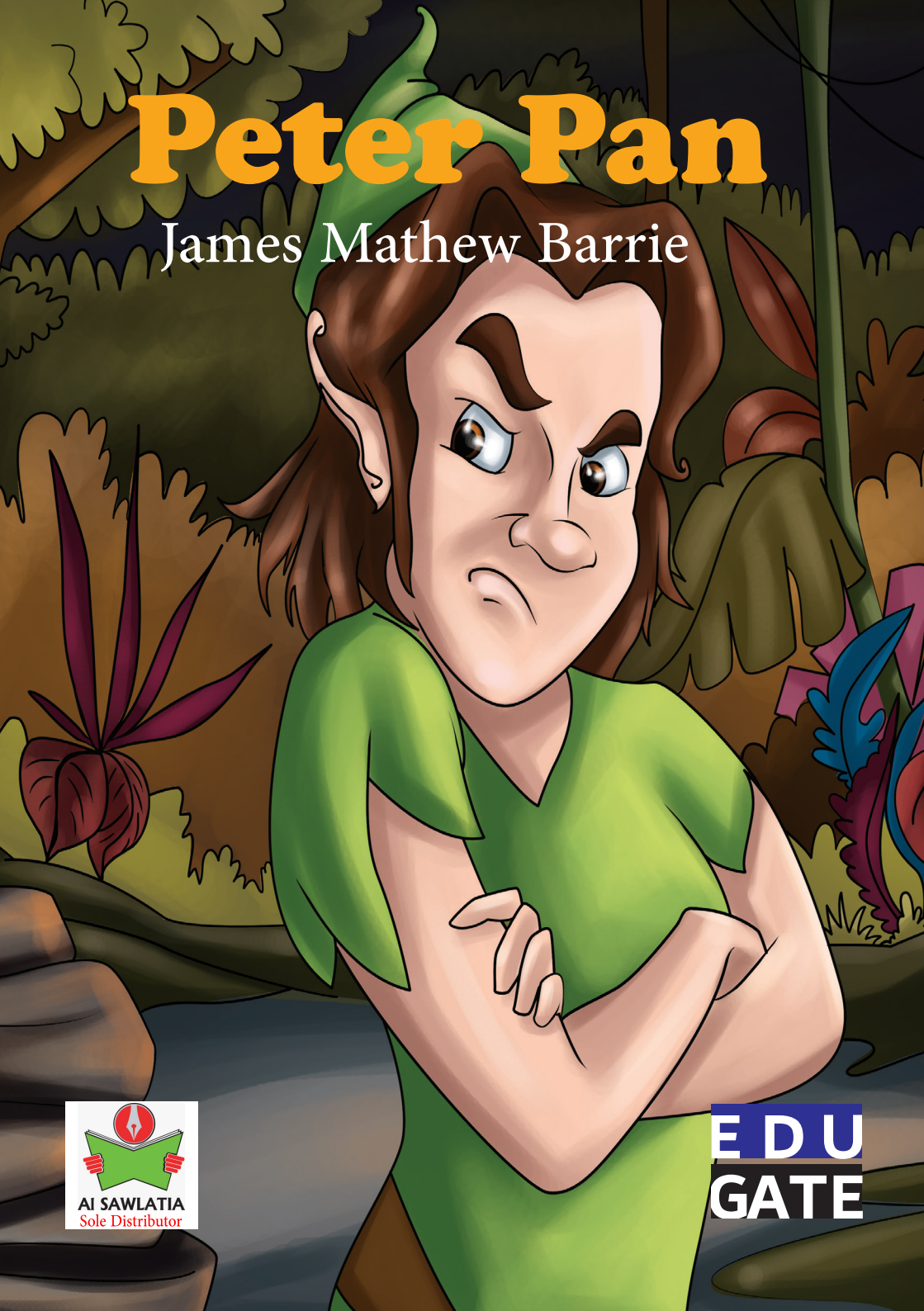


# Peter Pan

James Mathew Barrie



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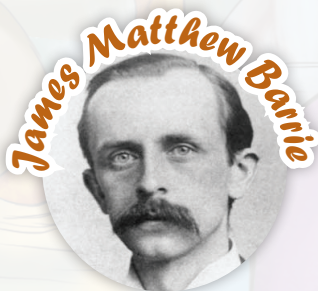
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### Notes About the Author:

*James Matthew Barrie (1860-1937)*

James Mathew Barrie was born on the 9<sup>th</sup> of May, 1860. He studied literature at the University of Edinburgh. He worked as a journalist in London. Some of his famous novels are *Tommy and Grizel*, *A Lady's Shoe*, *Quality Street*. He died on the 19<sup>th</sup> of June, 1937.

## Wendy Darling

All children **grow up**. Wendy knew she must **grow up** after she was two. Two is the beginning of the end.

Wendy's mother was a lovely woman, with a romantic mind and a sweet mouth. Her name was Mrs. Darling. Her husband, Mr. Darling, was a practical man. He knew about **stocks and shares**.

Wendy was born first, then John and Michael. They had a **nurse**. This nurse was a Newfoundland dog, named Nana. Her kennel was in the nursery. It was lovely to see her **escorting** the children to school. She usually carried an umbrella in her mouth in case of rain. There never was a happier family until the coming of Peter Pan.

One day, some leaves of a tree were found on the nursery floor. Mrs. Darling was puzzling over them when Wendy said with a smile:

"I believe it was Peter again!"

"What do you mean?" asked her mother.

Wendy explained that Peter sometimes came to the nursery in the night and sat on her bed. Unfortunately, she never woke up.

"I think he comes in by the window," Wendy said.

"Impossible!" replied Mrs. Darling.

But after thinking back to her childhood, Mrs. Darling remembered Peter Pan who lived with the fairies. She had believed in him then. But now that she was grown, she doubted he existed. Wendy must have had a dream.



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What did Mrs. Darling find on the nursery floor?

"I don't know," he replied **uneasily**. "I ran away the day I was born."

Wendy was surprised but interested. Peter continued "It was because I heard father and mother talking about what I was to be when I became a man. I don't ever want to be a man. I always want to be a little boy and have fun!"

"But where do you live now?" Wendy asked.

"With the lost boys in Neverland," Peter replied.

Peter admitted that he liked coming to the nursery window to listen to Wendy's stories.

"I know lots of stories, Peter," Wendy said.

Peter gripped her and began to pull her toward the window.

"Let me go!" Wendy ordered.

"Wendy, come with me and tell stories to the other boys!" Peter begged.

"Oh, dear, I can't. Think of mommy! Besides, I can't fly."

"I'll teach you. I'll show you **mermaids**! You can be the boys' mother!" Peter promised.

Wendy couldn't resist. She ran to John's and Michael's beds.

"Wake up," she cried. "Peter Pan has come, and he is going to teach us to fly!"

Nana began **barking** loudly.

"Quick!" cried John. "How do you do it?"



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## The Home Under the Ground

“Great news, boys,” Peter cried, “I have brought at last a mother for you all.”

The boys stood back.

“She is dead!” Peter cried.

At his words, Wendy raised her arm.

“She’s alive!” Peter shouted.

From the trees they heard someone crying. It was Tinker Bell. The boys told Peter of Tink’s crime. Peter Pan was angry.

“Tinker Bell,” he called, “I am not your friend.”

At last Wendy woke up.

“Where am I?” she asked.

All the boys fell on their knees and cried, “Oh Wendy, be our mother!”

Wendy looked very pleased.

“I am only a little girl,” she said. “but I will do my best. Before I put you to bed, I’ll tell you a story.”

The lost boys were happy.

All the children went down under the ground into Peter’s home. It was a lovely home. Wendy, John and Michael grew to love their home under the ground very quickly. It had one large room with an enormous fireplace. All the boys slept in one bed like sardines in a tin.

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Did Wendy accept to help Peter and the lost children?

There was one hole in the wall, no larger than a birdcage. This was the private apartment of Tinker Bell. It could be shut off by a small curtain, which Tink used when dressing and undressing.

The boys gave Wendy much to do.

There were entire weeks when she was never above the ground. The cooking and the sewing kept her busy.

Wendy's favorite time was after the boys had gone to bed.

Did she think much about her beloved parents? Wendy did not worry about her mother and father. She was absolutely certain that they would keep the window open for her. However, she was a little worried because John remembered his parents **vaguely**, and Michael started to believe that Wendy was really his mother.

## The Mermaids' Lagoon

The children spent long summer days on the Mermaids' lagoon. Wendy loved to watch the mermaids. She watched them combing their long hair. Sometimes hundreds of mermaids played in the lagoon. It was a pretty sight. But as soon as they saw Wendy, they immediately disappeared under the water. They treated all the boys in the same way. Only Peter could sit and talk with them for hours. He gave Wendy one of their combs.

One day, the children were sitting on the Marooner's Rock in the middle of the lagoon. They were swimming, watching the mermaids and warming in the sun.



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“We set her free.” the pirates answered calmly.

“Set her free?” thundered Hook.

“Those were your orders” one of the pirates said.

“I gave no such order,” thundered Hook again. His face had gone black with rage. But he saw that the two pirates believed their words and he was surprised.

Peter could never resist a **game**. He called out in Hook’s voice. “**Guess** who I am!”

Hook was completely puzzled.

“Can’t guess, can’t guess,” laughed Peter. “Do you give up?”

“Yes, yes,” the pirates answered eagerly.

“Well, then,” he cried, “I am Peter Pan!”

“We have him!” Hook shouted. “Take him dead or alive!”

At the same time, Peter called, “Are you ready, boys?”

The fight was short and sharp. The boys fought the pirates. Peter met Hook on the Rock. Their faces were almost touching as they fought. Twice the iron hand cut Peter.

A few minutes later, the other boys saw Hook in his boat, **rowing wildly**. The crocodile was swimming behind. Hook’s face was white with fear. The sound tick-tick came from the crocodile’s stomach.

Peter reached the home under the ground almost as soon as Wendy. Great was the joy that night. Every boy had adventures to tell, and they were all several hours late to bed.

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**Describe Captain Hook in one sentence.**



grabbed them. Wendy came last. With ironical politeness, Hook raised his hat to her. She was too surprised to cry out.

All the children were tied to prevent them from flying away. Then, the pirates carried them to the ship.

Hook stayed behind to get Peter Pan. Silently, he climbed down into the home under the ground. All was quiet below. Slowly Hook's eyes became accustomed to the dim light. At last, he saw Peter, he lay on the bed fast asleep. It would have been easy to kill Peter now. But in this instant, Hook saw Peter's medicine and had an evil idea. The medicine was within easy reach. Hook always carried a terrible poison with him. He now added five drops to Peter's cup. Hook looked at Peter with satisfaction and disappeared. Peter slept on. He was awakened by a soft tapping at the door.

"Who is it?" he asked.

"Let me in, Peter," It was Tink. She told him of the capture of Wendy and the boys.

Peter's heart beat fast as he listened.

"I'll rescue her," he cried. He jumped up to go but decided to take his medicine first.

"No!" cried Tinker Bell.

"Why not?" asked Peter. He raised the cup to his lips.

"It is poisoned," insisted Tink.

"Who could have poisoned it?" Peter asked in surprise.

"Hook!" said Tink and explained what had happened.



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## Post-reading Activities

### 1. Are the following statements true (T) or false (F)?

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| a. Wendy was born last.                              | T | F |
| b. The nurse's name was Nana.                        | T | F |
| c. The Darlings were a very happy family.            | T | F |
| d. Wendy always woke when Peter came.                | T | F |
| e. Mrs. Darling remembered Peter from her childhood. | T | F |

### 2. Answer the following questions. Use short answers.

a. Was Nana very pleased to see Peter Pan?

.....

b. Did Nana eat Peter's shadow?

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c. How did Wendy attach Peter's shadow?

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d. Why did Peter Pan run away from his parents? How old was he at that time?

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e. Why didn't Wendy want to go with Peter at first?

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### 3. Describe Peter's home.

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# Glossary

- **accustomed to:** used to
- **awfully:** very
- **bark:** characteristic sound of a dog
- **bow:** a weapon made of curved wood for shooting arrows
- **brave:** showing no fear
- **chain:** to tie with a chain
- **cord:** rope, bond
- **decisively:** firmly, with decision
- **desolate:** unhappy
- **dive:** jump under water
- **doubtfully:** with hesitation and doubt
- **drawer:** a sliding box in a table
- **escort:** accompany
- **faithful:** loyal, dependable
- **fast asleep:** completely asleep
- **fireplace:** an open place in a wall for burning wood and cooking
- **free:** liberate
- **grab:** catch, seize
- **grow up :** become an adult
- **growl:** make an angry sound
- **have a wonderful time:** enjoy oneself
- **impassive:** without expression
- **island:** land, surrounded on all sides by water
- **jealousy:** envy
- **mermaid:** mythological creature half-woman, half fish
- **nurse:** nanny or woman to help take care of the children
- **pleased:** happy
- **pretend:** to show falsely
- **raise:** lift
- **range:** order
- **rescue:** save
- **row:** move a boat by using two pieces of wood
- **shadow:** a dark image created by shining light on a body
- **stick on:** attach
- **stocks and shares:** buying (or selling) part of a company to make money
- **stretch:** extend, reach out
- **sword:** a long, sharp, pointed weapon
- **tap:** knock gently
- **terrified:** frightened
- **uneasily:** in a worried way
- **vaguely:** only very little
- **walk the plank:** walk off a board projecting out from a ship's side
- **wildly:** extremely fast



Golden Classics is a series of Leveled Readers which introduces students to the most well-known International classics through a carefully graded text and illustrations. Each text offers a wide range of activities that encourages readers to ask, discuss, and respond to questions individually or in small groups. Higher thinking skills are addressed on each page in the form of an open-ended question. Each reader is bundled with activities and a glossary at the end of the book.



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