

Peter Pan by J.M. Barrie
Vocabulary, page 1

conspicuous
pinafore
gayety
coracle
perambulator
propriety
wigwam
mea culpa
upbraided
sarcastic
placid
doggedly
firmament
draggled
perturbed
embonpoint
exulting
patronizing
housewife
rapturously
hauteur
entreat
rollicking
lagoon
pampas
tiffs
whelp
blackavized
moidores
raconteur
reconnoitre
pluperfect
debonair
coquettish
conceited
anon
nonconformist

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Vocabulary, page 2

amicably
carousing
orgy
ardently
rampageous
fastidious
spinster
boudoir
sanguinary
narrate
interlopers
dinghy
ingratiating
miscreant
impassive
cozening
pestilent
cutlass
elated
impudent
buccaneer
nettled
emphasis
scurvy
barque
simper
progeny
prejudiced
solicitously
negligee
aghast
portly
sublime
narrator
callous
beseeching
forlornly

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Vocabulary, page 3

enigma
acquitted
onslaught
unscrupulous
stockade
paleface
hillock
phlegmatic
phalanx
perfidious
pandemonium
periwinkle
harpsichord
papoose
idyllic
morass
rakish
brig
miasma
tabernacle
bacchanalian
doublet
vitals
intrinsic
ruff
quartermaster
forecastle
manacles
buckler
Jonah
quietus
flouting
strident
round robin
quixotic
reproof
cypher
plaintive

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Short Answer Questions, page 1

1. How did Wendy's father win Wendy's mother's hand in marriage, over all other suitors?
2. What did Mr. Darling do on Mrs. Darling's bedside after Wendy was born?
3. Who was the nurse of the Darling children?
4. What does every good mother do after her children have fallen asleep?
5. What did Peter Pan leave when he was chased out of the children's room?
6. Why was Peter Pan able to enter the room with ease the second time?
7. Why was Peter's hand messy after carrying Tinker Bell?
8. Why was Peter appalled when he finally found his shadow?
9. How was Wendy able to attach Peter's shadow in the end?
10. Why did Peter run away from home to begin with?
11. Where did Peter Pan stay after running away?
12. Who were the Lost Boys?
13. What did it mean when Peter and Wendy "thimble each other"?
14. Why did Peter make a habit of coming to the children's window?
15. Peter tells the children that they can learn to fly by thinking wonderful thoughts, but what does it really take for them to fly?
16. Why was it so hard to understand Peter's instructions in general?
17. How did the children eat during the long flight to Neverland?
18. What was the biggest danger for the children in flying long distances?
19. How did Captain Hook lose his right hand?
20. What must every boy who served under Peter Pan promise?
21. Why did Tinker Bell lure Wendy away from the other children?
22. What were the Lost Boys forbidden to do?
23. What was the misfortune of Tootles?
24. Where did the Lost Boys live?

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Short Answer Questions, page 2

25. What was the only thing Captain Hook feared?
26. How did Hook and Smee discover the home of the Lost Boys?
27. How was Hook warned that the greatest dread of his life was close by?
28. How did Tinker Bell betray Wendy?
29. What was it that saved Wendy's life when the Lost Boys tried to shoot her?
30. How did Peter punish Tinker Bell for her crime?
31. What did Peter and the Lost Boys do to make Wendy well again?
32. Why did Michael not sleep with all the other boys in the huge bed?
33. How was make-believe different for Peter Pan than for other people?
34. What was Wendy's worry for herself and her brothers while in Neverland?
35. Why did Peter not partake in Wendy's written quizzes about parents?
36. Who lived by the lagoon?
37. What was the favorite game played by the lagoon?
38. What was to be Tiger Lily's fate after the pirates had captured her?
39. How did Peter help Tiger Lily?
40. How did captain Hook make Peter betray who he was, while he was imitating the pirate's voice?
41. When did Peter become afraid for the first time in the story?
42. How was Peter saved from drowning?
43. How did people figure out the time of the day on the Island?
44. What story did Wendy tell the boys on their last evening on the Island?
45. Why did Peter not like Wendy's and the boy's favorite story?
46. What was the first reaction of the Lost Boys when they realized that Wendy was leaving them?
47. What happened just before Tinker Bell was to lead Wendy and the boys back to London?

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Short Answer Questions, page 3

48. Why were the Indians defeated in spite of being great warriors and knowing that the pirates were on the Island?
49. How did the pirates lure out the children after defeating the Indians?
50. How was Wendy treated differently from the boys when they were captured by the pirates?
51. In what way did Slightly give Hook an opportunity to attack Peter Pan?
52. How did Hook try to end Peter Pan's life?
53. How did Tinker Bell save Peter's life?
54. How was Tinker Bell in her turn saved?
55. Why was Captain Hook not happy, even in his moment of victory and surrounded by his crew?
56. What was to be the fate of the children on board the pirate ship?
57. What different reasons did the boys give for not joining the pirate crew?
58. Why did Wendy despise the pirates and fail to see any glamour in their lives?
59. What did Peter Pan do when he realized that the clock in the crocodile's belly had stopped ticking?
60. In what way were Peter Pan and Hook evenly matched in fencing?
61. What happened to the pirate ship after the pirates had been beaten?
62. What had Mrs. And Mr. Darling been doing while the children were away?
63. What trick did Peter plan to play on Wendy and the boys so they wouldn't want to stay in London after all?
64. What happened to the Lost Boys in the end?
65. How can you see if a fairy is a boy fairy or a girl fairy?
66. What kind of compromise about Wendy did Peter and Mrs. Darling strike in the end?

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Long Answer Questions

1. Why do you think Mrs. Darling had seen Peter Pan's face in many women who had no children?
2. What kind of differences did you notice in the manners and experiences between the child Peter and the child Wendy on their first meeting?
3. What did Peter Pan do to please Wendy when talking to her and trying to persuade her to do something? What do you think of those methods?
4. What in Peter's personality made it dangerous sometimes for the Darling children to travel with him?
5. Explain how life on Neverland normally worked, who hunted whom, and why the place was much more quiet when Peter Pan was gone.
6. How would you describe fairies and their moods and how they react compared to humans?
7. Explain what it was the Lost Boys really needed from Wendy and why they worshipped her so.
8. Describe in what way Tinker Bell's room differed from the rest of the house, and what that said about the fairy.
9. Even though Wendy plays the mother in Neverland and is more mature than the boys, she is still a child; in what ways is this noticeable?
10. Why do you think it was so important for both the boys and the pirates to have a mother?
11. The author describes several things that will change a child, such as unfairness and tragedies. What in Peter's personality made him remain unaffected by such things?
12. In what ways were Peter and Wendy playacting adults while playing house?
13. Why do you think Peter seemed so indifferent when he heard that both Wendy and all the boys were leaving Neverland.
14. Why do you think Captain Hook hated Peter Pan so much?
15. The reader learns that Captain Hook's background was quite different from that of his crew. Give some examples of how this is shown.
16. Why do you think that the children found Smee more lovable than Captain Hook? Which character would you prefer?
17. In what ways did the boys have advantages over the pirates in the fight, in spite of being smaller?
18. Discuss the differences between Captain Hook and Peter Pan, and what each of them represent.
19. Explain why Peter wanted to keep Wendy so much, and why in the end he let her mother have her back.
20. Why did Peter not want to be adopted by Wendy's mother?
21. How did the Lost Boys change after becoming normal children, and why did they lose their ability to fly?
22. Why do you think that the two re-visits to Neverland in the following years were a bit sad for Wendy, as well as wonderful?
23. In the book, childhood is connected to innocence and heartlessness. What do you think this means? Do you think it is true?

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Answers

Vocabulary

Possible vocabulary exercises: find definitions in a dictionary; define in original words; locate the words in the text and re-write them; use original sentences to show the meaning in context. Below are sample definitions.

conspicuous – easily seen, readily visible

pinafore – a large apron for adults or a sleeveless smock for children

gayety - a state of joy and merriment

coracle - a small rounded boat made of waterproof material stretched over a wicker or wooden frame

perambulators – baby carriages

propriety – appropriateness, according to conventional standards, rightness

wigwam - a lodge, usually with an oval shape and covered with bark or hides

mea culpa - “I am to blame” or “It's my fault” [Latin]

upbraided – reproached

sarcastic – sharply or harshly ironic

placid - calm, peaceful

doggedly - stubbornly, persistently

firmament - the sky or heavens

dragged – followed slowly; limp or soiled

perturbed – disturbed, made someone uneasy

embonpoint - pleasingly chubby, well rounded

exulting - joyful, triumphant

patronizing – to act as a superior to another, condescending

housewife – small container for sewing equipment

rapturously - ecstatically

hauteur – arrogance

entreat – implore, beg, ask earnestly

rollicking – carefree, joyous, swaggering

lagoon - a shallow body of salt water close to the sea but separated from it by a narrow strip of land, such as a barrier island, or by a coral reef.

pampas - an extensive treeless grassland area

tiffs – a quarrel or a fit of irritation

whelp - a young offspring of a mammal, such as a dog or wolf, an impudent young fellow

blackavized – having a dark complexion

moidores – Portuguese or Brazilian gold coins that circulated in England in the early 18th century

raconteur – a skilled and witty storyteller

reconnoitre – examining a scene in the hope of finding something [French]

pluperfect – more than perfect

debonair – sophisticated and courteous or carefree and jaunty

coquettish – flirty

conceited – having a high opinion of oneself, full of oneself

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ANSWERS

Vocabulary, continued (2)

anon – soon, at once, immediately
nonconformist – someone who refuses to accept common customs and beliefs
amicably – in a friendly, peaceful manner
carousing – partying, revelry
orgy – wild festivity with unrestrained indulgence and passions
ardently – passionately, eagerly, intensely
rampageous – unruly, rampant, violent
fastidious – careful, meticulous / hard to please
spinster – a woman who has remained single beyond the usual age of marriage
boudoir – a lady's dressing room or private bedroom
sanguinary – bloodthirsty
narrate – to tell a story or account for events either in speech or in writing
interlopers – intruders, trespassers, meddlers
dinghy – a small boat, sometimes used by warships, for instance a lifeboat
ingratiating – charming, agreeable, pleasing
miscreant – infidel, heretic, villain
impassive – without emotion, unmoved
cozening – tricking, misleading, cajoling
pestilent – deadly, poisonous, threatening to life
cutlass - a short, heavy, slightly curved sword with a single cutting edge, formerly used by sailors
elated – jubilant, happy, proud
impudent – shameless, immodest
buccaneer – pirate/adventurer
nettled – irritated, stung, provoked
emphasis – force of expression, intensity; stress put on a particular matter
scurvy – mean, contemptible
barque – a small vessel that is propelled by oars or sails
simper – to express oneself in a coy, silly or self-conscious manner
progeny – descendants, offspring
prejudiced – biased, having an attitude formed beforehand
solicitously – in a concerned manner
negligee - a woman's loose dressing gown, often of soft, delicate fabric
aghast – struck by shock, terror or amazement
portly – heavy, fat or in older language: important
sublime – awe inspiring, lofty, outstanding
narrator – storyteller
callous – hard, insensitive
beseeching – begging, imploring
forlornly – desolately, lonely, dreary
enigma – a riddle, something or someone that/who is puzzling
acquitted – declared not guilty or free from guilt

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ANSWERS

Vocabulary, continued (3)

onslaught – a violent attack

unscrupulous – without conscience or principles

stockade - a defensive barrier consisting of strong posts or timbers fixed upright in the ground

paleface – term for a white person (supposedly used by Native Americans)

hillock – a small hill

phlegmatic – calm, sluggish, not easily excited

phalanx – troops formed in close array

perfidious – treacherous

pandemonium – chaos, disorder, tumult

periwinkle – myrtle; a plant with glossy green foliage and blue-violet flowers

harpichord – a stringed keyboard

papoose – a Native American infant

idyllic – unspoiled, charmingly simple, carefree

morass – marsh, soft wet ground

rakish – dashing, jaunty

brig - the compartment of a ship where prisoners are confined

miasma - a thick vaporous atmosphere

tabernacle – a temporary dwelling, like a tent or a hut; a place of worship

bacchanalian – in a drunken festive manner

doublet - a close-fitting jacket, with or without sleeves, worn by European men between the 15th and 17th centuries

vitals - those bodily organs that are essential to life, as the brain, heart, liver, lungs, and stomach

intrinsic – natural, true, innate

ruff - a kind of large collar, stiffly starched, worn in the 17th century

quartermaster - a petty officer responsible for the steering of a ship

forecastle - the forward part of the weather deck of a vessel, esp. that part forward of the foremast

manacles – handcuffs

buckler - a round shield held by a grip and sometimes having straps through which the arm is passed

Jonah – a person or thing regarded as bringing bad luck

quietus – the final stroke that brings death

flouting – scornful, contemptuous, insulting

strident – unpleasantly loud or demanding

round robin - a petition or protest on which the signatures are arranged in a circle in order to conceal the order of signing

quixotic – romantic, impulsive, chivalrous

reproof – a rebuke, an expression of criticism

cypher – secret writing, encoding

plaintive – mournful, sorrowful, melancholic

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ANSWERS

Short Answers (page 1)

For the short answer questions, students may answer questions briefly on the page or at greater length on their own paper or in writing journals.

1. Mr. Darling took a cap when going to propose, instead of running, so he got there first.
2. Mr. Darling calculated expenses to see if they could afford having a child.
3. The children's nurse was a Newfoundland dog called Nana.
4. A good mother tidies up her children's minds after they fall asleep.
5. Peter Pan left behind his shadow.
6. Peter Pan could enter the room with ease because Mr. Darling had tied up Nana in the yard.
7. Peter's hand was messy because Tinker Bell gave off a lot of fairy dust.
8. Peter was appalled because his shadow wouldn't stick to him any more.
9. Wendy managed to sew Peter's shadow on to him.
10. Peter had heard his parents talk about what he was to be when he became a man, and Peter didn't want to become a man.
11. Peter ran away to Kensington Gardens and stayed a long time with the fairies.
12. The Lost Boys were children who had fallen out of their baby carriages and were never claimed back.
13. "Thimble" meant that they kissed each other.
14. Peter came to the children's window to listen to stories.
15. Humans who want to fly need to be sprinkled with fairy dust to be able to it.
16. Peter just said anything that came to his mind, that's why his instructions were hard to follow.
17. Peter snatched edible food from the beaks of birds and gave it to the children.
18. The biggest danger for the children during the long flight was that they would fall asleep and start falling.
19. Peter Pan cut off Captain Hook's right hand.
20. Every boy serving under Peter Pan had to promise to leave Captain Hook to Peter Pan if they encountered him.
21. Tinker Bell lured Wendy away from the other children because she was jealous.
22. It was forbidden to grow up among the Lost Boys.
23. Tootles's misfortune was that most adventures happened when he wasn't around.
24. The Lost Boys lived underground, with entrances from seven trees with holes in them.
25. The only thing Captain Hook feared was the great crocodile that ate his arm.
26. Hook happened to sit down on a large mushroom that was the chimney of the underground home.
27. The crocodile had swallowed an old clock that was ticking, and it warned Hook that it was close by.
28. Tinker Bell told the Lost Boys that Wendy was a bird and that Peter wanted them to shoot it.

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ANSWERS

Short Answers (page 2)

29. The button on a chain around Wendy's neck, which Peter had given her, saved Wendy's life.
30. Peter banished Tinker Bell from his sight for a week.
31. The boys built a house around Wendy's unconscious body.
32. Michael had to play the baby in the family while Wendy was the mother, and because he was the youngest and smallest he had to sleep in a basket.
33. Make-believe was different for Peter than for other people because it was entirely real to him.
34. Wendy's main worry in Neverland was that she and her brothers would forget all about their parents and their old home.
35. Peter didn't partake in the quizzes because he despised all mothers except Wendy, and because he couldn't read or write.
36. The mermaids lived by the lagoon.
37. The favorite game of the mermaids in the lagoon was to play with the rainbow bubbles.
38. Tiger Lily was to be left on Marooner's Rock to drown when the tide came in.
39. Peter imitated Hook's voice so that the pirates thought it was their captain talking to them and set Tiger Lily free.
40. Hook tricked Peter into playing a guessing game with him, thus making Peter betray his true identity.
41. Peter became afraid for the first time in his life when he was wounded and waiting to die on Marooner's rock.
42. Peter was saved by the Never bird, who gave him her nest to use as a boat.
43. People on the Island found the crocodile and stayed close to her until the clock in her belly struck and told them the time.
44. Wendy told the boys the story about their own arrival to Neverland and about their mother's love for them.
45. Peter didn't like Wendy's story because he thought that his own mother had forgotten him and replaced him with another boy.
46. The Lost Boys wanted to chain her up and force her to stay.
47. The pirates attacked the Indians who were guarding the home of the Lost Boys.
48. The pirates did not stick to their normal rules, but instead used a new kind of surprise attack on the Indians.
49. The pirates lured out the boys by beating the Tom-Tom just like the Indians used to do after victory.
50. Wendy wasn't bound or gagged, instead Captain Hook treated her with mocking courtesy.
51. Slightly had been so bloated that he had made his tree expand so much that an adult could enter the underground home through it.
52. Captain Hook poisoned Peter's cup while he was sleeping.
53. Tinker Bell drank the poisonous water from Peter's cup, to prevent the unbelieving Peter from drinking it.

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ANSWERS

Short Answers (page 3)

54. All the children who were dreaming of Neverland were asked to clap their hands to show that they believed in fairies, so that Tinker Bell could be saved.
55. Captain Hook were never happy because he always felt alone.
56. The children were to walk the plank.
57. They children claimed that their mother wouldn't want them to be pirates and that they didn't want to betray the British king.
58. Wendy despised the pirates because their ship was very dirty.
59. Peter imitated the ticking of the clock himself, so people would think he was the crocodile, and the crocodile followed Peter's ticking, silently.
60. While Peter Pan was more nimble than Captain Hook, the pirate was heavier and stronger.
61. The children took over the pirate ship and Peter Pan became the captain.
62. Mrs. Darling had kept the children's bedroom window open and their room prepared for their return. Mr. Darling was full of remorse and had set Nana free and sentenced himself to live in the kennel.
63. Peter and Tinker Bell had flown ahead to close the nursery window, so that the children would think that their mother had forgotten about them.
64. The Lost Boys were adopted by the Darling family.
65. The mauve fairies are boys, the white fairies are girls and the blue ones are just little sillies who are not sure what they are.
66. Mrs. Darling and Peter Pan decided that Wendy would come to Peter one week every year to do his spring cleaning.

Essay Answers

For the essay questions, we suggest a writing journal where students could record answers as they read. Alternatively, a limited number of questions could be assigned to each student. The essay questions can also be used as discussion questions.