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FOREVER YOUNG

The desire for eternal youth is one of the most important themes in Barrie's novel. But the desire to stay young forever is not simply a desire to escape from the responsibilities of adult life. It is also a desire to keep some of your childhood innocence and give more value to the creative power of your imagination. In a sense, we can say that **Peter Pan** is in all of us. That is why it is surprising to see that Peter Pan's refusal to grow up to be a man is at the cost of everything else, including human contact and love.

The end of the nineteenth and the beginning of the twentieth century is a period in which the cultural world turns its attention to deeper aspects of children's life and literature. One famous example is the publication of Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland* (1865).

In these years **Sigmund Freud's** theories of the human mind and unconscious become very popular. And *Peter Pan* and similar novels become the object of Freudian theories and interpretation. After all, both Neverland and Alice's Wonderland are very similar to the land of dreams, and especially to Freud's idea of the psyche. In a sense, writing *Peter Pan* is Barrie's way of remaining in contact with his own childhood.

Some people also see Peter Pan's relationship to the women characters in the novel as a reflection of the author's strong love for his mother and of his difficulties in relating to other women as he grows up.



Sigmund Freud is an Austrian doctor and he is famous for his studies of the human mind. He is the first person to use psychoanalysis to help people with mental problems. He is also the first person to talk about the importance of the unconscious mind, the part of the mind we cannot control.



Maybe you don't know that... Barrie writes his novel first as a theatre play *Peter Pan, or the boy who wouldn't grow up*, (first performance in 1904). The play becomes a novel in 1911. In the first versions of the play, the character of Captain Hook is a schoolmaster, not a pirate.

Do you think that Peter is ever lonely?

With a friend write a list of PROS and CONS of staying 'forever young'.

Do you think that the idea of never growing up is as interesting to children as it is to their parents?

What do you think? Is eternal youth scientifically possible?

Do you think there are people who would like to be a child forever and never grow up?

GLOSSARY

- **aspects:** areas
- **desire:** strong feeling of wanting something
- **eternal youth:** staying young forever
- **interpretation:** idea of what something means
- **psyche:** mind
- **reflection:** something that shows the importance of a thing or event
- **refusal:** saying no to doing something
- **responsibilities:** things you have to do
- **theories:** ideas
- **value:** importance



Peter Pan



Peter Pan

Tinker Bell



Michael

John

Wendy

Mr and Mrs Darling





The lost boys

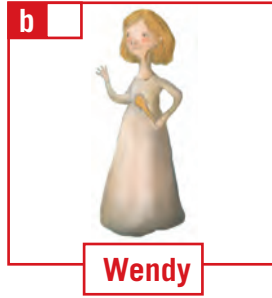
Smee

Captain Hook

The crocodile

BEFORE READING

-  1 Listen and match the descriptions to the characters. Number the pictures 1 to 4.



-  2 Listen again and complete the sentences about the characters in Exercise 1.

- a She lives in London with
- b He wants Peter Pan.
- c He never wants to
- d Her voice is like the tinkling of



3 Read the titles of the chapters on page 3, then look at the pictures below. Which two chapters do you think they come from?



4 In the story the children meet lots of different people and magical creatures. Match the names with the definitions.

The fairies

The lost boys

The mermaids

The pirates


a They are sea creatures with the head and body of a beautiful woman and the tail of a fish.

b They are children who fall out of their prams. They live together on Neverland.

c They live on a ship and they love fighting and causing problems for everyone on Neverland.

d They are small magical creatures. They've got wings and they can fly. If children believe in them, they never die.

1 The Darling family

 All children grow up• to be adults•. All children, that is, except one. Wendy knows this. One day she grows up, too. But at the start of our story she's still a child.

Wendy lives with her parents, Mr and Mrs Darling, and her brothers, John and Michael, at number 14 (the house number on their street).

The children have a nurse• because the neighbours' children have nurses, and Mr Darling wants to be like his neighbours. But the family is poor so their nurse isn't like other children's nurses. She's a big dog and her name is Nana.

Nana puts the children to bed every evening and she looks after them if they cry in the night. Her kennel• is in the children's bedroom.

Nana is a good nurse, but Mr Darling is a bit worried•. He worries about the neighbours. What do they think of him? Do they think that the Darlings are a strange family because the children's nurse is a dog? He also thinks that Nana does not like him. But Mrs Darling always says: 'Nana loves you very much, George'.

The Darling family is a very happy family. Sometimes Mr and Mrs Darling and their children all dance around the sitting room together. What a lovely time they have! But then, Peter Pan arrives!

GLOSSARY

- **adults:** people who are no longer children
- **grow up:** change from a baby or child into an adult
- **kennel:** small house for a dog
- **nurse:** (here) someone who looks after children
- **worried:** anxious

AFTER READING VOCABULARY

A DIFFERENT MEANING

Just at that **very** moment Mr and Mrs Darling are coming home from the party. They look up at the children's bedroom window and see that the window is full of light. They see the shadows of three children going round and round, not on the floor, but in the air.

Read the example from the text. The word **very** is not used here as an adverb with its usual meaning of 'extremely' (very happy, very hungry), but as an adjective with the meaning of 'exact'. Look at the examples below and choose the meaning of 'very' in each sentence. Write sentences using *very* in these two ways.

1. *This is the very thing I want!*

a extreme **b** exact

2. *My brother is not like me, he's very talented.*

a extremely **b** exactly

1 Put the words in the correct order to make quotations from the book. Then look at the sentences.

a 'Peter / in / window / think / comes / through / I / the.'

b 'clap / fairies / you / your / if / hands / believe / in.'

c 'a / right / place / outside / dog / is / the / for.'

d 'smells / Nana's / she / danger / barking / because.'

e 'the / real / room / there / fairy / in / is / a / ?'

f 'sand / the / the / in / eggs / turtles / burying / are / their.'

g 'instead / right / he / a / has / hook / iron / of / hand / .'

K A2 Key English Test Reading and Writing Part 4

1 Choose the best word (A, B, or C) for each space to complete the following sentences.

- a** Captain Hook shouts: '..... the prisoners here!'
A bring **B** let **C** are
- b** The children are worried. Why their mother happy to see them again?
A isn't **B** is **C** looks
- c** Mr Darling feels bad about taking Nana outside. But he it.
A loves **B** does **C** takes
- d** Wendy puts Peter's button on the chain her neck.
A in **B** on **C** around
- e** Peter wakes Tinker Bell up and tells her to fly down and a look around.
A give **B** go **C** have
- f** Peter Pan doesn't have a mother and doesn't want to have
A one **B** her **C** it
- g** The children stand their toes to look at the island.
A on **B** with **C** up
- h** All the children have nurses and Mr Darling wants to be like his neighbours.
A neighbour's **B** neighbours **C** neighbours'
- i** 'Perhaps isn't a good idea to go to a party tonight.'
A this **B** it **C** now
- j** 'Look! My kiss! Wendy's alive of this kiss.'
A thanks **B** instead **C** because