



CEC READING LIBRARY • GRADE 6 • R2 CORE

Peter Pan

24 Chapters

Day 1-24

Q2 W09-W16

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 1: The Boy Who Would Not Grow Up

VOCABULARY Neverland, adults, lost boys, adventures

Peter Pan was the boy who refused to grow up no matter what happened around him. He lived in Neverland, a magical island where adventures happened every single day. He led the lost boys through forests, fought pirates on the open sea, and flew above the clouds. He had no school, no schedules, and no adults telling him what he was supposed to do. When Wendy asked him why he never went home, he said home was for people who had given up on wonder. He had visited the ordinary world once and found it grey and quiet and full of forgotten dreams. Peter chose Neverland not because he was afraid of growing up but because he understood exactly what it cost. ★ **Peter Pan never wanted to grow up.**

THINK Why did Peter say he never went home?

Chapter 2: Swords at Dawn

VOCABULARY adventure, wonder, growing, sword

When Wendy asked Peter what he would do when he was older, he looked at her with genuine confusion. He said that he had already decided that question a very long time ago and saw no reason to revisit it. Growing older meant trading swords for briefcases and night flights for early bedtimes and quiet rooms. It meant forgetting the names of the mermaids and losing the ability to hear what the wind was saying. Peter had been to the ordinary world and had pressed his face against its lighted windows at night. He had seen what the people inside had given up and had turned away from the window without hesitation. Some things, Peter believed, were worth more than comfort and safety and the approval of the adult world. ★ **Peter Pan chose wonder and adventure over growing up.**

THINK What did Peter press his face against?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 3: A Serious Choice

VOCABULARY wonder, responsibility, Neverland, adult

Every child eventually reaches the moment when the adult world begins to seem more real than Neverland. But Peter Pan reached that moment and turned away from it with a firm and completely deliberate step. He had seen what responsibility looked like — the tired eyes, the unpaid bills, the forgotten songs. He had seen what happened to the people who stopped believing in things they could not immediately explain. Neverland was not simply a place of fun and games for Peter — it was a serious alternative to forgetting. He believed that a life without wonder was not a grown-up life at all but simply a diminished one. His choice had real costs, as all genuine choices do, and Peter accepted every one of them willingly. ★ **Peter Pan never wanted to grow up — he chose wonder over responsibility.**

THINK What had Peter seen of responsibility?

Chapter 4: The Girl Who Told Stories

VOCABULARY stories, brothers, pirates, Wendy

Wendy Darling had discovered at a very young age the particular power that stories held over people. When she told a story the room grew quiet and her brothers forgot about everything else entirely. She could make John feel brave and make Michael feel safe just by choosing the right words carefully. Her pirates were more frightening than any real pirates and her heroes more noble than anyone she knew. She understood instinctively that a story was not simply entertainment — it was a way of shaping the world. Each night before bed she gave her brothers a gift that no toy or sweet could ever quite replace. Stories were the most alive and most essential thing that Wendy knew how to make with her own mind. ★ **Wendy loved telling stories.**

THINK What did the stories do to the room?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 5: The Voice at the Window

VOCABULARY Peter, window, story, magic

Peter Pan had flown above every ocean and explored every corner of Neverland a thousand times over. He had fought pirates and raced with mermaids and danced with fairies in the blue Neverland moonlight. But when he heard Wendy's voice carrying her story out through the open nursery window, he stopped completely. Something in that voice reached inside him and touched a place that even Neverland had never quite reached before. The story she was telling was about adventure and courage and the love between people who chose each other freely. Peter realized that Wendy's words created something that all the wonders of Neverland had somehow never managed. They created the feeling that what was happening mattered — that the people in the story truly and completely counted. ★ Wendy told stories because they held the greatest magic.

THINK What had Peter done a thousand times?

Chapter 6: Stories for the Lost Boys

VOCABULARY lost boys, stories, magic, powerful

In Neverland, Wendy's most important role was not cooking or cleaning but storytelling at the end of each day. She had noticed that the lost boys became calmer and kinder and braver on the nights when she told good stories. She chose her stories carefully — tales of loyalty and courage and the importance of going home when you were needed. The boys absorbed these ideas not as lessons but as feelings, which meant they went far deeper and stayed much longer. Wendy had learned something about human nature that many adults spent their whole lives failing to understand properly. A person who is told what to think will forget it, but a person who feels something true will carry it always. Stories were the most reliable tool she possessed for helping these lost and untethered boys find their way. ★ Wendy told stories because stories were the most powerful magic she knew.

THINK What did Wendy notice about the boys?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 7: Fairy Dust

VOCABULARY fly, happy thoughts, fairy dust, Peter

John Darling immediately began trying to calculate the physics of flight when Peter explained how it worked. He thought about angles and velocities and the precise ratio of fairy dust to body weight required. But the more carefully he thought about the science of the thing, the more firmly his feet stayed down. Peter watched him with patient amusement and eventually reached over and tapped him lightly on the forehead. He told John to stop analyzing and start remembering — the happiest morning, the best day, the thing he loved most. John closed his eyes and thought of Christmas breakfast and the smell of his mother's perfume and rose three feet. The secret of flight had nothing to do with the body and everything to do with what the mind chose to hold. ★

Happy thoughts help you fly.

THINK What did John try to do first?

Chapter 8: Dust and Thoughts

VOCABULARY happy thought, flying, Peter, dust

The Darling children had always assumed that flying was something entirely out of reach for ordinary people. It was the sort of thing that happened in stories — not in a London nursery on a Tuesday night in winter. But Peter Pan had a way of making the impossible feel not only possible but embarrassingly straightforward. He told them the requirements were so simple that most people failed only because they overcomplicated the thing. Tinker Bell's dust handled the physical side and a single genuinely happy thought handled everything else entirely. The hard part, Peter explained, was that most people couldn't find a thought happy enough because they were too worried. But children, he said, still had access to thoughts pure and light enough to lift them off any floor in the world. ★ **You only need happy thoughts and fairy dust to fly.**

THINK What did the children think flying was?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 9: Over the Rooftops

VOCABULARY fly, London, city, Wendy

Flying over London at night turned out to be the most remarkable experience any of the Darling children had ever had. The city below them looked entirely different from above — orderly and beautiful and much smaller than it had seemed. They had lived in London all their lives but had never seen it from this angle and it seemed an entirely new place. Wendy noticed that her worries about tomorrow's lessons and her mother's opinions had completely disappeared for now. John stopped thinking about being sensible and responsible and found that he was laughing at the top of his voice. Michael simply spread his arms wide and let the cold air carry him wherever it felt like carrying him that night. None of them could believe that something so completely extraordinary had required so very little to achieve at all.

★ **To fly, you only need happy thoughts — and just a little fairy dust.**

THINK *What disappeared from Wendy's mind?*

Chapter 10: Missing Mother

VOCABULARY Neverland, home, mother, Wendy

Neverland had given Wendy more adventure than she had imagined possible in a single lifetime. She had flown over mountains, outwitted pirates, and told stories that made the lost boys sleep peacefully. But a quiet thought had been growing louder inside her for weeks and she could no longer ignore it easily. She missed her mother in a way that no amount of adventure or fairy magic could adequately address or replace. She missed being known completely by someone who had watched her grow from the very beginning of her life. In Neverland she was admired and needed but she was not known in that deep and irreplaceable particular way. Adventure was extraordinary but it turned out not to be a sufficient substitute for being genuinely loved at home.

★ **Wendy knew home was important.**

THINK *What could adventure not replace?*

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 11: Peter Does Not Understand

VOCABULARY Neverland, home, wonderful, Wendy

The argument between Peter and Wendy about going home is one of the most revealing conversations in the whole story. Peter could not comprehend what London offered that Neverland could possibly be lacking in any meaningful way. He listed the wonders available — fairies and mermaids and pirates and flying and eternal childhood without end. Wendy listened to every item on his list and did not dispute a single one because every one of them was true. But she told him quietly that there was something he had left off his list that she could not find in Neverland. It was the feeling of being completely ordinary in a place that loved you anyway and would always be waiting. Adventure was a gift, she said, but it was not a home, and a person needed both to live a complete human life. ★ **Neverland was wonderful but Wendy knew home mattered most.**

THINK What did Wendy say Peter left off his list?

Chapter 12: The Last Night in Neverland

VOCABULARY home, known, Neverland, Peter

Wendy tried one last time to help Peter understand why she was choosing to leave such a remarkable place behind. She told him that home was not simply a location or a building or a collection of comfortable familiar things. It was the experience of being seen clearly by people who had known you long enough to understand you completely. In Neverland everyone admired Wendy and needed Wendy but nobody had known her since before she could speak. Her mother knew the sound of her footstep on the stair and her father knew which stories made her laugh every time. That kind of knowledge, Wendy said, was something that could only be built slowly over years and years and years. Peter nodded as if he understood, but she could see from his expression that he genuinely and truly did not. ★ **Neverland was perfect, but Wendy knew something Peter never did — home matters.**

THINK What did her mother know?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 13: The Pirate Captain

VOCABULARY Hook, Peter Pan, hand, crew

Captain Hook carried his grievances the way other men carry a watch — always with him and always being checked. He had been humiliated by Peter Pan more times than he could comfortably count and he remembered every single one. The loss of his hand was the original wound but Peter's laughter afterward had cut far deeper and lasted far longer. Hook kept a detailed mental record of every defeat and every indignity he had suffered at the boy's careless hands. His crew learned early that there were subjects to be avoided in the captain's presence if you valued your comfort. Any man who made the mistake of mentioning Peter Pan carelessly could ruin the entire atmosphere of the ship for days. Hook was dangerous not because he was powerful but because he was absolutely and permanently incapable of letting go. ★ **Hook never forgave anyone.**

THINK What did Hook carry like a watch?

Chapter 14: A Memory Like Iron

VOCABULARY Hook, enemies, Peter, forgave

Captain Hook had sailed every sea and defeated every enemy that had ever been foolish enough to stand against him. His reputation for ruthlessness was well earned and carefully maintained and it served him well on the open ocean. But his inability to forgive Peter Pan had become something that his enemies could have used against him if they had known. An obsessed man is a predictable man, and a predictable man can be led exactly where his opponent wants him to go. Peter Pan understood this without fully articulating it — he simply knew that Hook would always come when provoked. He could bait the captain as easily as setting a trap because Hook's pride made his next move entirely foreseeable. The quality that made Hook fearsome to his crew made him manageable to the one boy he most wanted to destroy. ★ **Hook was dangerous because he never forgave his enemies.**

THINK What kind of man is predictable?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 15: The List in His Mind

VOCABULARY Hook, Peter Pan, enemies, laughed

The other pirates feared Hook not because of what he did to his enemies in the heat of battle. They feared him because of what he did to them in the cold and patient years that followed afterward. Hook kept a list — not a written one but a precise and perfectly maintained one inside his own mind. Every man who had ever crossed him or bested him or laughed at him occupied a permanent place on that list. He was in no hurry because he had all the time in the world and a memory that deteriorated not at all. Peter Pan was at the very top of that list in letters that had grown larger and bolder with every passing year. Hook's patience in pursuit of revenge was as terrifying as his temper in the middle of a full engagement. ★ Hook was dangerous because he never forgot and never forgave anyone who beat him.

THINK What did Hook keep in his mind?

Chapter 16: No One Left Behind

VOCABULARY lost boys, Peter, followed, brave

The lost boys were not naturally fearless — they were ordinary boys who had found themselves in an extraordinary place. Before Peter Pan they had each been alone and genuinely frightened by what the jungle and the pirates might do. But Peter had gathered them together one by one and given each of them a role in something larger than themselves. He told them they were brave before they had done anything particularly brave and they found they wanted to prove him right. He led from the front always, taking the first risk and the greatest danger as naturally as if it cost him nothing. When he charged toward Hook's ship with a crowd of pure delight, something in the boys' chests charged with him. A leader who believes in you completely changes what you believe about yourself in ways that last far beyond the moment. ★ They followed Peter bravely.

THINK Were the lost boys fearless?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 17: Peter Gives Courage

VOCABULARY Peter, courage, lost boys, afraid

Peter Pan had a particular quality that the lost boys recognized before they could fully put it into words. He genuinely believed that they were capable of things they had never attempted and were afraid even to imagine. This belief was not based on evidence — it was simply how Peter saw people, with extraordinary and infectious confidence. He assigned Tootles and Nibs and Curly to missions that were beyond what any of them thought they could accomplish. And then he watched them go and succeeded because they could not bear to disappoint someone who believed in them so completely. The courage he gave them was not something he manufactured or transferred — it was something he revealed that was already there. A good leader does not create courage in people; they create the conditions in which existing courage can finally surface. ★

The lost boys followed Peter because he gave them courage.

THINK What was Peter's belief about the boys?

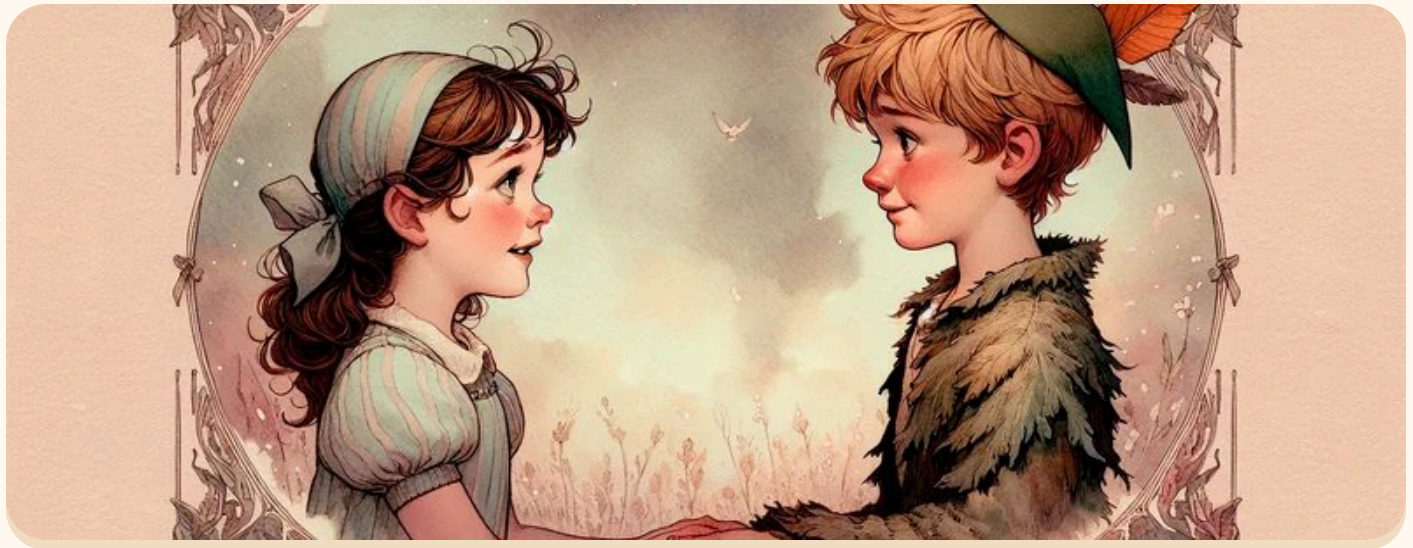
Chapter 18: Brave and Free

VOCABULARY Peter, brave, free, lost boys

The most important thing Peter Pan gave the lost boys was not shelter or food or protection from the pirates. It was the experience of feeling genuinely brave and completely free on a consistent and reliable daily basis. Before Peter they had each felt small and lost and uncertain in a world that was much larger than they were. Peter reorganized their self-understanding completely without ever lecturing them or explaining what he was doing. He simply treated them as brave and free until the treatment became the truth and the truth became permanent. The boys who had once hidden from shadows were now charging onto pirate ships with swords drawn and crowing. This was not performance — it was the actual emergence of qualities that had been waiting inside each of them. ★ **The lost boys followed Peter because he made them feel brave and free.**

THINK What did Peter give the boys more than food?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 19: Back to London

VOCABULARY Wendy, London, Neverland, magic

The return to London was easier and harder than Wendy had expected in almost equal measure at once. Easy because home was familiar and warm and full of people who loved her and had been genuinely worried. Hard because Neverland was not something that could simply be filed away and accessed neatly when wanted. It kept appearing in unexpected moments — in the sound of wind against the window, in the smell of salt. She tried to hold onto the specific details — Tinker Bell's exact color, Peter's crow, the lagoon at noon. But details are the first thing that memory releases and they were already becoming general and imprecise. She began to understand that some things can only be fully experienced once and belong only to that moment. ★ **Growing up means leaving magic behind.**

THINK What kept appearing in unexpected moments?

Chapter 20: Jane Listens

VOCABULARY Wendy, daughter, stories, Neverland

Many years after leaving Neverland, Wendy sat by her daughter's bed and told the old familiar stories again. She had expected them to feel different now — smaller or less real than they had felt when she was young. But something surprising happened as she spoke — the stories felt just as alive as they ever had before. The details she had thought she had forgotten returned with unexpected clarity and warmth as she told them. Tinker Bell's jealousy, Peter's crow, the crocodile's tick — all of it was still there waiting inside her. She realized that Neverland had not left her as completely as she had thought it had during all those years. It had simply moved from the surface of her daily life to somewhere deeper and more permanent inside her. ★ **You leave Neverland when you grow up but keep its magic.**

THINK What did Wendy expect the stories to feel like?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 21: The Window Opens Again

VOCABULARY Peter, Jane, window, Wendy

Watching her daughter Jane fly away with Peter Pan, Wendy felt two things simultaneously and completely. She felt loss — the reminder that her own Neverland was gone and could not be returned to or reclaimed. And she felt something else — a deep satisfaction that the magic had not ended with her but had continued past her. She had passed Neverland to Jane not through fairy dust but through the stories she had told every single night. Those stories had kept the window open, had kept the possibility alive, had made Jane ready for Peter when he came. Wendy understood that this was the most important thing she had ever done and perhaps the most Neverland thing of all. She had grown up and left the island and somehow managed to bring the essential part of it with her and pass it on. ★ **Growing up means leaving Neverland — but you carry its magic inside forever.**

THINK What two things did Wendy feel?

Chapter 22: Forever Young at Heart

VOCABULARY Peter, imagination, young, lost boys

The most remarkable thing about Peter Pan was not that he could fly or fight or crow magnificently. It was that he woke up every single morning as curious and as delighted by the world as he had been the day before. Most people, as they accumulate experience, find that fewer and fewer things genuinely surprise or move them. But Peter approached each new day as if it might contain something he had never encountered or imagined before. This quality — the refusal to let experience become routine — was what the fairy dust was really made of. The lost boys could grow old because they had stopped asking what might happen next with genuine excitement and wonder. Peter could not grow old because he had never stopped asking that question and never intended to stop asking it ever. ★ **Imagination keeps us young.**

THINK What did Peter ask every day?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 23: Grandmother Wendy

VOCABULARY Wendy, grandchildren, imagination, young

Years had done their work on Wendy Darling and she did not pretend otherwise or resist what time brought. Her face had lines now and her joints ached in cold weather and she tired more easily than she once had. But there was a quality in her that her grandchildren noticed and could not fully explain to themselves. When she told the Neverland stories she seemed to inhabit them rather than simply to be recalling them. She did not describe flying over London from the outside — she seemed to be flying over it in the telling. The stories had kept something in her permanently available that most people allowed to close and lock. Her imagination had been exercised every night for sixty years through storytelling and it had never stiffened. ★

Imagination keeps us young no matter how old we are.

THINK What did Wendy's grandchildren notice?

Chapter 24: Why We Still Read Peter Pan

VOCABULARY Peter Pan, imagination, children, story

Peter Pan has been read by children and by adults for well over a century now without losing any of its power. The children love it for its pirates and its fairies and its flying and its magical impossible island. The adults love it for something harder to name — a quality of ache and recognition that children do not feel yet. Adults recognize in Peter the thing they have lost or are in the process of losing or are trying hard to hold onto. They recognize in Wendy the choice they made or the choice they are still deciding whether to make or not. The story endures because it asks a question that every human being eventually has to answer for themselves. What do you keep and what do you let go, and how do you live well with whichever choice you make in the end? ★ **Peter Pan shows us that imagination keeps us young no matter how old we get.**

THINK Why do children love it?