

Peter Pan

Peter Pan by J.M. Barrie is about a boy called Peter who can fly and never grows up. In this extract, Peter, along with his friend Tinkerbell, a fairy, is trying to persuade three siblings — Wendy, John and Michael Darling — to go with him to his home on the island of Neverland.

They were all on their beds, and gallant* Michael let go first. He did not quite mean to let go, but he did it, and immediately he was borne* across the room.

"I flew!" he screamed while still in mid-air.

John let go and met Wendy near the bathroom.

5 "Oh, lovely!"

"Oh, ripping!"

"Look at me!"

"Look at me!"

"Look at me!"

10 They were not nearly so elegant as Peter, they could not help kicking a little, but their heads were bobbing against the ceiling, and there is almost nothing so delicious as that. Peter gave Wendy a hand at first, but had to desist*, Tink was so indignant*.

Up and down they went, and round and round. Heavenly was Wendy's word.

"I say," cried John, "why shouldn't we all go out?"

15 Of course it was to this that Peter had been luring* them.

Michael was ready: he wanted to see how long it took him to do a billion miles.

But Wendy hesitated.

"Mermaids!" said Peter again.

"Oo!"

20 "And there are pirates."

"Pirates," cried John, seizing his Sunday hat, "let us go at once."

It was just at this moment that Mr. and Mrs. Darling hurried with Nana out of 27. They ran into the middle of the street to look up at the nursery window; and, yes, it was still shut, but the room was ablaze with light, and most heart-gripping sight of all,

25 they could see in shadow on the curtain three little figures in night attire* circling round and round, not on the floor but in the air.

Not three figures, four!

An extract from *Peter Pan* by J.M. Barrie.

Glossary

gallant — brave

desist — stop

luring — attracting

borne — carried

indignant — annoyed

attire — clothes