

Peter Pan

by J.M Barrie

The novel Peter Pan began as a play in 1904. The author of the play, J.M. Barrie, turned it into a novel in 1911. "Peter Pan" is the story of three English children: Wendy, John and Michael Darling. They meet the amazing Peter Pan, a boy who lives in magical Neverland. In this passage, the reader is introduced to Nana, the Darling children's nurse and nanny, who happens to be a dog.

Mrs. Darling loved to have everything just so, and Mr. Darling had a passion for being exactly like his neighbours; so, of course, they had a nurse. As they were poor, this nurse was a prim Newfoundland dog, called Nana, who had belonged to no one in particular until the Darlings engaged her. She had always thought children important, however, and the Darlings had become acquainted with her in Kensington Gardens, where she spent most of her spare time peeping into perambulators, and was much hated by careless nursemaids, whom she followed to their homes and complained of to their mistresses. She proved to be quite a treasure of a nurse. How thorough she was at bath-time, and up at any moment of the night if one of her charges made the slightest cry. Of course her kennel was in the nursery. She had a genius for knowing when a cough is a thing to have no patience with and when it needs stocking around your throat. She believed to her last day in old-fashioned remedies like rhubarb leaf, and made sounds of contempt over all this new-fangled talk about germs, and so on. It was a lesson in propriety to see her escorting the children to school, walking sedately by their side when they were well behaved, and butting them back into line if they strayed. On John's footer [in England soccer was called football, "footer" for short] days she never once forgot his sweater,



and she usually carried an umbrella in her mouth in case of rain. There is a room in the basement of Miss Fulsom's school where the nurses wait. They sat on forms, while Nana lay on the floor, but that was the only difference. They affected to ignore her as of an inferior social status to themselves, and she despised their light talk. She resented visits to the nursery from Mrs. Darling's friends, but if they did come she first whipped off Michael's pinafore and put him into the one with blue braiding, and smoothed out Wendy and made a dash at John's hair.

No nursery could possibly have been conducted more correctly, and Mr. Darling knew it, yet he sometimes wondered uneasily whether the neighbours talked.

He had his position in the city to consider.

Nana also troubled him in another way. He had sometimes a feeling that she did not admire him. "I know she admires you tremendously, George," Mrs. Darling would assure him, and then she would sign to the children to be specially nice to father. Lovely dances followed, in which the only other servant, Liza, was sometimes allowed to join. The gaiety of those romps! And gayest of all was Mrs. Darling, who would pirouette so wildly that all you could see of her was the kiss, and then if you had dashed at her you might have got it. There never was a simpler happier family until the coming of Peter Pan.

Understanding “Peter Pan”

I. Character Match

Match the characters to the phrase that best describes them by writing the letter of the phrase in the blank.



- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. _____ Mr. Darling | A. The other servant in the household |
| 2. _____ Mrs. Darling | B. Played “footer” |
| 3. _____ Nana | C. Liked everything “just so” |
| 4. _____ Liza | D. The daughter in the Darling home |
| 5. _____ John | E. He thought Nana didn’t admire him. |
| 6. _____ Wendy | F. A Newfoundland dog |

II. Multiple Choice

Circle the correct answer to each question.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. How did the other nurses feel about Nana?
A. They liked her very much.
B. They thought she was below than them.
C. They were afraid she would bite them.
D. They thought she danced funny. | 4. How did Mr. Darling feel about the neighbors (neighbours)?
A. He ignored them.
B. He wanted to be just like them.
C. He thought they were silly.
D. He hated them. |
| 2. Who had Nana belong to before the Darlings?
A. no one
B. Miss Fulsom
C. Liza
D. the other nurses | 5. Who gave the children baths?
A. Mrs. Darling
B. Wendy
C. Liza
D. Nana |
| 3. Where was Nana’s kennel?
A. In the basement of Miss Fulsom’s school
B. In the stable
C. In the garden
D. In the nursery | 6. What was the Darling family like?
A. Rich and happy
B. Unhappy
C. Poor but happy
D. The largest in the neighborhood |

Use of Language in “Peter Pan”

I. Differences in British and American English

British English and American English words are sometimes different. Below are some British English words used in the “Peter Pan” passage and their American English equivalent. Write the correct letter for the American English word in the blank next to the British English word.

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. _____ neighbours | A. apron |
| 2. _____ perambulators | B. neighbors |
| 3. _____ footer | C. benches |
| 4. _____ pinafore | D. soccer |
| 5. _____ sweater | E. baby carriages |
| 6. _____ forms | F. jersey |



II. Using Context to Understand Vocabulary

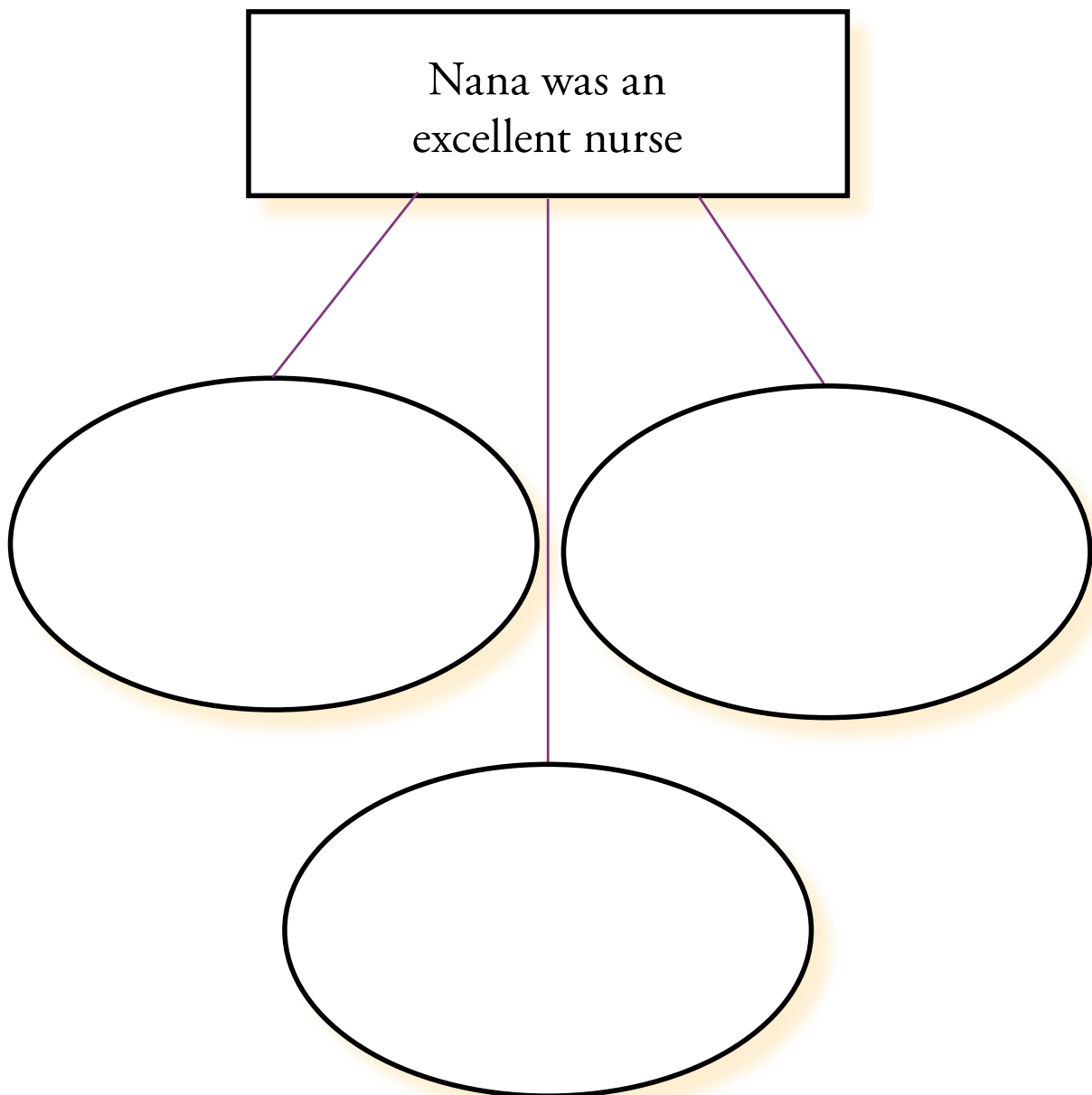
Below are quotations from the passage from *Peter Pan*. Circle the letter of the correct meaning for each underlined word or phrase.

- “Mrs. Darling loved to have everything just so...”
A. expensive B. colorful C. perfect D. dusted
- “...Nana, who had belonged to no one in particular until the Darlings engaged her.”
A. gave a home to B. bought C. became friends with D. hired
- “...up at any moment of the night if one of her charges made the slightest cry.”
A. puppies B. other nurses C. people whom she was responsible for D. guests
- “They affected to ignore her as of an inferior social status to themselves...”
A. lower B. higher C. equal D. different
- “The gaiety of those romps!”
A. conversations B. very active play sessions C. loud singing of songs D. games of hide and seek
- “Mrs. Darling, who would pirouette so wildly...”
A. jump up and down B. hug C. applaud D. turn while dancing

Name: _____

Peter Pan: Supporting the Main Idea

For the main idea listed in the rectangle, write in your own words three supporting ideas from the text in the ovals.



Name: _____

Fun With Words: Peter Pan Word Search

Circle each word from the list in the puzzle. The words can go in any direction

I	N	F	E	R	I	O	R	D	S	R	A	B	W	D
R	O	T	A	L	U	B	M	A	R	E	P	N	B	C
P	U	V	Z	N	H	J	R	Y	O	Q	S	A	O	O
F	I	O	R	J	K	F	H	E	B	M	P	N	H	N
D	K	N	Z	E	V	C	T	K	H	E	D	A	W	K
O	E	B	A	B	T	T	H	D	G	U	T	V	D	S
K	G	L	E	F	E	O	A	Q	I	M	D	O	R	E
O	D	U	G	U	O	R	O	Q	E	B	G	E	V	O
D	A	Z	O	N	L	R	R	F	N	R	T	L	N	I
J	N	R	F	I	A	J	E	T	W	E	N	D	Y	U
L	I	C	N	H	O	F	O	W	P	L	E	O	B	K
P	M	G	V	D	P	Q	W	H	C	L	S	C	K	K
L	E	A	H	C	I	M	P	E	N	A	R	M	Z	S
W	Q	D	T	M	U	Y	V	Z	N	J	U	X	C	A
R	Z	C	Q	O	K	T	Z	Q	F	O	N	F	M	J

DARLING

JOHN

NEWFANGLED

PINAFORE

DOG

MICHAEL

NURSE

PIROUETTE

FOOTER

NANA

PERAMBULATOR

UMBRELLA

INFERIOR

NEIGHBORS

PETER

WENDY

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KEY

Name: _____

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Nana was an excellent nurse

Exmples of correct answers:

She never forgot John's sweater for soccer.

She got up during the night if the children cried.

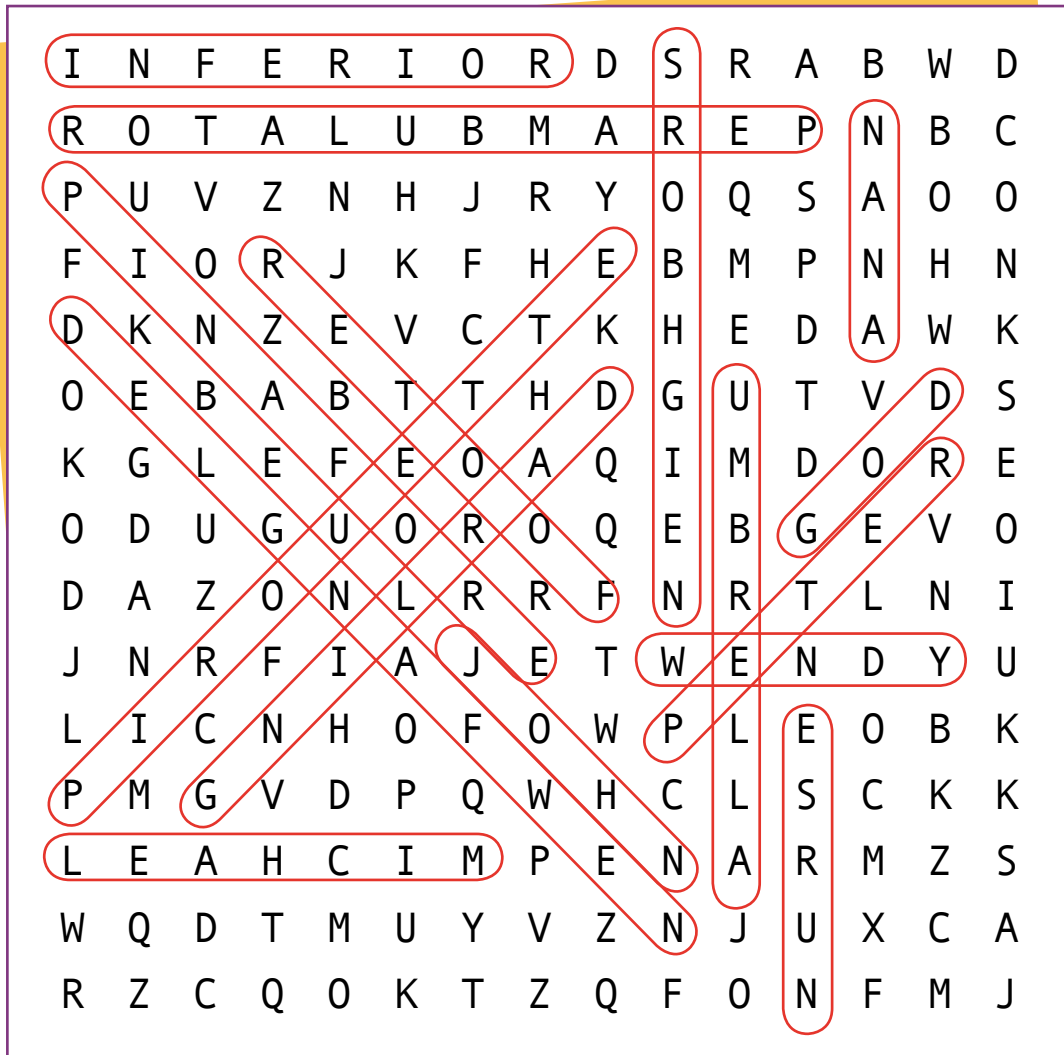
She knew how to take care of a cough.

KEY

Name: _____

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