

'Peter Pan in Scarlet' for Key stage 2 Years 3-6, ages 7-11

Using imagination

Choose a character from *Peter Pan in Scarlet* and imagine the story (or part of the story) from their point of view. For example:

- Peter Pan. Once Peter Pan has discovered Captain Hook's second-best coat and decided to wear it, he morphs into a form of Captain Hook, growing long dark curls, inheriting his bad temper, and speaking like a pirate! The story centres around the idea that clothes maketh the man. Only when he removes the coat does he become himself again. Equally, when Ravello wears the coat, he is hardened and returns to the form of Captain Hook, and not the travelling, ravelling man. What is going through Peter's mind as he morphs into Hook?
- Ask your children to write letters from one of the characters to another, ie: Wendy Darling in Neverland, to her daughter Jane in London.
- Tootles Darling: As an adult, Tootles is a portly judge who loves his moustache and believes everything can be solved judicially. Tootles only has daughters, so in order to return to Neverland like his fellow Old Boys, he must dress like a girl in his daughter's clothes! This is fine with the female Tootles, who dreams of becoming a princess and a nurse, and marrying Peter, and become Tootles Pan! Imagine what it must be like for Tootles to suddenly become a girl! Ask your pupils to discuss this – both the girls and the boys.

Creative and descriptive writing

- Write a book review
Ask your children to write a short book review on *Peter Pan in Scarlet*. They may like to produce drawings, paintings, models or poems inspired by any part of the book, to accompany their review.
- Compose a poem
Invite your children to choose a theme, character, object etc. from *Peter Pan in Scarlet*, and ask them to write a poem about it. Read them aloud in class, or maybe in school assembly. Invite the parents in to listen to their children reading or even performing their book reviews, prose and poetry.
- Acrostic poems
Ask your children to write an acrostic poem in which each line of the poem must start with a letter from a name, ie: RAVELLO:

Ravelling man in a woollen coat
A crocodile swallowed him, hook and all
V.....
E
L
L
O

And so on! Challenge pupils to use their own names to write one.

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History and time travel

The passing of time is one of the key themes throughout *Peter Pan in Scarlet*. Wendy and John Darling have grown up, and their brother Michael Darling has died in the Great War. The Lost Boys, all adopted by the Darling family, have grown up to become musicians, doctors, lawyers and family men. Peter Pan himself has not grown any older, of course, but things in Neverland have changed with the passing of time.....

Peter Pan in Scarlet continues the story of the Lost Boys, the Darling family and Peter Pan in 1926, at the time of the reign of George V and following the Great War. Stories set in the past provide a wealth of learning opportunities and are a great way to encourage children to interact imaginatively with history. They can prompt children to reflect on their own lives as well as develop empathy for others.

Group discussion topics:

- What have your children learnt about history from *Peter Pan* and *Peter Pan in Scarlet*?
- What was different in 1926 to today?
- What do you think growing up in a big city like London, or growing up in the countryside, would have been like for the Darling children in the early 20th century? Did everyone go to nursery or school? Did children in those days belong to youth groups and clubs?
- What other books can you think about that were written around this time?

Drama

Ask your children to create a dramatised version of *Peter Pan in Scarlet*. Consider dividing them into smaller groups and asking each group to focus on a certain chapter of the book. Once they have perfected their chapters and scripted the scenes, finally bring them all together to perform them to the rest of the class, or to another class/the nursery/school or group.

Singing

Ask your children to compose a piratical/fairy-themed song, or why not consider songs from the past with a pirate theme? How about *The Pirates of Penzance*? Put together a class/group sea shanty and sing this in assembly, or to your whole group.

Tip: Can your children think of any famous pirates from the past? What about Long John Silver? Which authors wrote about pirates?