

"Yes, there is," cried Peter. "Let us build a little house round her."

They were all delighted. "Quick," he ordered them, "bring me each of you the best of what we have. Gut<sup>1</sup> our house. Be sharp."

In a moment they were as busy as tailors the night before a wedding. They skurried<sup>2</sup> this way and that, down for bedding, up for firewood, and while they were at it, who should appear but John and Michael. As they dragged along the ground they fell asleep standing, stopped, woke up, moved another step and slept again.

"John, John," Michael would cry, "wake up! Where is Nana, John, and mother?"

And then John would rub his eyes and mutter<sup>3</sup>, "It is true, we did fly."

You may be sure they were very relieved to find Peter.

"Hullo, Peter," they said.

"Hullo," replied Peter amicably<sup>4</sup>, though he had quite forgotten them. He was very busy at the moment measuring Wendy with his feet to see how large a house she would need. Of course he meant to leave room for chairs and a table. John and Michael watched him.

"Is Wendy asleep?" they asked.

"Yes."

"John," Michael proposed, "let us wake her and get her to make supper for us," but as he said it some of the other boys rushed on carrying branches for the building of the house. "Look at them!" he cried.

"Curly," said Peter in his most captain's voice, "see that these boys help in the building of the house."

"Ay, ay, sir."

"Build a house?" exclaimed John.

"For the Wendy," said Curly.

"For Wendy?" John said, aghast<sup>5</sup>. "Why, she is only a girl!"

"That," explained Curly, "is why we are her servants."

"You? Wendy's servants!"

"Yes," said Peter, "and you also. Away with them."

The astounded brothers were dragged away to hack and hew<sup>6</sup> and carry. "Chairs and a fender [fireplace] first," Peter ordered. "Then we shall build a house round them."

"Ay," said Slightly, "that is how a house is built; it all comes back to me."

Peter thought of everything. "Slightly," he cried, "fetch a doctor."

"Ay, ay," said Slightly at once, and disappeared, scratching his head. But he knew Peter must be obeyed, and he returned in a moment, wearing John's hat and looking solemn.

"Please, sir," said Peter, going to him, "are you a doctor?"

The difference between him and the other boys at such a time was that they knew it was make-believe, while to him make-believe and true were exactly the same thing. This sometimes troubled them, as when they had to make-believe that they had had their dinners.

If they broke down in their make-believe he rapped them on the knuckles<sup>7</sup>.

"Yes, my little man," Slightly anxiously replied, who had chapped knuckles.

"Please, sir," Peter explained, "a lady lies very ill."

She was lying at their feet, but Slightly had the sense not to see her.

"Tut, tut, tut," he said, "where does she lie?"

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<sup>1</sup> to gut – a goli

<sup>2</sup> to skurry or scurry – (aici) a fugi, a se împrăştia

<sup>3</sup> to mutter – a bolborosi, a murmura

<sup>4</sup> amicably - prietenos

<sup>5</sup> aghast - înfricoşat

<sup>6</sup> to hack and hew – a ciopli

<sup>7</sup> knuckle - articulaţie

"I will put a glass thing in her mouth," said Slightly, and he made-believe to do it, while Peter waited. It was an anxious moment when the glass thing was withdrawn.

"How is she?" inquired Peter.

"Tut, tut, tut," said Slightly, "this has cured her."

"I am glad!" Peter cried.

"I will call again in the evening," Slightly said; "give her beef tea out of a cup with a spout<sup>8</sup> to it"; but after he had returned the hat to John he blew big breaths, which was his habit on escaping from a difficulty.

In the meantime the wood had been alive with the sound of axes; almost everything needed for a cosy<sup>9</sup> dwelling already lay at Wendy's feet.

"If only we knew," said one, "the kind of house she likes best."

"Peter," shouted another, "she is moving in her sleep."

"Her mouth opens," cried a third, looking respectfully into it. "Oh, lovely!"

"Perhaps she is going to sing in her sleep," said Peter. "Wendy, sing the kind of house you would like to have."

Immediately, without opening her eyes, Wendy began to sing:

"I wish I had a pretty house,  
The littlest ever seen,  
With funny little red walls  
And roof of mossy green."

They gurgled<sup>10</sup> with joy at this, for by the greatest good luck the branches they had brought were sticky with red sap, and all the ground was carpeted with moss. As they rattled up<sup>11</sup> the little house they broke into song themselves:

"We've built the little walls and roof  
And made a lovely door,  
So tell us, mother Wendy,  
What are you wanting more?"

To this she answered greedily:

"Oh, really next I think I'll have  
Gay windows all about,  
With roses peeping in, you know,  
And babies peeping out."

With a blow of their fists they made windows, and large yellow leaves were the blinds. But roses -- ?

"Roses," cried Peter sternly.

Quickly they made-believe to grow the loveliest roses up the walls.

Babies?

To prevent Peter ordering babies they hurried into song again:

"We've made the roses peeping out,  
The babes are at the door,  
We cannot make  
ourselves, you know, 'cos we've been made before."

Peter, seeing this to be a good idea, at once pretended that it was his own. The house was quite beautiful, and no doubt Wendy was very cosy within, though, of course, they could no longer see her. Peter strode up and down, ordering finishing touches. Nothing escaped his eagle eyes. Just when it seemed absolutely finished:

"There's no knocker on the door," he said.

They were very ashamed, but Tootles gave the sole of his shoe, and it made an excellent knocker.

Absolutely finished now, they thought.

Not of bit of it. "There's no chimney," Peter said; "we must have a chimney."

"It certainly does need a chimney," said John importantly. This gave Peter an idea. He snatched the hat off John's head, knocked out the bottom [top], and put the hat on the roof. The little house was so pleased to have such a capital chimney that, as if to say thank you, smoke immediately began to come out of the hat.

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<sup>8</sup> spout – gât (de ceainic)

<sup>9</sup> cosy or cozy - confortabil

<sup>10</sup> to gurgle – a gălgâi, a bolborosi

<sup>11</sup> to rattle up – a clădi zgomotos și rapid

Now really and truly it was finished. Nothing remained to do but to knock.

"All look your best," Peter warned them; "first impressions are awfully important."

He was glad no one asked him what first impressions are; they were all too busy looking their best.

He knocked politely, and now the wood was as still as the children, not a sound to be heard except from Tinker Bell, who was watching from a branch and openly sneering<sup>12</sup>.

What the boys were wondering was, would any one answer the knock? If a lady, what would she be like?

The door opened and a lady came out. It was Wendy. They all whipped off their hats.

(The Literature Network, Barrie, J.M. – Peter Pan, Chapter 6, The Little House, <http://www.online-literature.com/barrie/peterpan/6/>, Jalic Inc. 2000-2010, 4<sup>th</sup> July, 2010)

### **Exercises for a 50 minute activity**

1. Search for the unknown words (given in the footnotes) and try to replace them with a synonym after finding out what they mean.
2. Work with your desk mate. Form sentences with every word from the footnotes.
3. Look up 5 adjectives in the text and give their antonyms.
4. What do you think "make-believe" is? Work in groups of 4. Find a definition for this phenomenon. What would you use "make-believe" for?
5. What do you think happened before? How did Wendy get to the boys? Do you think she is injured? Write down your version in 10-15 sentences

### **Teacher's Guide**

In my opinion this is a good text for the 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

Because it is quite long, 2 pages including footnotes, I would give them the text to read at home, as homework.

Before starting the exercises given after the text, I would have a warm-up conversation about Peter Pan.

Did the pupils hear about him? In what language did they read the story? Was it the novel or just a shortened version of it? Did they see some cartoons/movies?

1.
  - a. to gut – to empty  
*Gut* our house. – *Empty* our house.
  - b. to scurry – to run, to rush, to hurry  
They *skurried* this way and that, down for bedding, up for firewood, and while they were at it, who should appear but John and Michael. – They *ran/rushed/hurried* this way and that, down for bedding, up for firewood, and while they were at it, who should appear but John and Michael.
  - c. to mutter – to mumble, to babble  
And then John would rub his eyes and *mutter*, "It is true, we did fly." – And then John would rub his eyes and *mumble/babble*, "It is true, we did fly."
  - d. amicably – friendly  
"Hullo," replied Peter *amicably*, though he had quite forgotten them. - "Hullo," replied Peter *friendly*, though he had quite forgotten them.
  - e. aghast – shocked

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<sup>12</sup> to sneer – a zâmbi batjocoritor

- "For Wendy?" John said, *aghast*. - "For Wendy?" John said, *shocked*.
- f. hack and hew – to chop, to carve, to cut  
The astounded brothers were dragged away *to hack and hew* and carry. – The astounded brothers were dragged away *to chop and carve* and carry.
  - g. knuckle – joint  
If they broke down in their make-believe he rapped them on the *knuckles*. - If they broke down in their make-believe he rapped them on the *joints*.
  - h. spout – nozzle, pipe  
"I will call again in the evening," Slightly said; "give her beef tea out of a cup with a *spout* to it"; but after he had returned the hat to John he blew big breaths, which was his habit on escaping from a difficulty. - "I will call again in the evening," Slightly said; "give her beef tea out of a cup with a *nozzle/pipe* to it"; but after he had returned the hat to John he blew big breaths, which was his habit on escaping from a difficulty.
  - i. cozy – comfortable  
In the meantime the wood had been alive with the sound of axes; almost everything needed for a *cozy* dwelling already lay at Wendy's feet. – In the meantime the wood had been alive with the sound of axes; almost everything needed for a *comfortable* dwelling already lay at Wendy's feet.
  - j. to gurgle – to mutter, to mumble, to babble  
They *gurgled* with joy at this, for by the greatest good luck the branches they had brought were sticky with red sap, and all the ground was carpeted with moss. – They *mumbled/muttered/babbled* with joy at this, for by the greatest good luck the branches they had brought were sticky with red sap, and all the ground was carpeted with moss.
  - k. to rattle up – to build up, to finish up (quickly)  
As they *rattled up* the little house they broke into song themselves: - As they *built up/finished up* the little house they broke into song themselves:
  - l. to sneer – to smile (scornfully)  
He knocked politely, and now the wood was as still as the children, not a sound to be heard except from Tinker Bell, who was watching from a branch and openly *sneering*. – He knocked politely, and now the wood was as still as the children, not a sound to be heard except from Tinker Bell, who was watching from a branch and openly *smiling scornfully*.
- 2.
- a. to gut – ex. *Gut the water from the bucket*.
  - b. to scurry – ex. *The children scurried away to get their things*.
  - c. to mutter – ex. *The old lady muttered some words nobody could understand*.
  - d. amicably – ex. *The stranger was acting amicably with the little boy*.
  - e. aghast - ex. *He was staring at the monster, aghast*.
  - f. to hack and hew – ex. *The artist had to learn how to hack and hew wood before making his statues*.
  - g. knuckle – ex. *Because of the rainy weather my knuckles hurt*.
  - h. cozy – ex. *She wanted to have a cozy home just for herself*.
  - i. to gurgle – ex. *They all gurgled with joy after they have finished to work*.
  - j. to rattle up – ex. *After they have rattled up the shop they went to Mrs. Smith to celebrate*.
  - k. to sneer – ex. *The wicked witch sneered in the corner of the room*.
- 3.
- a. little – big

- b. large – small
- c. true – false
- d. ill – healthy
- e. pretty – ugly
- f. funny – humorless
- g. good – bad
- h. sticky – clean
- i. gay – sad
- j. beautiful – ugly

4. and 5.

These are exercises where I want the pupils to use their creativity and their vocabulary. They should come up with funny, creative stories or versions. Pupils should come up with ideas and should be able to defend their opinion. I think the most important part of these exercises is to let pupils work alone or in groups in order to come up with their own ideas, so they can increase their imagination.

After the pupils finish the tasks it is very important to let them share their point of view with their class mates, even let them debate a while, so they can defend their ideas in front of the class.