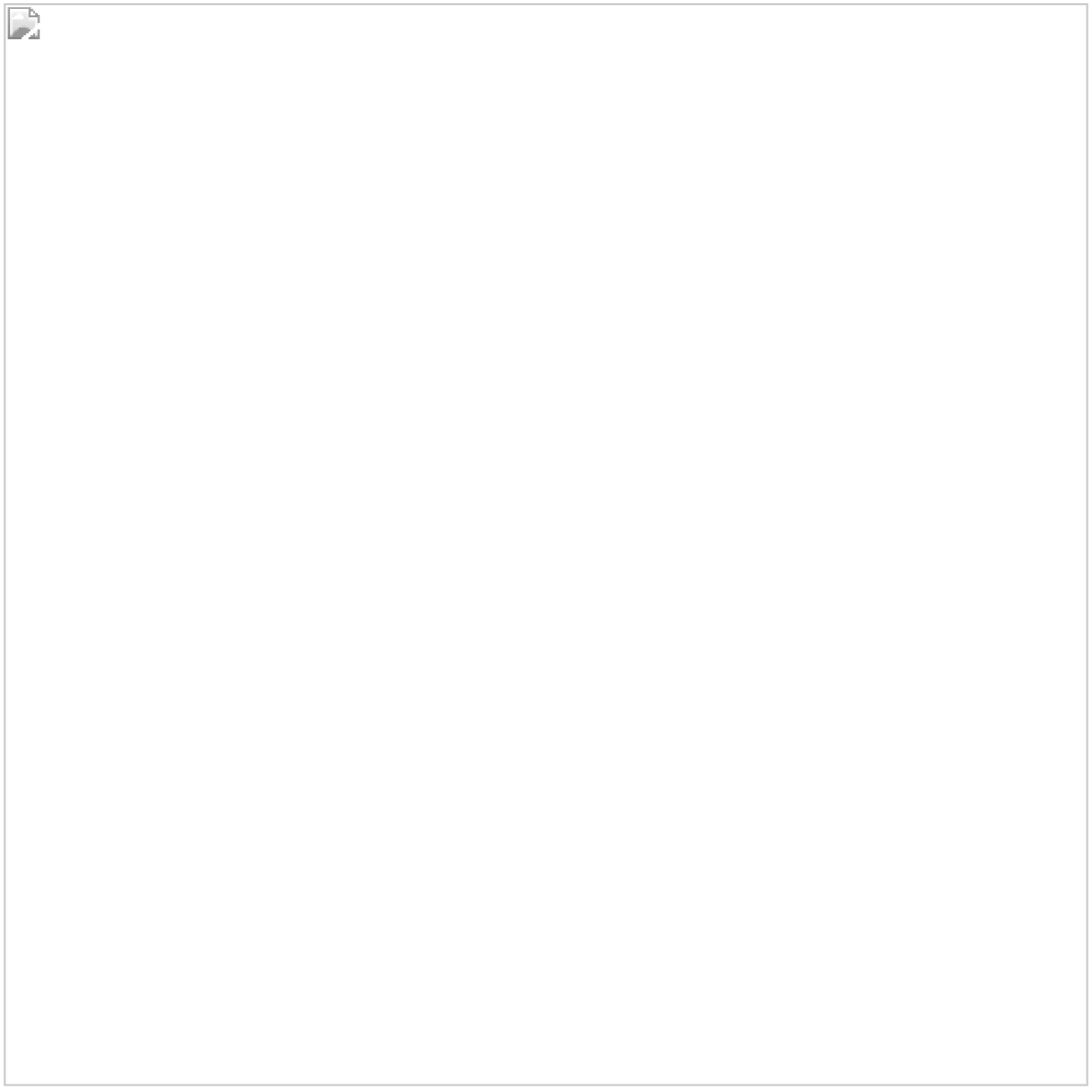
COLORING THE CLASSICS

Peter Pan in Kensington Gardens

The Boy Who Lived with the Birds and the Fairies



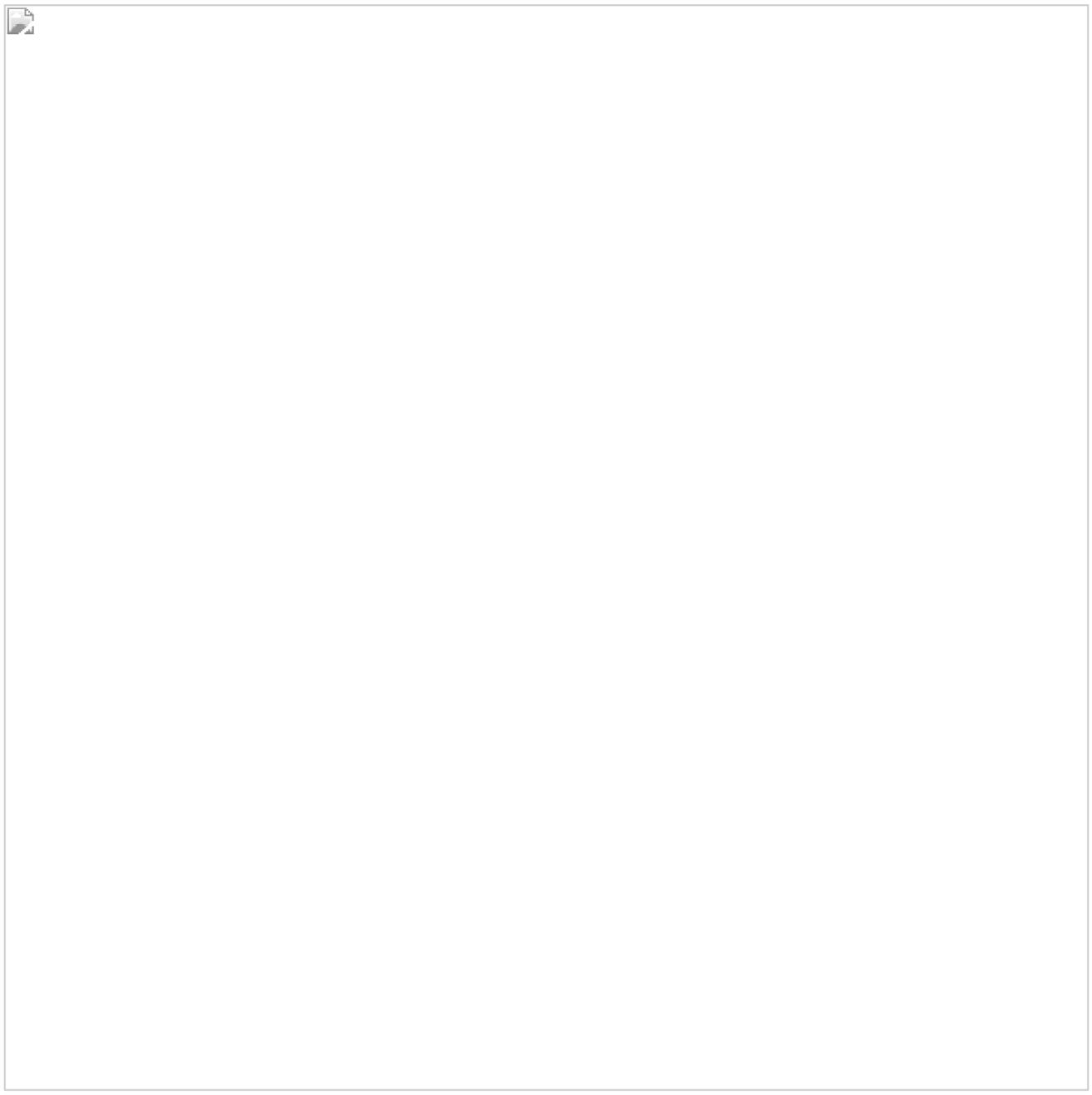
Every evening a bell rings in Kensington Gardens, and the gates close. That is Lock-out Time. After that, the Gardens belong to the fairies. And to one little boy.

TALK ABOUT IT

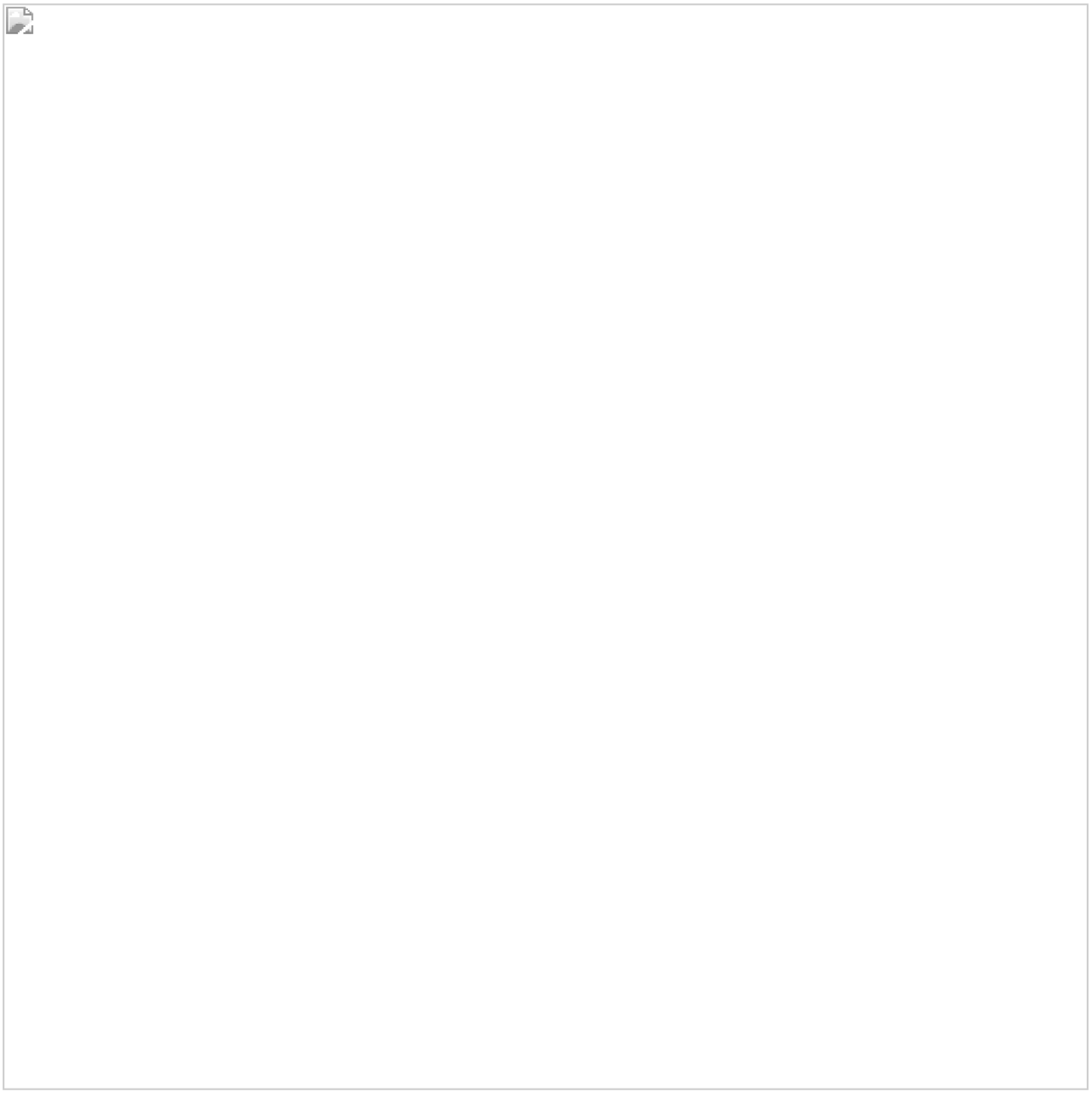
Who do you think the little boy could be?

This book belongs to _____

Peter Pan in Kensington Gardens · another picture



The Gardens

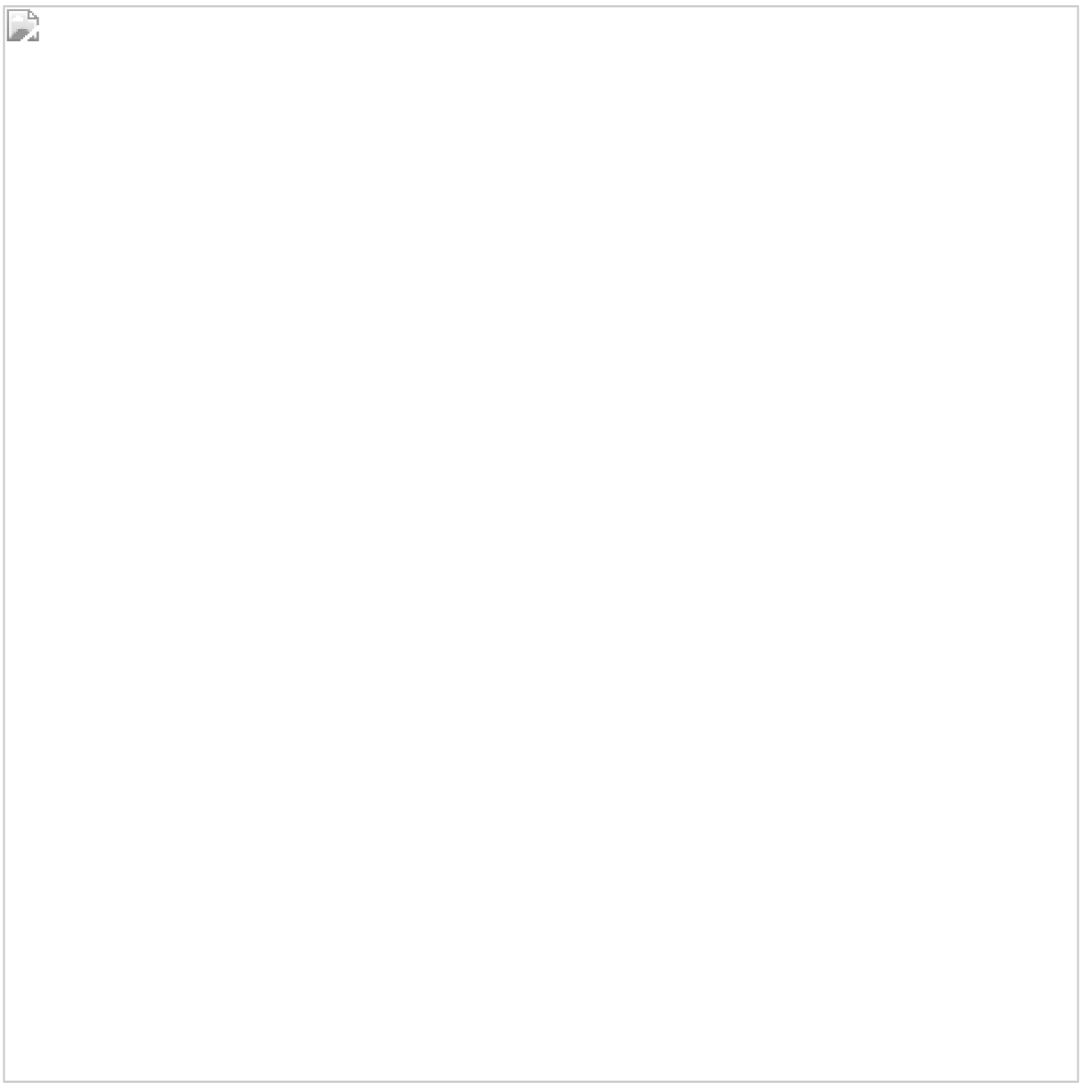


In London, where the King lives, there is a great park called Kensington Gardens. A lady sits at the gate holding so many balloons that they tug and tug at her.

Inside there are wide walks and tall trees, a little hill called the Hump for racing down, and a long lake called the Serpentine. In the lake is an island where the birds live.

TALK ABOUT IT

What do you think the fairies do in the Gardens after the gates close?

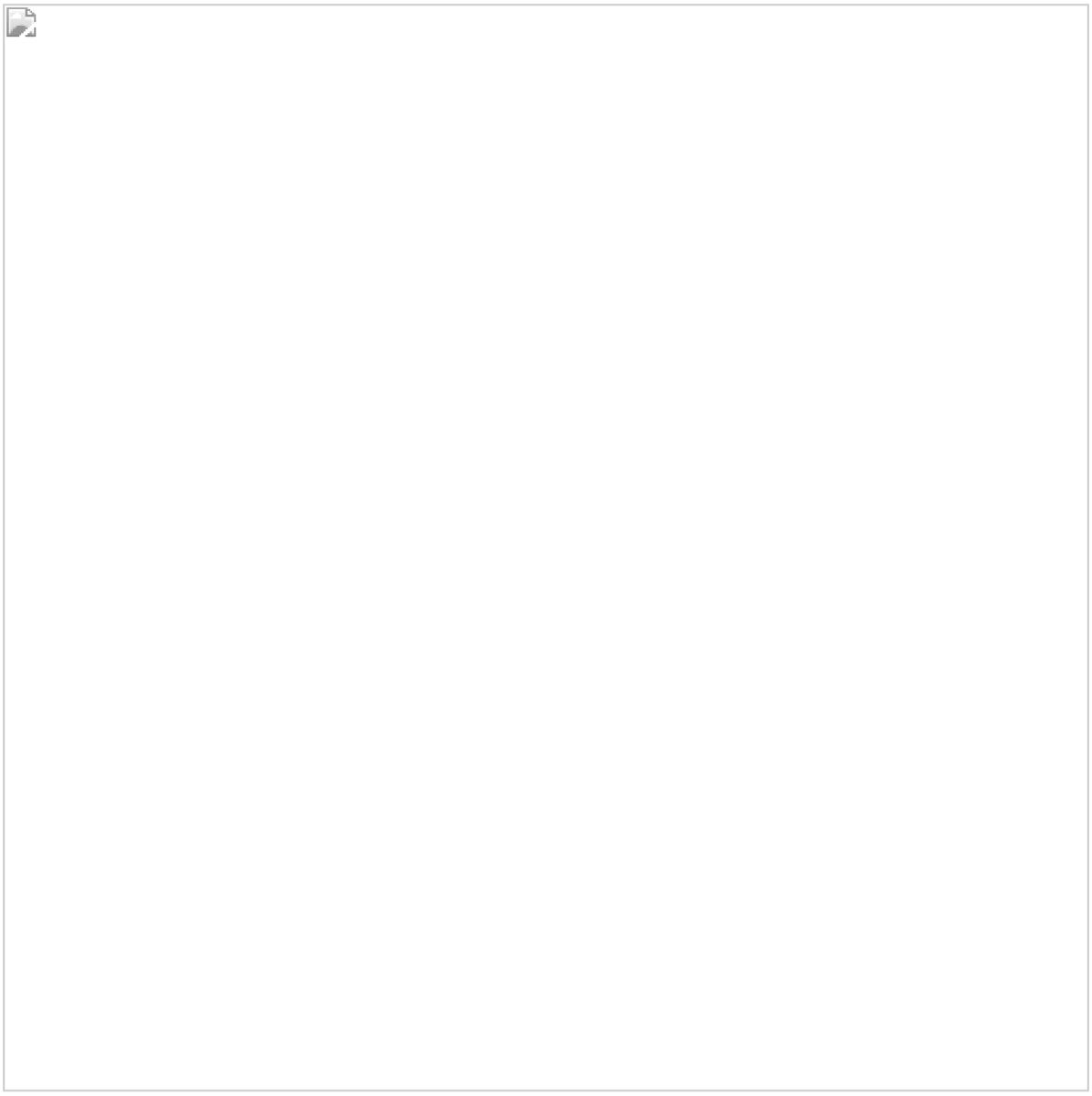


Think about it

1. Where do the birds live in Kensington Gardens?

- ○ In the King's house
- ○ On an island in the lake
- ○ Under the Hump

The Baby Who Flew



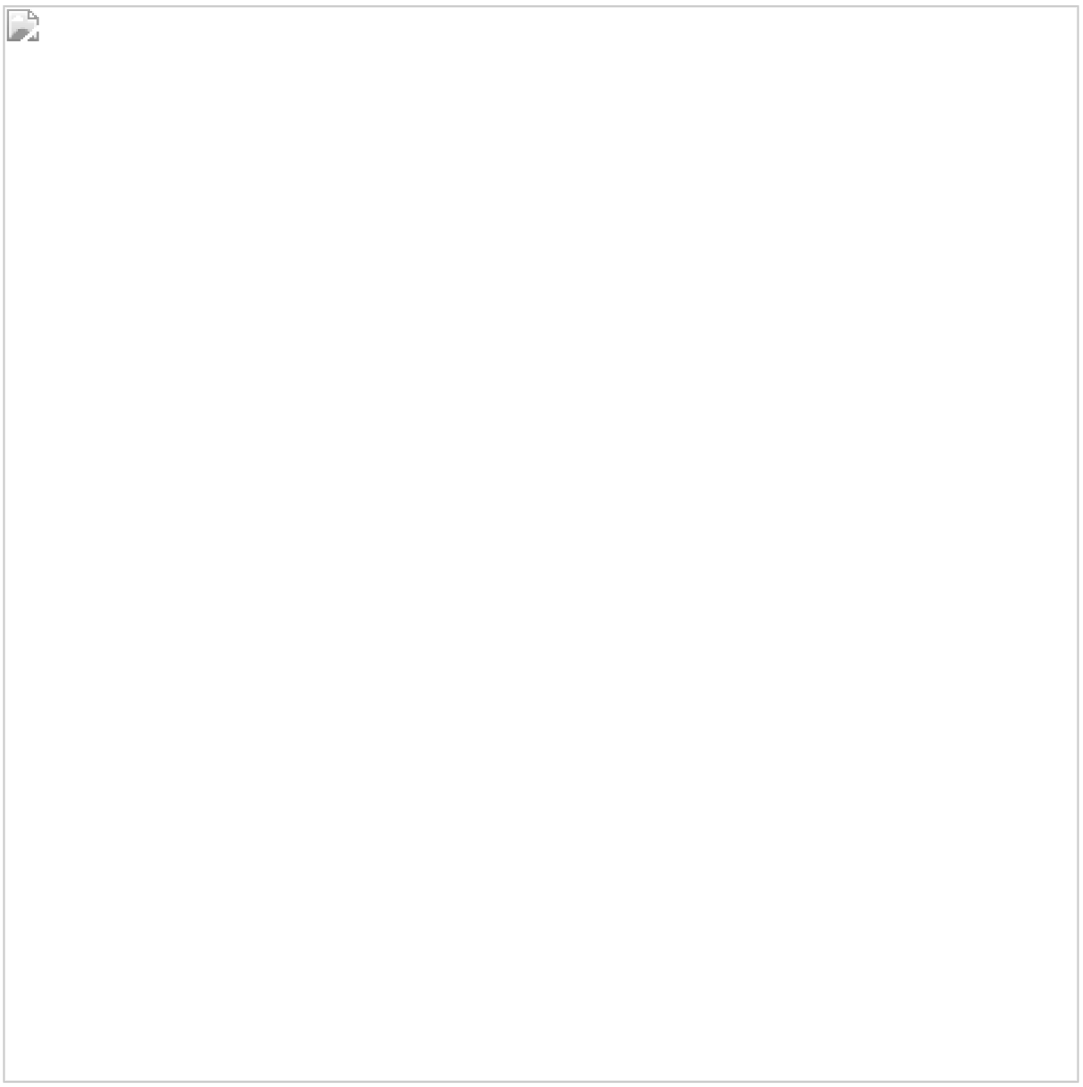
Long ago, a baby named Peter Pan was just one week old. Babies, the story says, were all birds before they were born, and Peter had not forgotten how to fly.

One night he heard the trees calling. He climbed out of the window, which had no bars, and flew in his nightgown over the houses, all the way back to Kensington Gardens.

He landed on the soft grass and kicked his legs for joy. He did not even remember that he had ever been a little boy.

TALK ABOUT IT

Peter flew away without thinking about who would miss him. Who would miss you if you were gone?

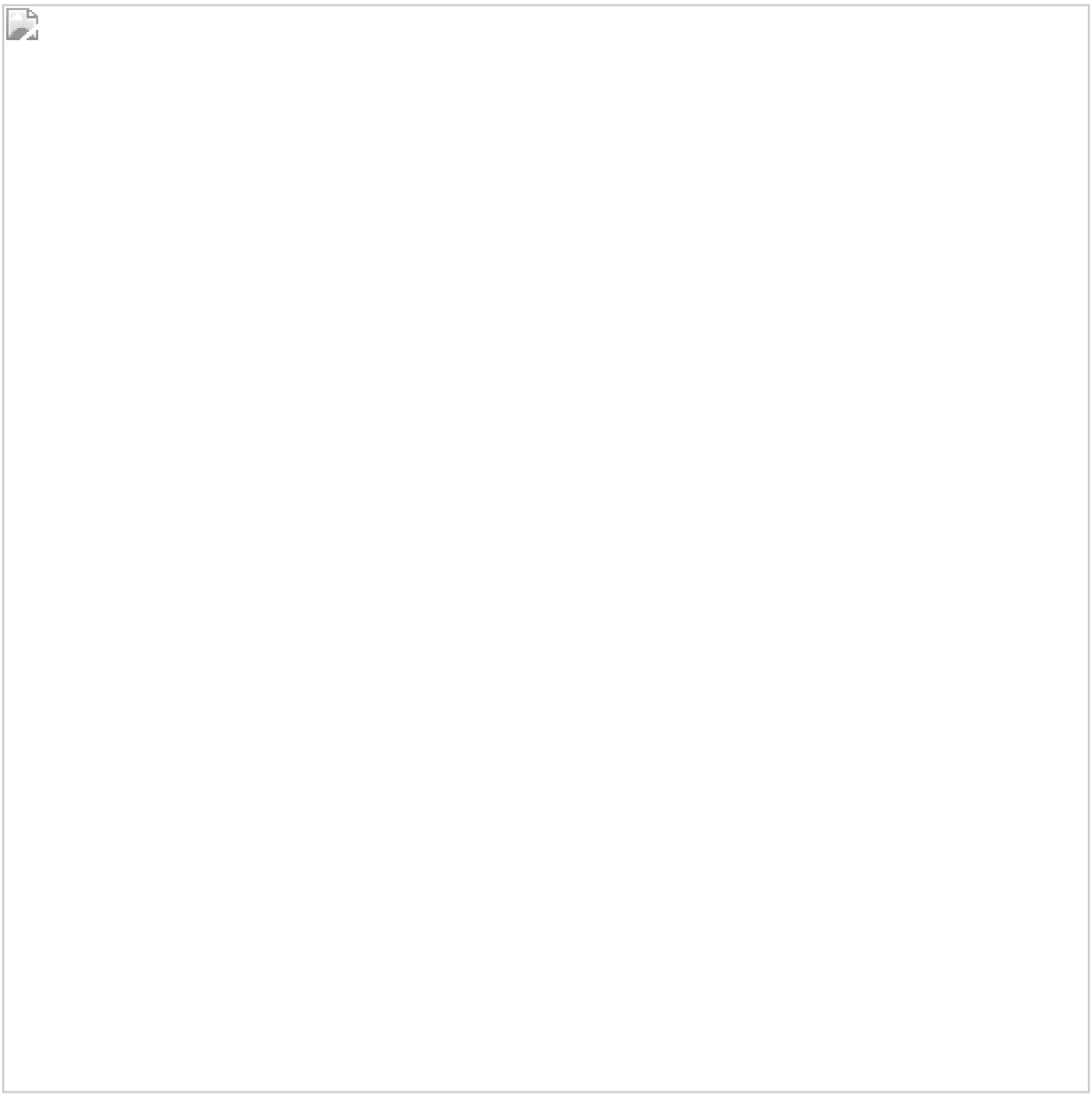


Think about it

1. How old was Peter when he flew away?

- ○ One week old
- ○ Five years old
- ○ Ten years old

A Betwixt-and-Between



But the fairies ran from Peter, and the birds flew away. Crying, he flew to the island to ask old Solomon Caw, the wise crow.

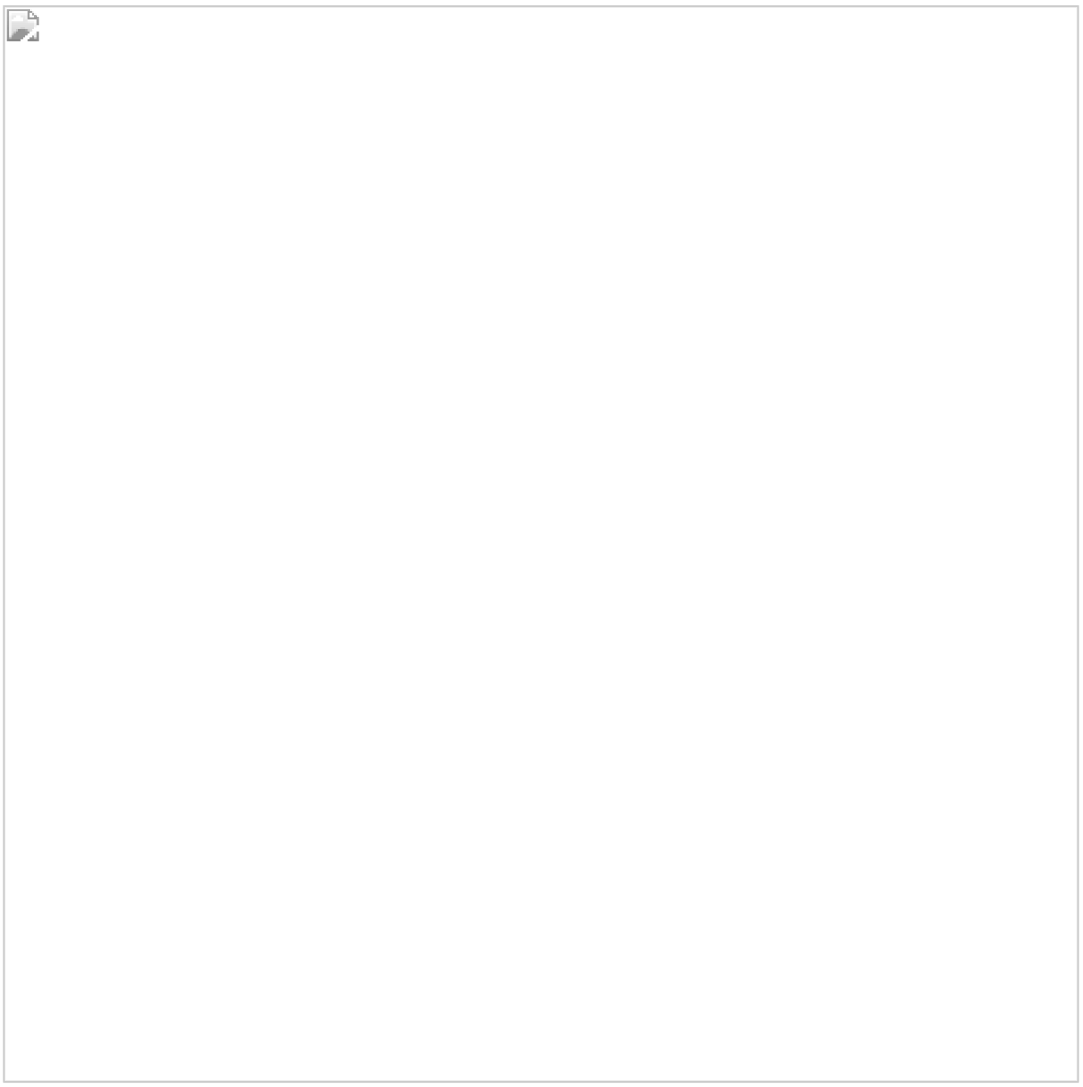
"Look at your nightgown," said Solomon. "You are not a bird. You are a human." Peter thought of a lady who had been very fond of him. Could he still fly home? The moment he wondered, he could not fly at all. For "to have faith is to have wings."

"You will be a Betwixt-and-Between," said Solomon kindly, and he let Peter stay on the island. Peter made a pipe of reeds and played the songs of the water and the moon.

TALK ABOUT IT

When Peter stopped believing he could fly, he couldn't. What helps you keep trying when you feel unsure?

A Betwixt-and-Between · another picture

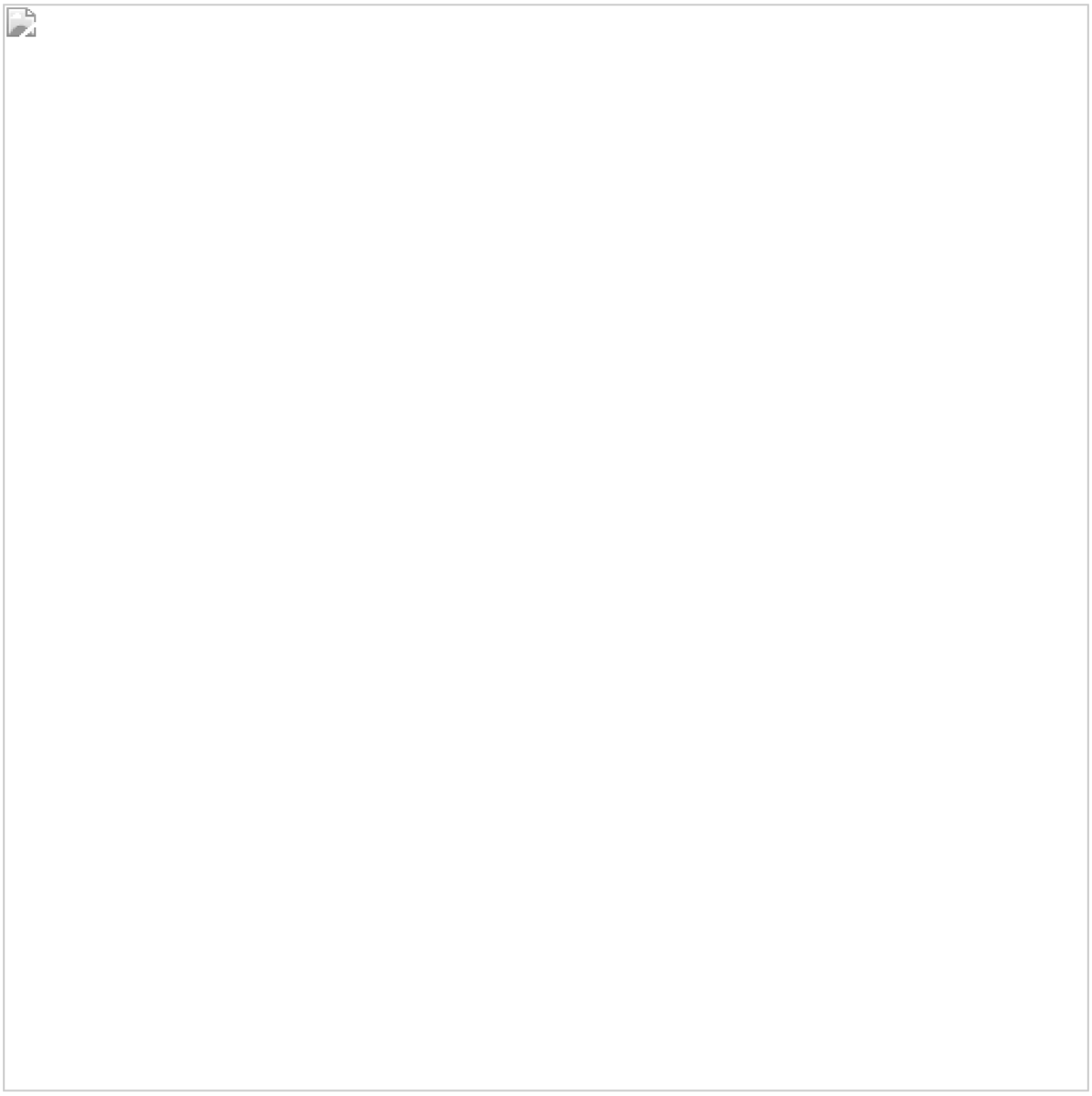


Think about it

1. Who let Peter live on the island?

- ○ A wise crow named Solomon
- ○ A swan
- ○ The Fairy Queen

The Thrush's Nest



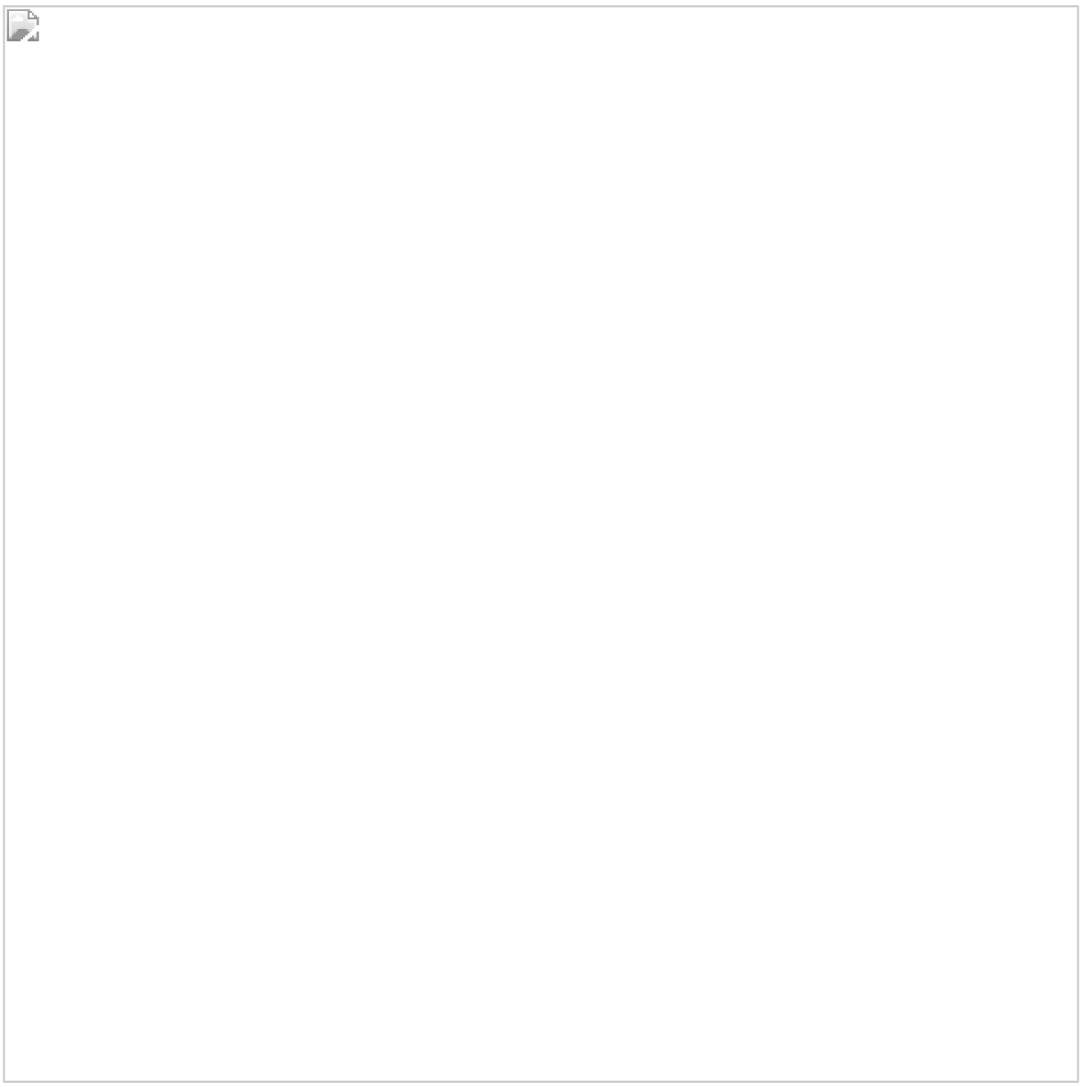
Peter could see the Gardens across the water, but he could not swim, and he could not fly. How could he get there?

One day a paper bank-note floated to the island. Peter paid the thrushes with it, and they built him a boat: a huge round thrush's nest, lined with smooth mud, with grass and twigs outside.

He made a sail from his nightgown and a paddle from a child's lost spade. On a night of the full moon, Peter Pan sailed his nest boat across the Serpentine.

TALK ABOUT IT

The thrushes worked together to build Peter a boat. What could your family or class build together?

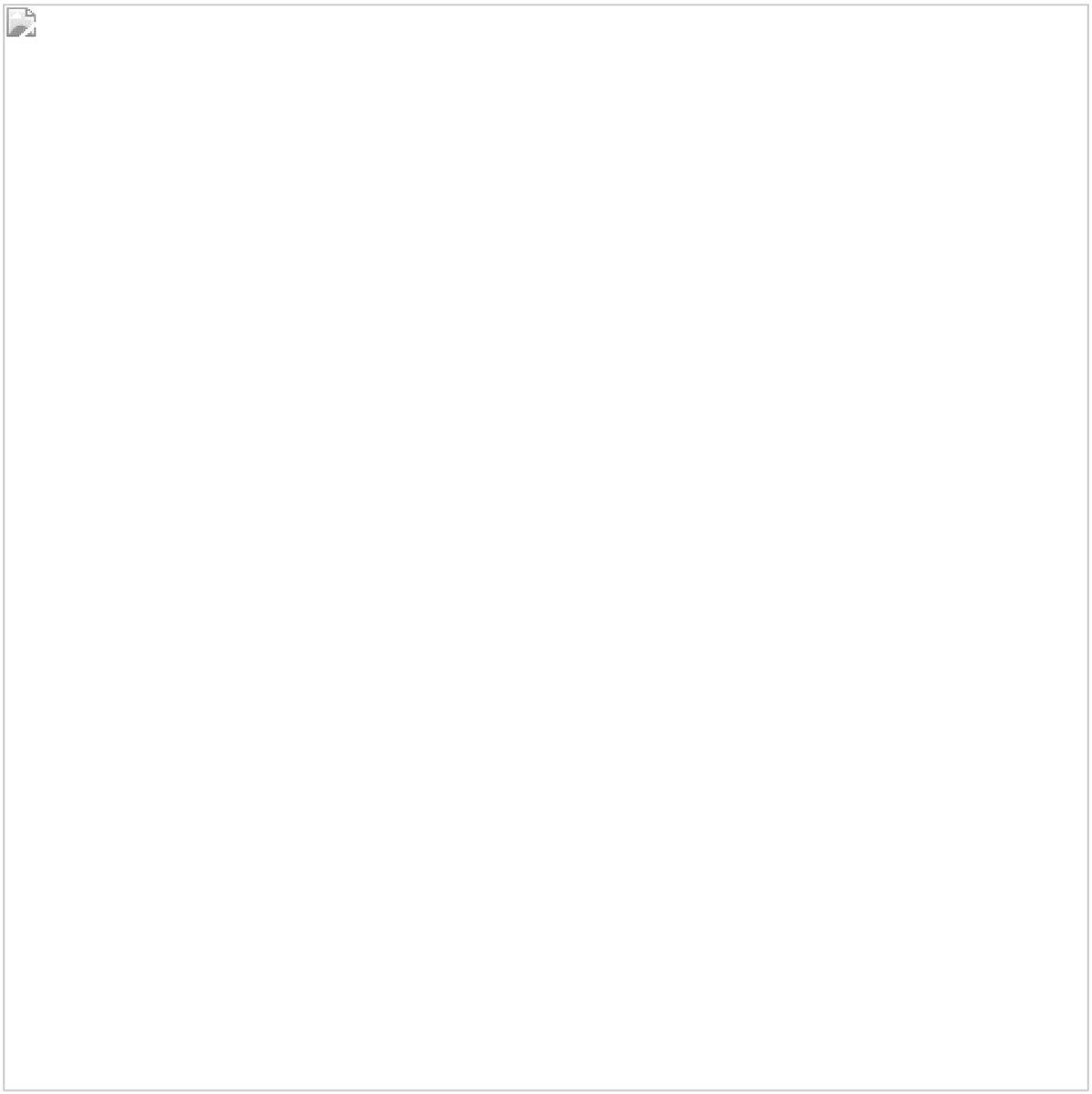


Think about it

1. What was Peter's boat made from?

- ○ A teacup
- ○ A giant thrush's nest
- ○ A leaf

The Fairies' Friend



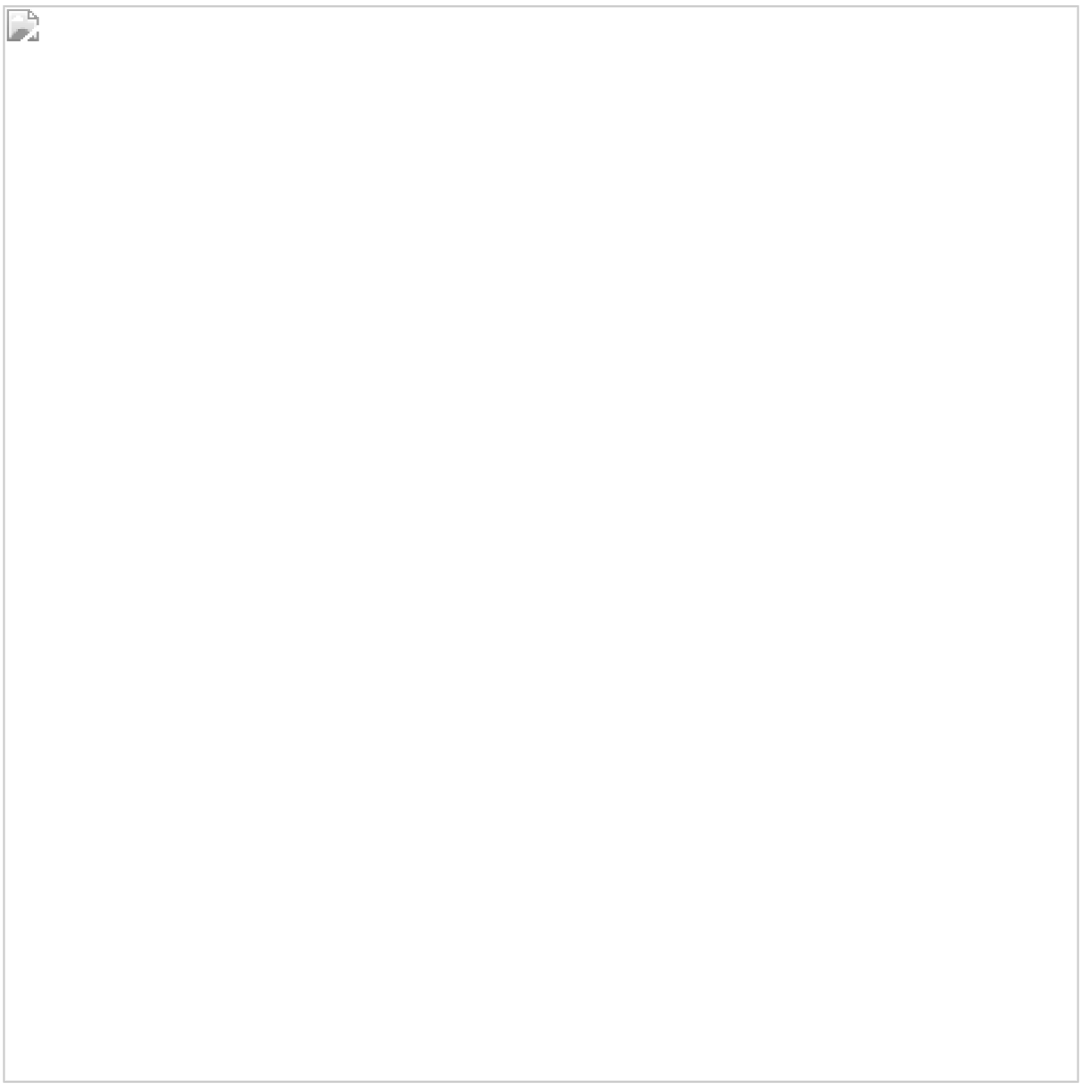
When Peter landed, the fairies rushed out with holly-leaf spears. A human, after Lock-out Time!

But then the fairy ladies saw that his sail was a baby's nightgown. Whereupon, they straightway loved him. The Queen said Peter could stay in the Gardens at night.

So Peter became the fairies' friend. At their balls he played his pipe for the dancing. Fairies never say "We feel happy." They say, "We feel dancey."

TALK ABOUT IT

The fairies were afraid of Peter until they saw he was just a baby. Have you ever been scared of someone who turned out to be kind?

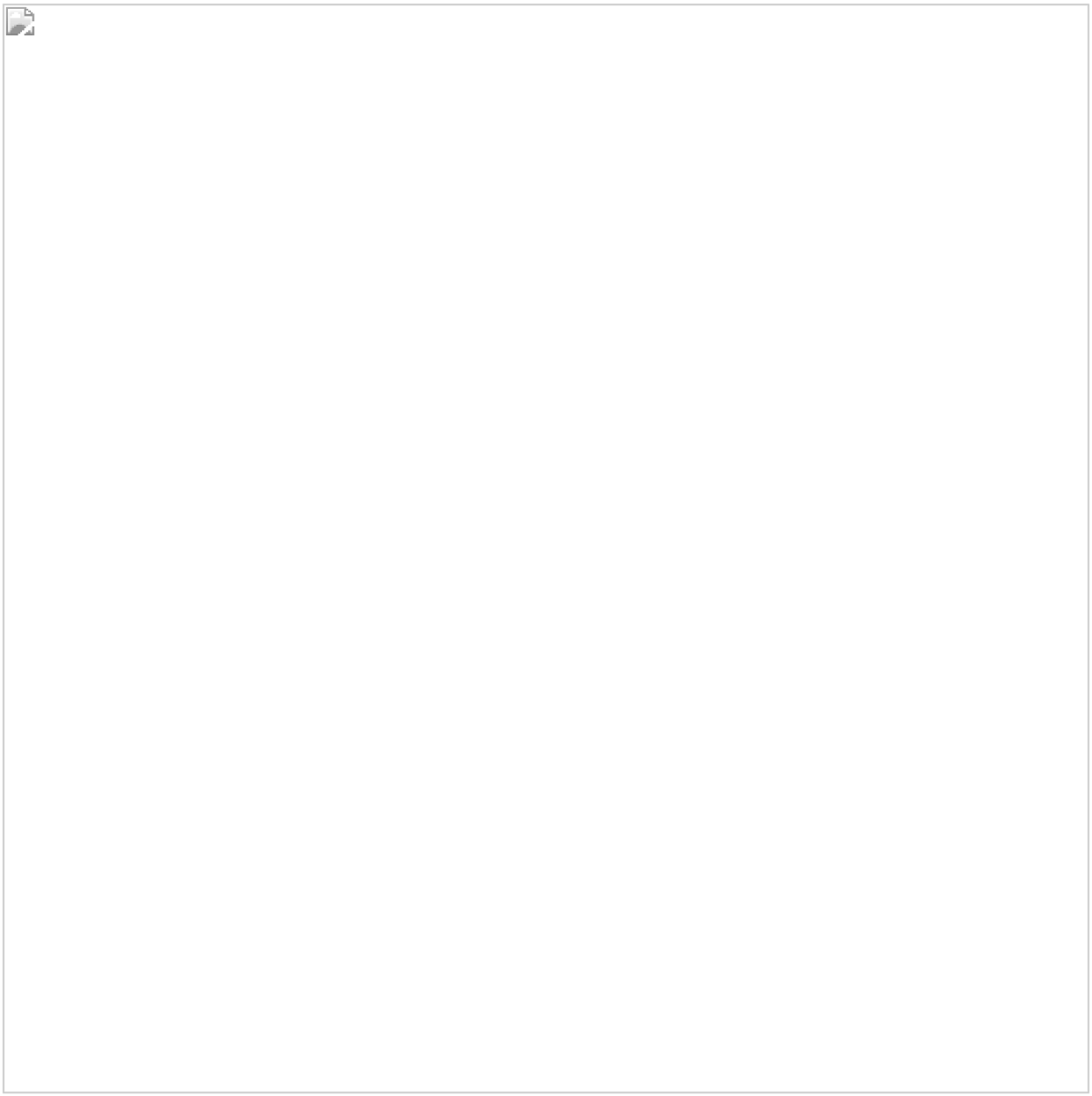


Think about it

1. What did Peter do at the fairy balls?

- ○ He played his pipe
- ○ He sang
- ○ He cooked

A Lullaby for Mother



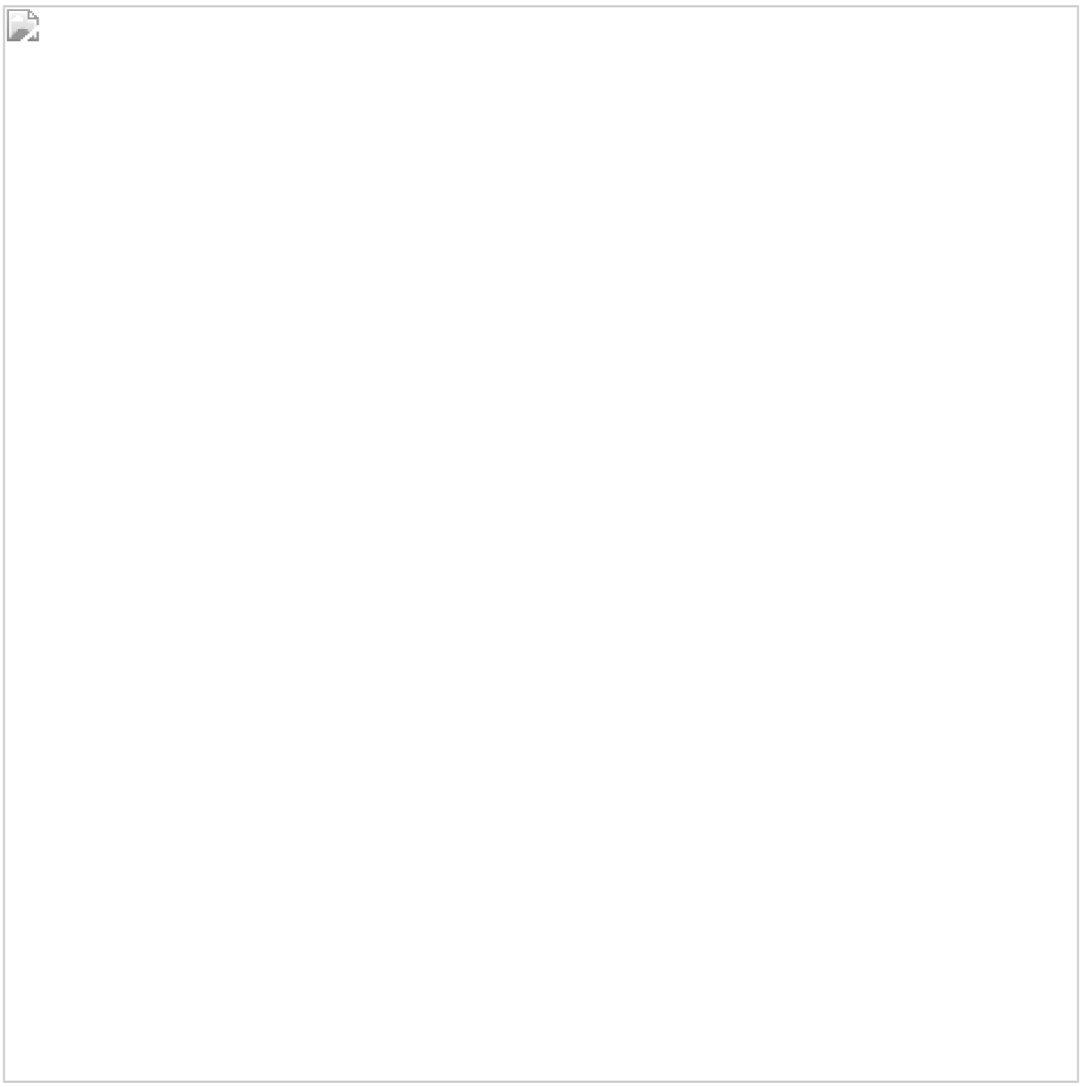
One night the Fairy Queen offered Peter a wish. He wished to visit his mother.

He flew back over London to the window. It was still open. His mother was asleep, and she looked so sad. She said “Peter” in her sleep.

Peter took out his pipe and played a lullaby he had made himself, until her face looked happy. He told himself he would come back for good after one more sail. Then he played her a lovely kiss on his pipe, and flew away.

TALK ABOUT IT

Peter’s mother was missing him. How do you think she felt? What could Peter have done instead of flying away?

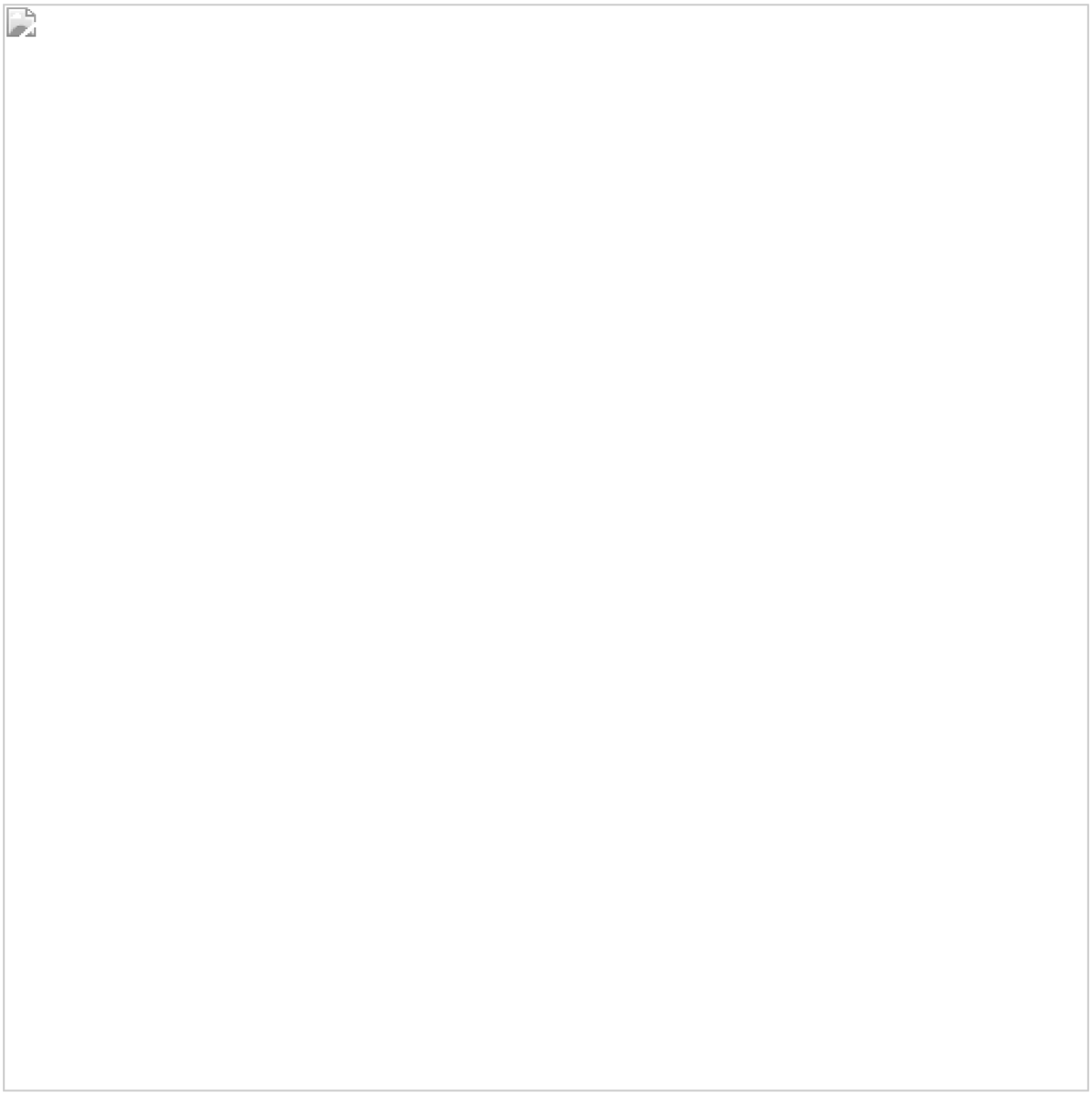


Think about it

1. What did Peter play for his mother?

- ○ A drum
- ○ A lullaby on his pipe
- ○ A bell

The Closed Window



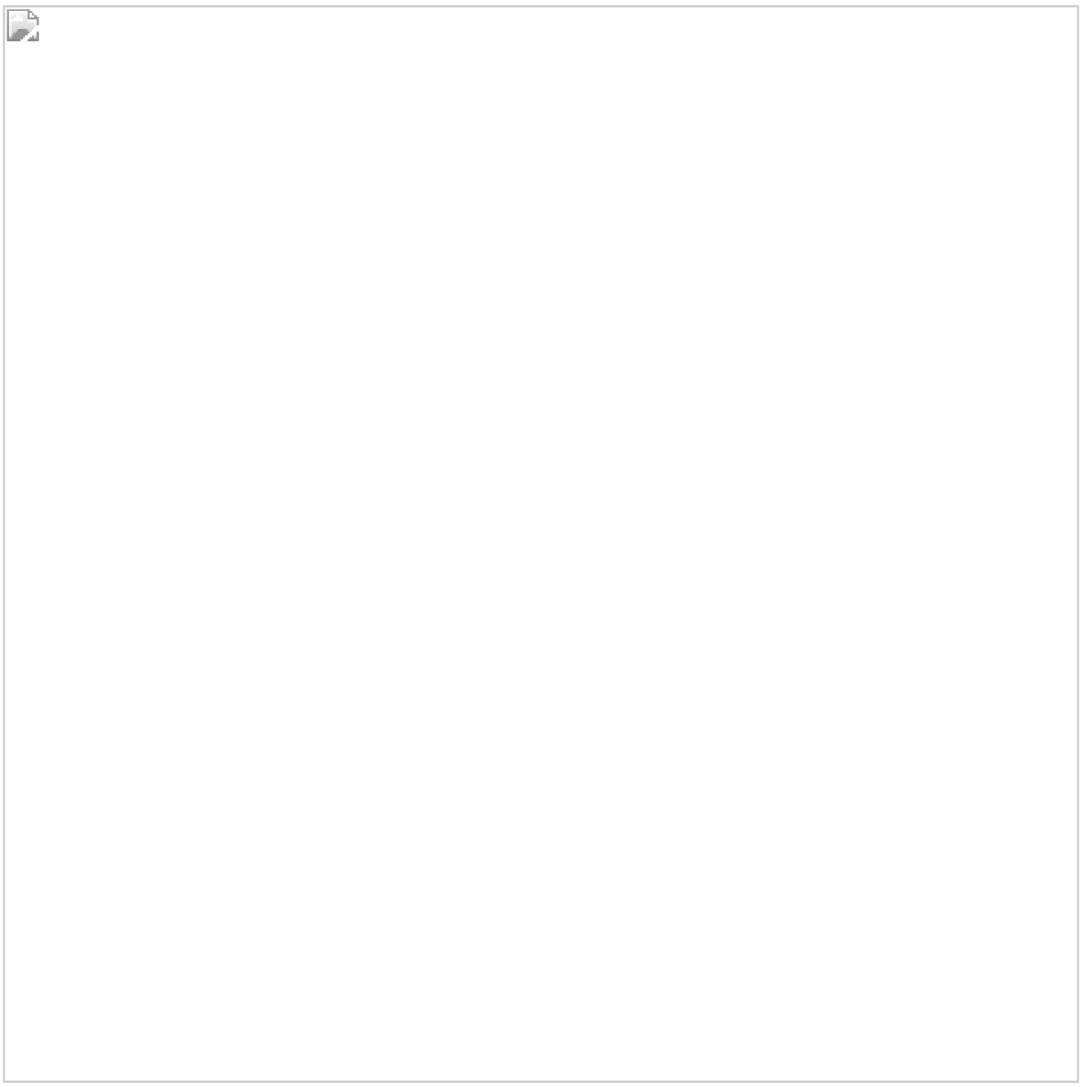
Peter waited, and waited, and said goodbye to everyone on the island again and again. Months went by.

At last he flew home for good. But the window was closed, and there were iron bars on it. Inside, his mother was asleep, holding another little boy close.

Peter called, “Mother! Mother!” but she did not hear. He flew back to the Gardens and never saw her again. Peter learned that some chances do not come twice.

TALK ABOUT IT

This is a sad part of the story. Why do you think Peter waited so long? Is there someone you want to show love to today, and not wait?

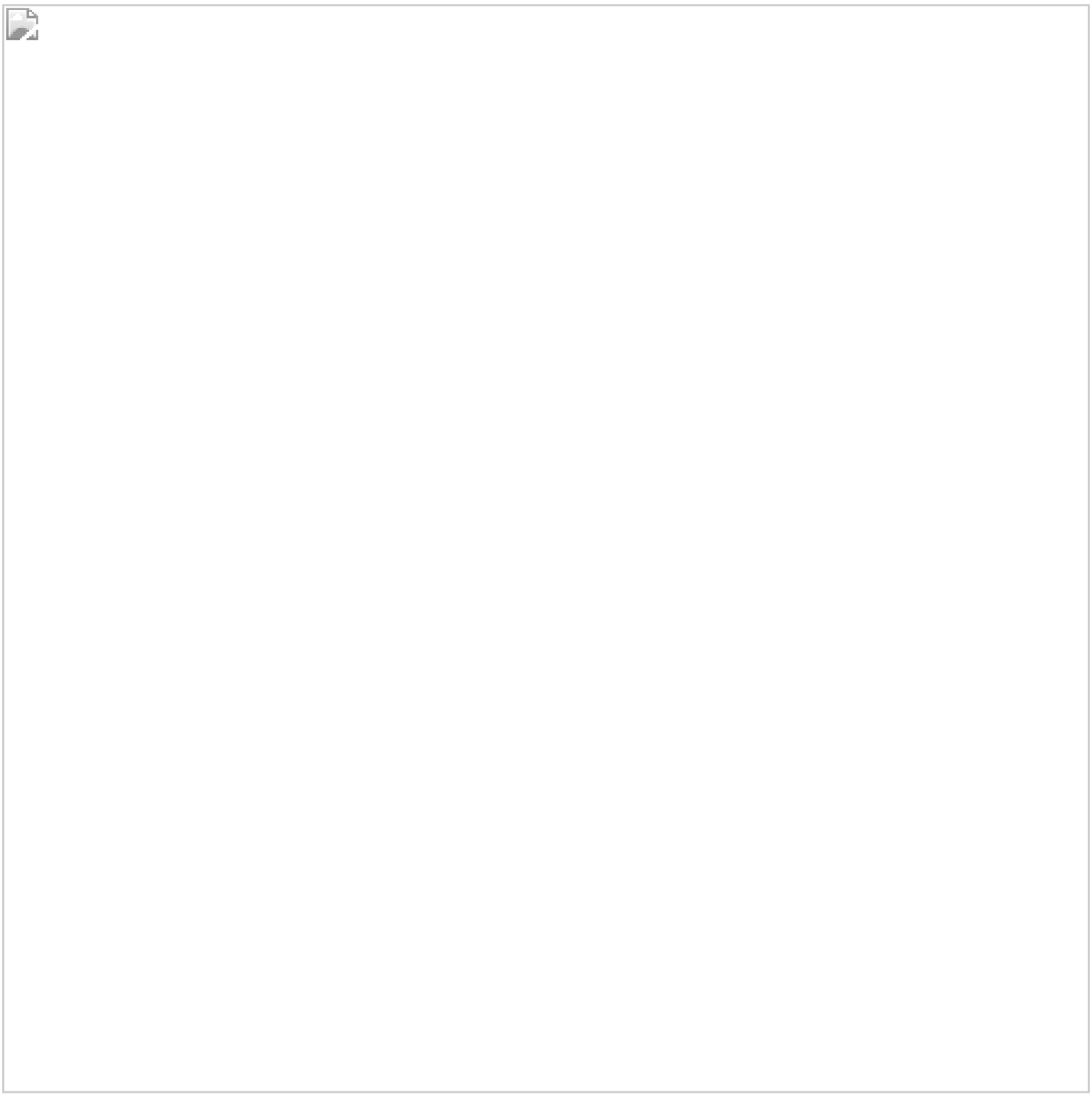


Think about it

1. What did Peter find when he went home at last?

- ○ An open door
- ○ Bars on the window
- ○ A party

Maimie Stays Behind



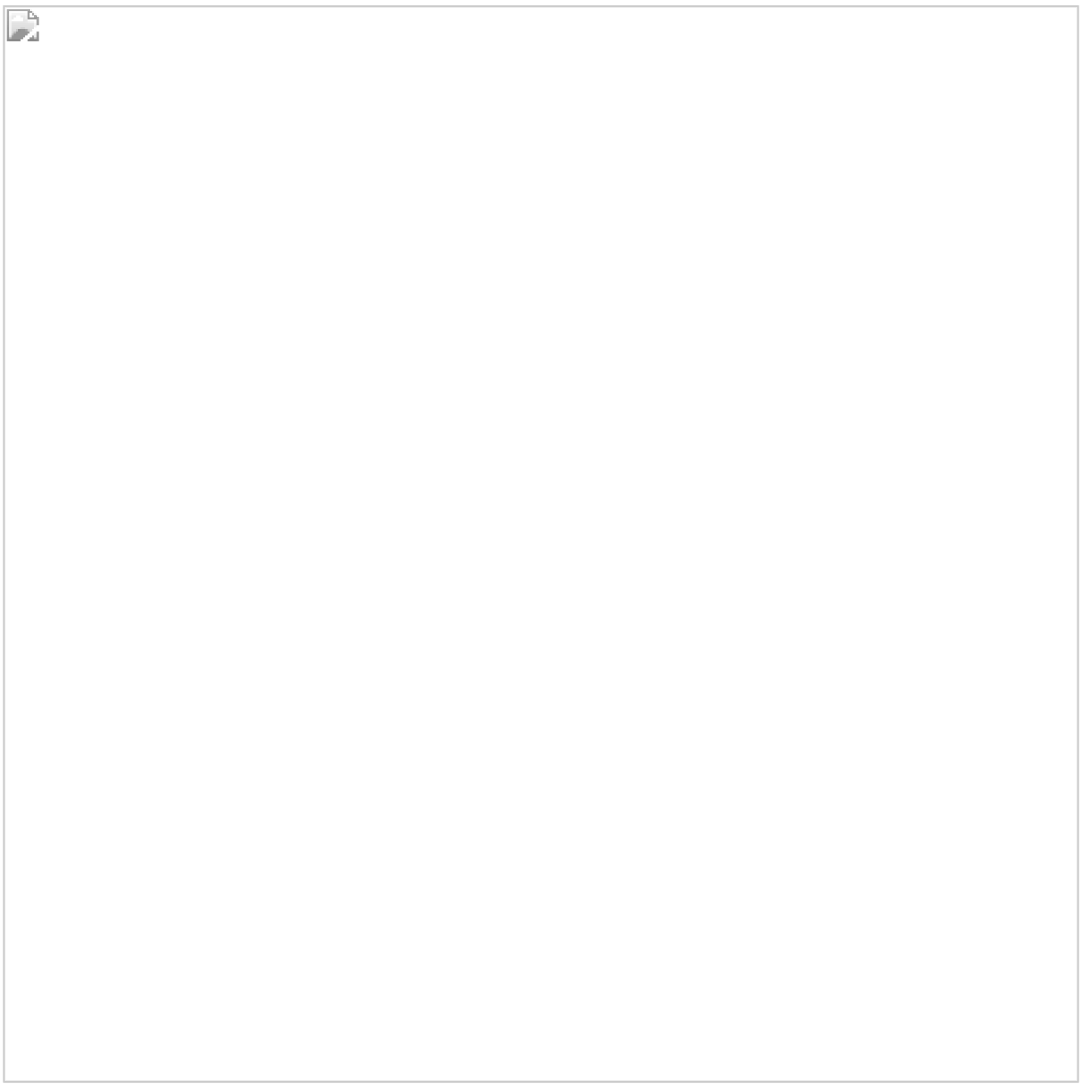
Many years later, a girl named Maimie, who was four, came to the Gardens with her brother Tony. Tony said he would hide when the gates closed and meet Peter Pan.

When the time came, Maimie did a very kind thing: she took off her scarf and gave it to Tony, in case he got cold. But Tony ran out of the gate. So Maimie hid instead.

At night the trees woke up and stretched. Maimie was gentle with the flowers and helped a little fairy named Brownie out of a puddle. Brownie was on her way to the fairy ball.

TALK ABOUT IT

Maimie gave her scarf to her brother. What is a kind thing someone did for you when you were cold or scared?

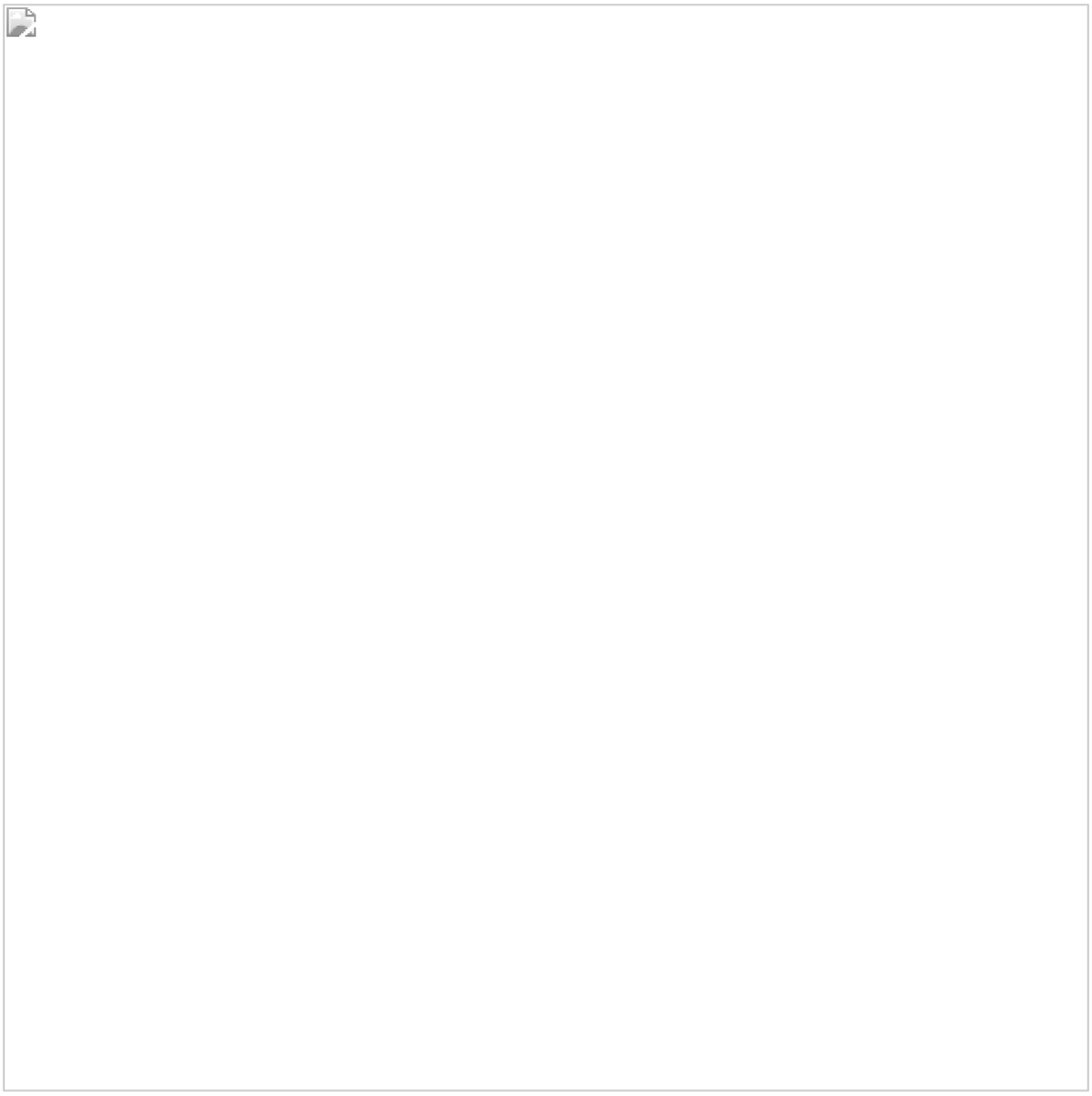


Think about it

1. What did Maimie give Tony?

- ○ Her scarf
- ○ Her doll
- ○ Her lunch

The Little House



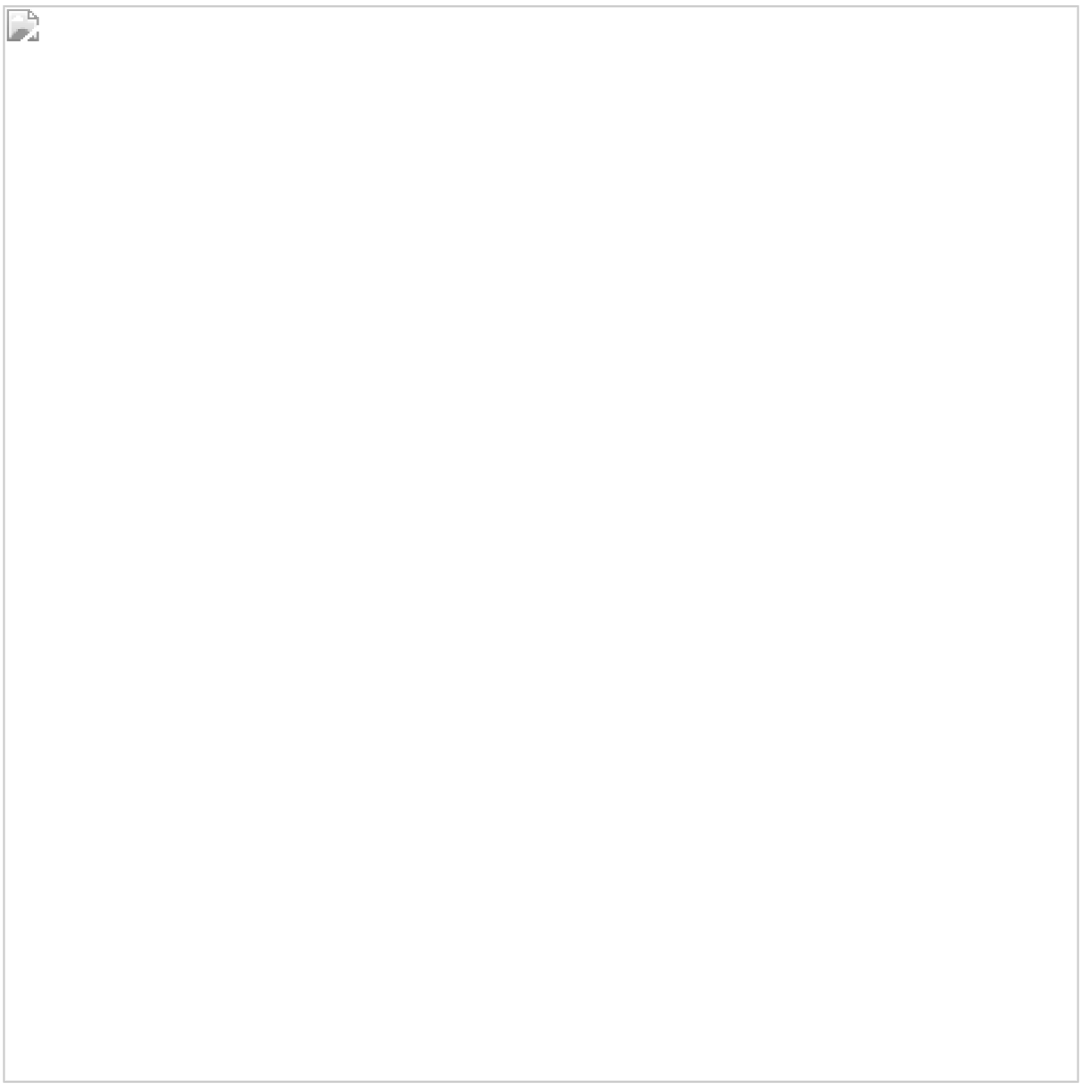
At the ball, a fairy duke was sad because he could not love anyone. But when Brownie touched him, his heart grew warm, and he loved her. “O Brownie, how splendid!” Maimie shouted.

The fairies were angry that a human had seen. Maimie ran, and fell asleep in the snow. Then Brownie, now a bride, asked the Queen for one gift: Maimie’s life.

The fairies saw how cold Maimie was. “Build a house round her,” they cried. In a moment a little house rose up around her, with warm lights in every window.

TALK ABOUT IT

Brownie used her one gift to save Maimie, who had helped her. Why does kindness often come back around?

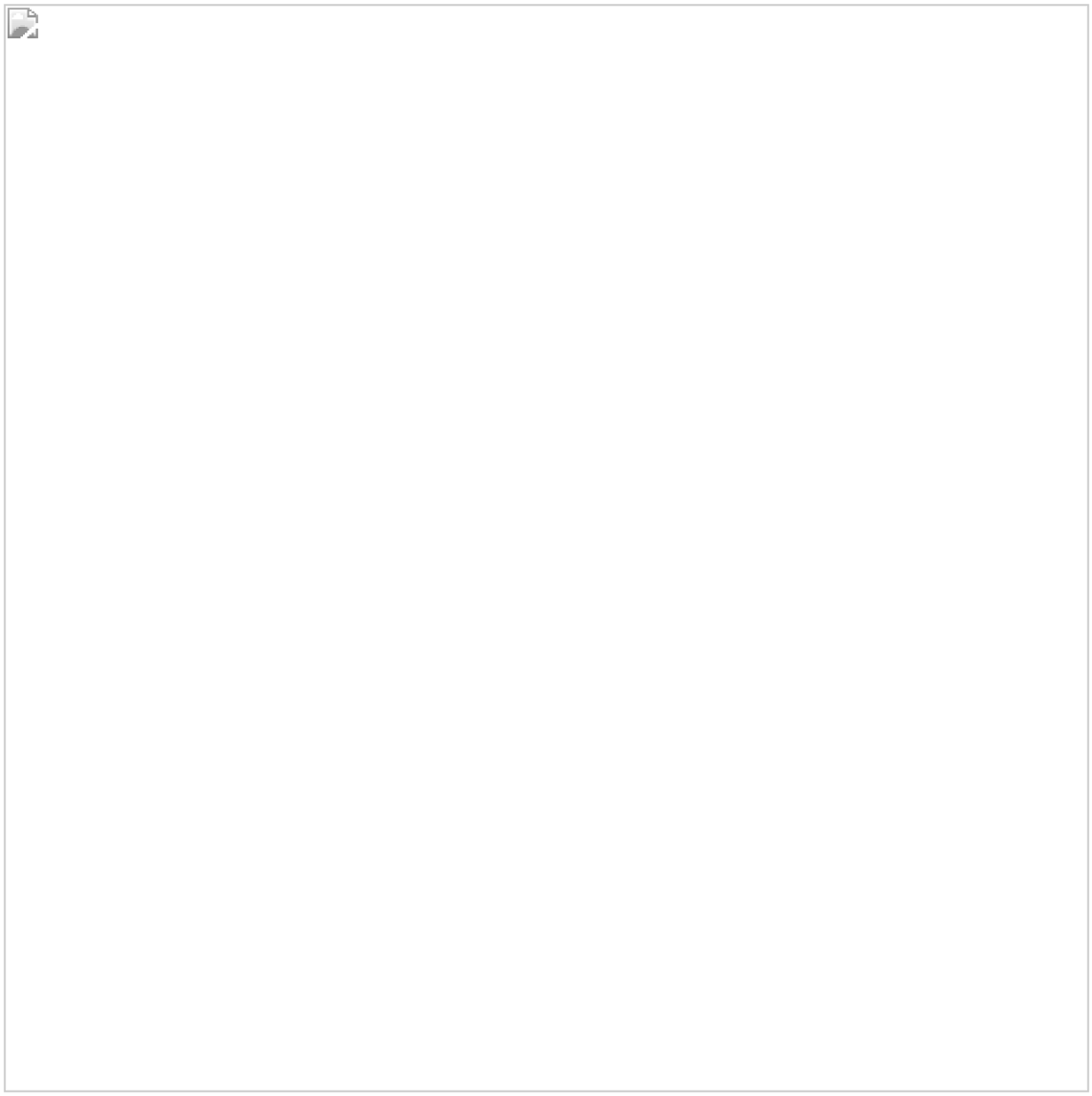


Think about it

1. What did the fairies build around Maimie?

- ○ A wall
- ○ A little house
- ○ A boat

Peter and Maimie



When Maimie woke, a kind voice said, “Don’t cry, pretty human, don’t cry.” It was Peter Pan!

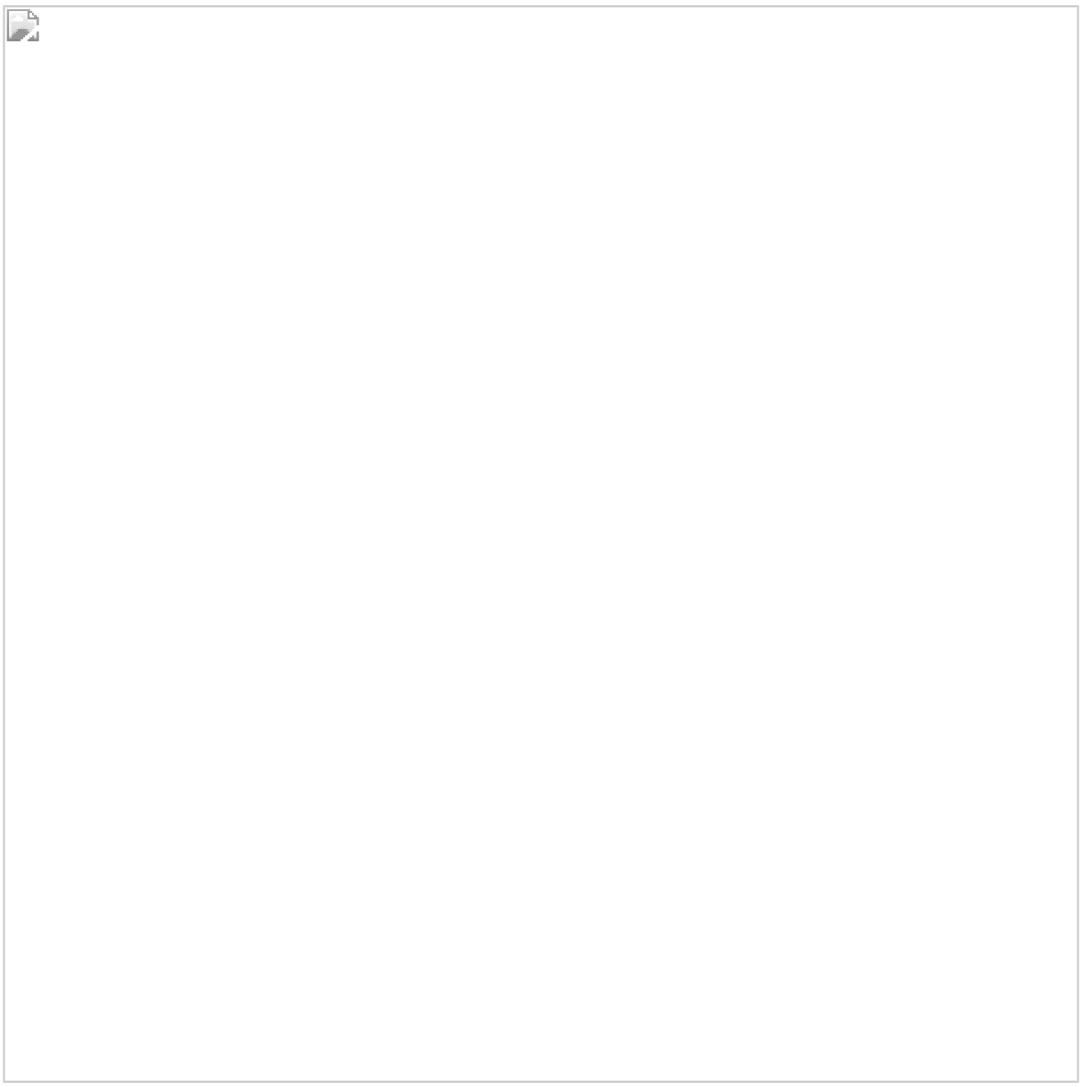
Maimie offered him a kiss, but Peter did not know what a kiss was, so he held out his hand. She gave him a thimble instead, and he wore it on his finger. Peter asked her to stay and sail with him.

But first he told her the truth about his window. Maimie thought of her own mother. “The door will always, always be open,” she said, “and mother will always be waiting at it for me.” The gates opened, and Maimie ran home in time.

TALK ABOUT IT

Peter told Maimie the truth even though it meant she would leave. Why was that a loving thing to do?

Peter and Maimie · another picture

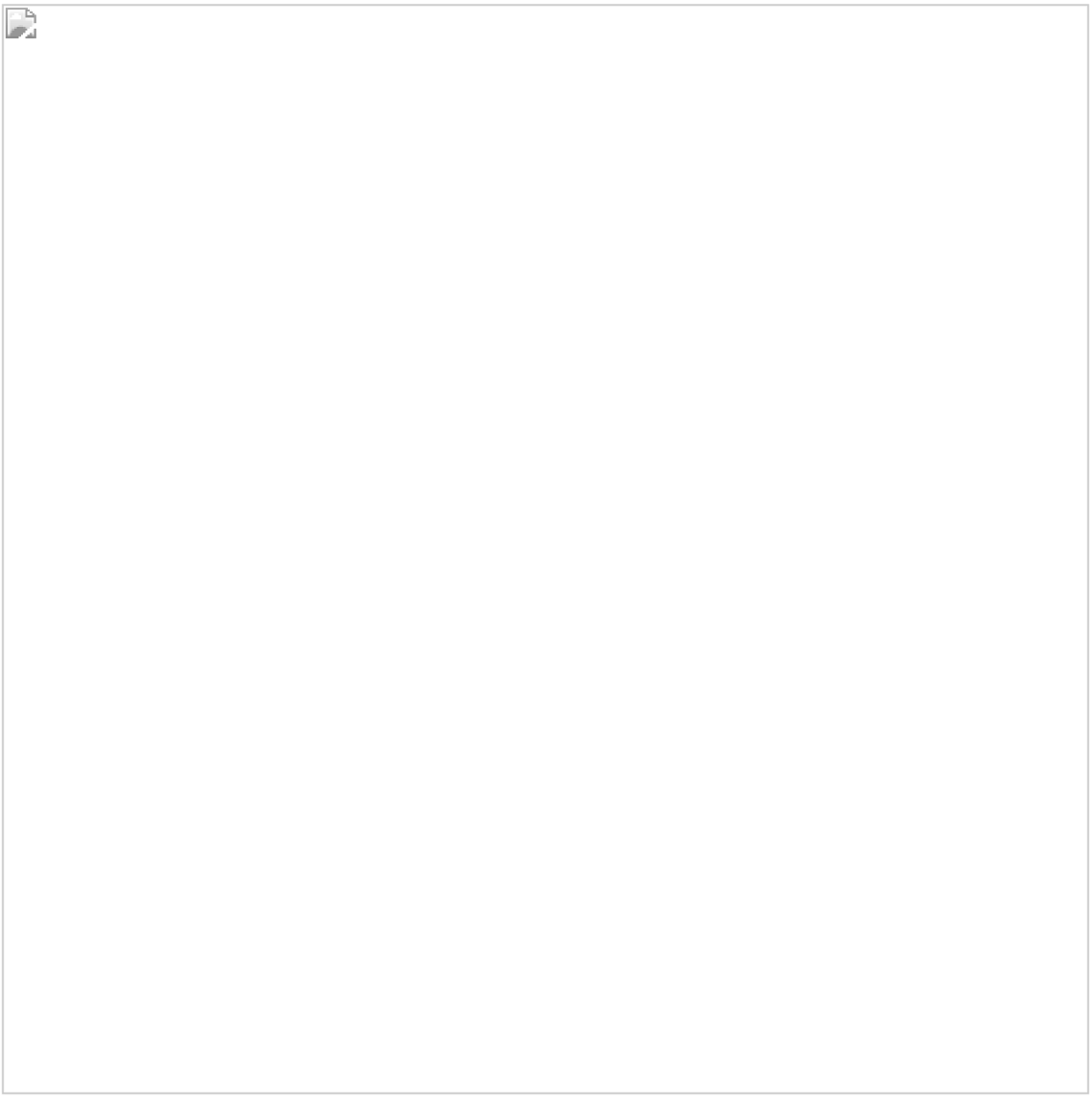


Think about it

1. What did Maimie give Peter instead of a kiss?

- ○ A thimble
- ○ A flower
- ○ A button

Peter's Goat



Maimie never forgot Peter. She knitted him a kettle-holder. Then, with her mother and Tony, she sent him an Easter present: a goat, given with a little rhyme in a fairy ring.

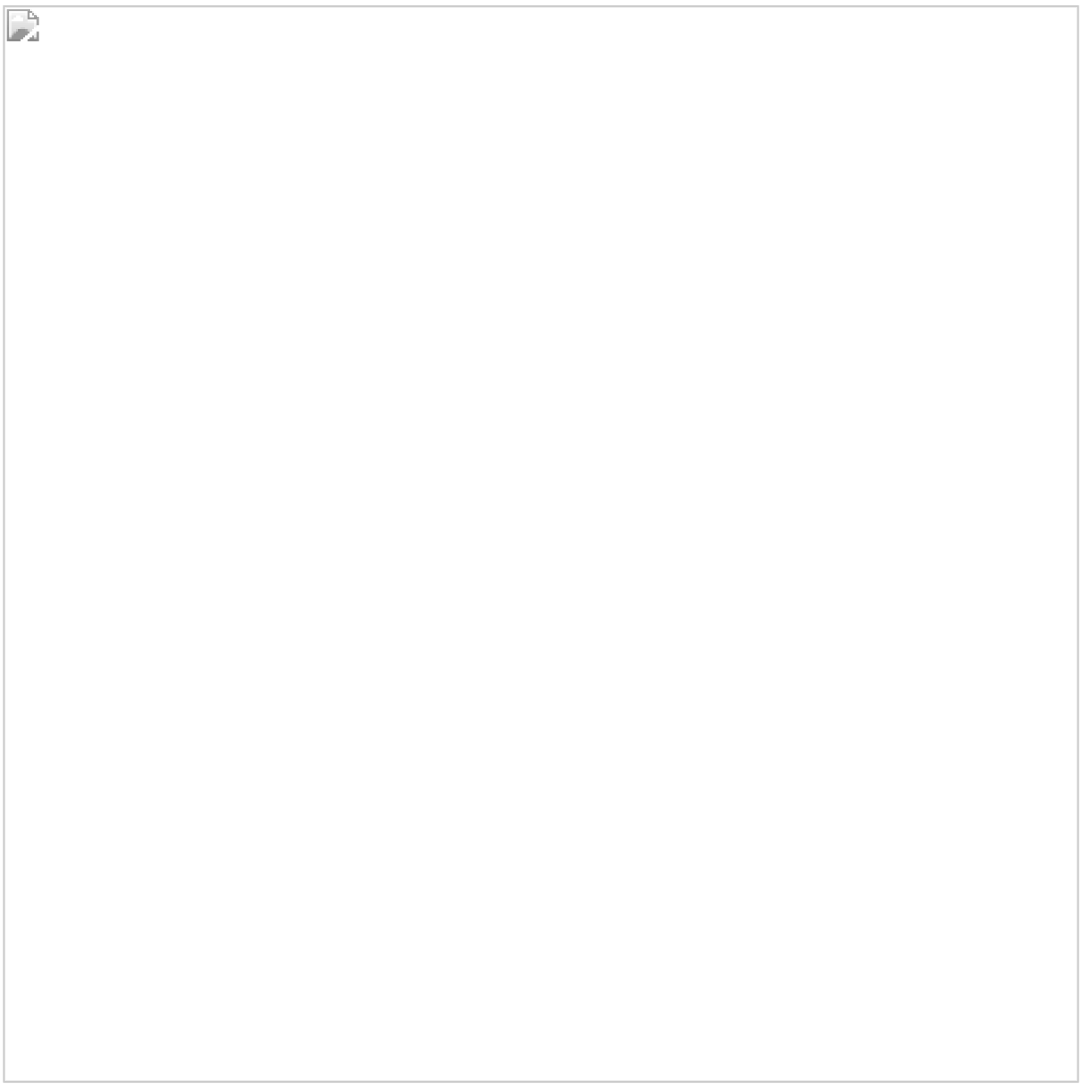
The fairies made the goat real. Now Peter rides it through the Gardens every night, playing his pipe.

And on nights when the fairies build the little house, Peter rides along the edges of the Gardens, in memory of Maimie, looking for any lost child, to carry them on his goat to the warm little house until morning.

TALK ABOUT IT

Peter now looks after lost children. Who looks out for you? How could you look out for someone else?

Peter's Goat · another picture



Think about it

1. What did Maimie give Peter for Easter?

- ○ A goat
- ○ A boat
- ○ A pony

2. Peter says goodbye too many times and loses his chance. Maimie runs home in time. What do you think this story wants us to remember?

“There is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”

— Yeshua HaMashiach

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