

# The Lost Boys

J.M. Barrie

*Peter Pan leads a group of Lost Boys who live with him on the Island of Neverland.*

- 1 Let us pretend to lie here among the sugar-cane and watch them as they steal by in single file, each with his hand on his dagger.
- 3 They are forbidden by Peter to look in the least like him, and they wear the skins of the bears slain by themselves, in which they are so round and furry that when they fall they roll. They have therefore become very sure-footed.
- 6 The first to pass is Tootles, not the least brave but the most unfortunate of all that gallant band. He had been in fewer adventures than any of them, because the big things constantly happened just when he had stepped round the corner; all would be quiet, he would take the opportunity of going off to gather a few sticks for firewood, and then when he returned the others would be sweeping up the blood. This ill-luck had given a gentle melancholy to his countenance, but instead of souring his nature had sweetened it, so that he was quite the humblest of the boys. Poor kind Tootles, there is danger in the air for you to-night. Take care lest an adventure is now offered you, which, if accepted, will plunge you in deepest woe ...
- 16 Next comes Nibs, the gay and debonair, followed by Slightly, who cuts whistles out of the trees and dances ecstatically to his own tunes. Slightly is the most conceited of the boys. He thinks he remembers the days before he was lost, with their manners and customs, and this has given his nose an offensive tilt.
- 20 Curly is fourth; he is a pickle [a person who gets in pickles – predicaments], and so often has he had to deliver up his person when Peter said sternly, "Stand forth the one who did this thing," that now at the command he stands forth automatically whether he has done it or not.
- 24 Last come the Twins, who cannot be described because we should be sure to be describing the wrong one. Peter never quite knew what twins were, and his band were not allowed to know anything he did not know, so these two were always vague about themselves, and did their best to give satisfaction by keeping close together in an apologetic sort of way.



1 “watch them as they steal by in single file.”

Which word is closest in meaning to “steal”? Tick **one**.

take  creep  march  run

2 From the paragraph beginning “Let us pretend”, find **one** piece of information about the Lost Boys that tells us they have all had adventures.

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3 From the paragraph beginning “Let us pretend”, **find and copy two** reasons why the Lost Boys look like bears.

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4 Tootles is described as “Poor kind Tootles”. What made him “poor” and “kind”?

Give **two** reasons, using evidence from the text to support your answer.

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5 Curly is described as “a pickle”.

What does the narrator mean by this? Tick **one**.

a clever boy  a timid boy  a mischievous boy  a well-behaved boy

6 When Peter asks which of the boys did something wrong, Curly “stands forth automatically whether he has done it or not”.

What does this tell you about him?

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7 Why didn’t the boys call the Twins by their names?

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8 Draw **three** more lines to match each boy to his description. One has been done for you.

Tootles ————— apologetic

Nibs ————— humble

Slightly ————— debonair

the Twins ————— conceited

9 In this extract, what is the main reason for the author to begin a new paragraph?

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2a

1 mark

2d

1 mark

2b

2 marks

2d

3 marks

2d

1 mark

2g

1 mark

2d

1 mark

2b

1 mark

2f

1 mark