

## From *Peter Pan* by J. M. Barrie

Scene: The living room

**Present:** *Michael, Wendy, John, Mr & Mrs Darling, Nana (the dog). Mr & Mrs Darling are ready to go out for the evening. It's time for Michael's medicine.*

**Mr Darling:** Be a man, Michael.

**Michael:** Won't; won't!

**Mrs Darling:** I will get you some chocolate for afterwards. *(Exit Mrs Darling.)*

**Mr Darling:** Mother, don't pamper him. Michael, when I was your age I took medicine without a murmur. I said, "Thank you, kind parents, for making me well."

**Wendy:** That medicine you take, father, is much nastier, isn't it?

**Mr Darling:** Ever so much nastier, and I would take it now as an example to you, Michael, if I hadn't lost the bottle.

**Wendy:** I know where it is, father. I'll bring it! *(Exit Wendy.)*

**Mr Darling:** *(shuddering)* John, it's most beastly stuff. It's that nasty, sticky, sweet kind.

**John:** It will soon be over, father. *(Wendy enters.)*

**Wendy:** *(panting)* I have been as quick as I could.

**Mr Darling:** *(sarcastically)* Wonderful. Michael first.

**Michael:** *(suspiciously)* Father first.

**Mr Darling:** I shall be sick, you know.

**John:** Come on, father.

**Mr Darling:** Hold your tongue, John.

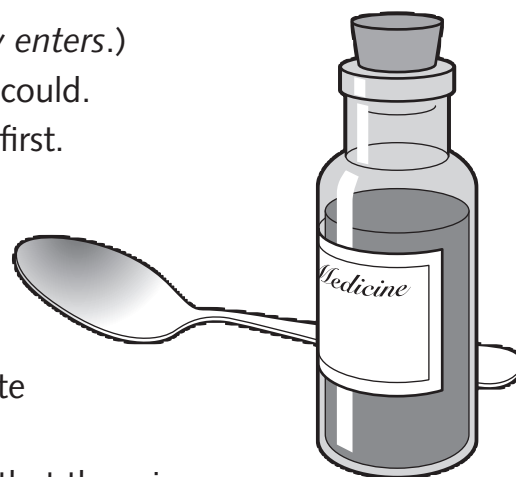
**Wendy:** *(puzzled)* I thought you took it quite easily, father.

**Mr Darling:** That is not the point. The point is, that there is more in my glass than in Michael's spoon. And it isn't fair: I would say it though it were with my last breath; it isn't fair.

**Michael:** *(coldly)* Father, I am waiting.

**Wendy:** Why not both take it at the same time? Ready? One, two, three. *(Michael takes his medicine, but Mr Darling slips his behind his back. Michael yells.)*

**Wendy:** Oh, father!



Name:

Date:

Read the text, then answer the questions.

1. Why do you think Mr Darling says "*Be a man, Michael*"? Tick one.

Because Michael is tall, like a man.

☐

Because he wants Michael to be brave, like a man.

☐

Because Michael is old enough to be a man.

☐

2. What sort of person do you think Mr Darling is?

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3. How does Wendy see her father? Support your answer with evidence from the text.

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4. Number the events below from 1 to 5 in the order that they occur in the text.

Michael takes his medicine.

☐

Wendy gets father's medicine.

☐

Mrs Darling offers Michael chocolate.

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Mr Darling says he has lost his medicine bottle.

☐

Michael won't take his medicine.

☐

5. How does Mr Darling's attitude towards medicine change during the course of the extract?

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