

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.

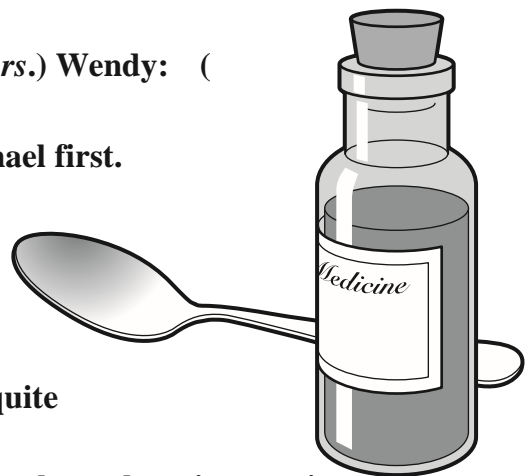
Wendy: (*puzzled*) I thought you took it quite easily, father.

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:	Class:	Date:
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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?

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

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.

☐

Mr Darling says he has lost his medicine bottle.

☐

Michael will not take his medicine.

☐

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

6 Your group is going to perform this script. Your teacher will tell you which part you will be reading. Practise acting it out and then perform it for the class. Think about whether the audience enjoyed it, and whether you think you acted your character well.

7 When you have seen all the other groups perform, say which ones you think portrayed the characters best. Did any of them make you change your mind about the characters? Explain your answer.