

This guide was created by Tracie Vaughn Zimmer, a reading specialist and children's author. Visit her Web site www.tracievaughnzimmer.com to find hundreds of guides to children's and YA literature.

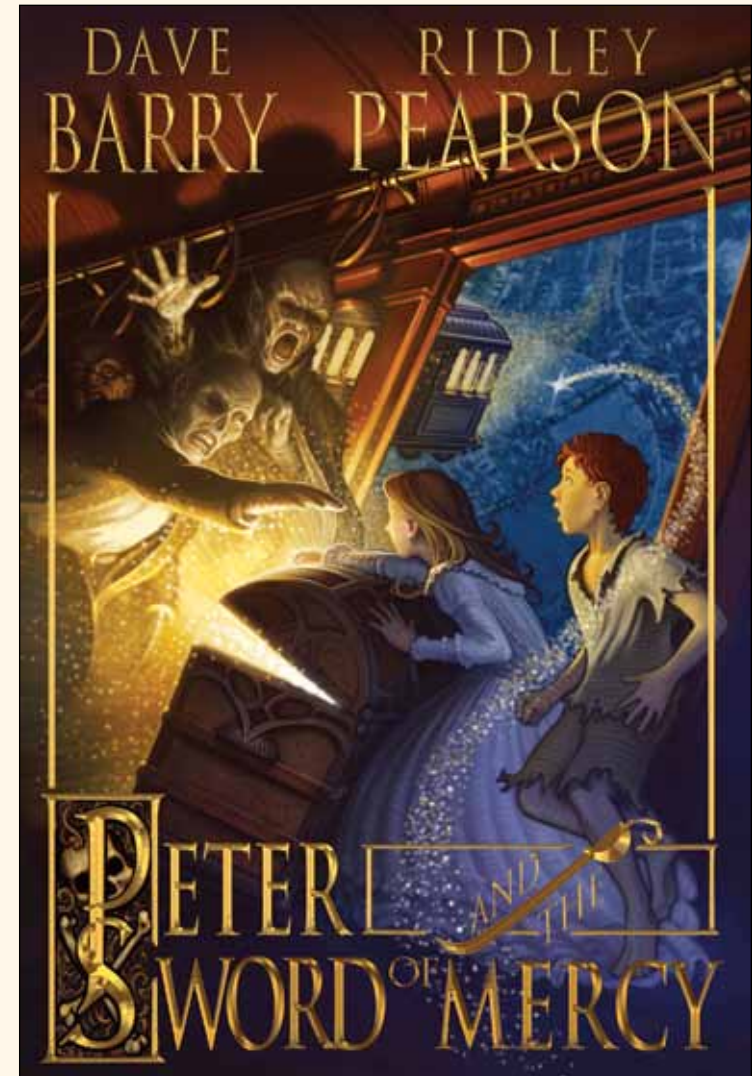
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**PETER AND
THE SWORD OF MERCY**

Hardcover
978-1-4231-2134-3
\$18.99

Disney • HYPERION BOOKS
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www.hyperionbooksforchildren.com



DISCUSSION GUIDE

Disney • HYPERION BOOKS

ABOUT THE BOOK

The year is 1902—it's been twenty-three years since Peter and the Lost Boys returned from Roonoo. Since then, nobody on the island has grown a day older, and the Lost Boys continue their friendship with the Mollusk tribe and their rivalry with Captain Hook. Meanwhile, in London, Molly has married George Darling and is raising three children: Wendy, Michael, and John. One night a visitor appears at her door; it's James, one of Peter's original Lost Boys. He is now working for Scotland Yard and suspects that the heir to England's throne, Prince Albert Edward, is under the influence of shadow creatures. These shadow creatures are determined to find a secret cache of starstuff, which fell to earth in London many centuries ago. The starstuff is hidden in an underground vault, which has only one key: the Sword of Mercy, a legendary weapon kept with the Crown Jewels. Molly is determined to help keep the starstuff safe, but when she suddenly goes missing, it is up to her eleven-year-old daughter, Wendy, to keep it out of the Others' clutches. Wendy has heard her mother's stories of a flying boy named Peter Pan; he may be her only hope to save the world from a shadowy doom. . . .



PRE-READING

What happened in the last *Starcatchers* story that you read? Who were the bad guys? In the end, who won and how?

DISCUSSION GUIDE

- 1 Explain what happened in the opening scene of the novel. Why do you think the authors decided to start the story this way?
- 2 What is happening in London to passengers who ride the District Line Underground? Would you be willing to risk it?
- 3 Who is von Schatten? How has James Smith made discoveries about his influence over the king? Why won't Scotland Yard believe him? What happens to James? Whose help does he seek? Why is this more difficult than it once would have been?
- 4 What does Peter first do when he appears in the story? Do you think he is being hoodwinked by the sailors? What clues are given?
- 5 What happens to Molly as she investigates the disappearance of James? Before she leaves, how does she empower her own daughter, Wendy, to help? Would you believe your mom if she told you such a fantastic story?
- 6 What is the cache? How is it protected? Who is working to uncover it, and what do they hope to gain by doing so? What would you do if you knew about a terrible plot such as this?
- 7 Who ends up as prisoners of the Others? What are they using them for? How does Molly finally figure out what to do? What could you do if someone were holding you against your will?

- 8 Describe the adventure that Wendy undertakes to find Peter and the island. What was the most exciting part of her adventure? Would you be courageous enough to try an untested contraption the way she did? Why or why not?
- 9 How is Peter convinced to come back to England with Wendy? What adventures do they have along the way? What was the most exciting part for you as the reader? How does Tink help?
- 10 Describe Captain Hook's first voyage in twenty years. How does it go? What ends up happening to the Jolly Roger?
- 11 Which of the enemies are your favorites in the story? Why? What qualities make the perfect nemesis?
- 12 How does the starstuff give Lord Aster one last stand to save his family? What would you do with the starstuff?
- 13 Wendy says, "I never asked to be a Starcatcher. I'd rather be a regular English schoolgirl, sitting in my regular English home having a regular English supper with my regular English family." (p. 360) Would you rather be "regular" or a Starcatcher? Why?
- 14 Explain what happens in the tunnel near Westminster Abbey at the climax of the novel. How does the battle erupt between the two? In the end, what happens to the cache and to the Starcatchers?
- 15 Which part of the novel was your favorite? How does it compare to the other books in the series? What would you tell your best friend about these books?



PROJECTS

LANGUAGE ARTS

Peter may never age, but of course you will over time. Write a letter to yourself as you will be twenty years in the future. What do you want to remember about how it feels to be the age you are now? What do you hope never changes about you? What do you hope to become, believe, see, do? Give a copy of the letter to your parents or someone else you trust (sealed, if you like) and ask them to give it back in twenty years.

ART

Sketch, paint, or create a collage based on your favorite scene in the novel. In a brief artist's statement on the back, explain why you chose this scene and explain your use of shape, color, and texture.

MUSIC

Create a playlist for the movie adaptation of the book. What songs should be played during which scenes? Why? Choose at least five scenes and five songs, and explain your choice in a journal.



ABOUT THE AUTHORS



DAVE BARRY is the Pulitzer Prize–winning author of more than two dozen books, including *Dave Barry’s History of the Millennium (So Far)*; *The Shepherd, the Angel, and Walter the Christmas Miracle Dog*; *Dave Barry’s Money Secrets*; and *Big Trouble*. Along with Ridley Pearson, he is the coauthor of *Peter and the Starcatchers*; *Peter and the Shadow Thieves*; *Peter and the Secret of Rundoon*; *Escape from the Carnivale*; *Cave of the Dark Wind*; *Blood Tide*; and *Science Fair*.



RIDLEY PEARSON, in addition to coauthoring the Peter and the Starcatchers series with Dave Barry, is the award-winning author of *Kingdom Keepers—Disney After Dark*; *Kingdom Keepers II—Disney at Dawn*; and *Steel Trapp*. He has also written more than twenty best-selling crime novels, including *Killer Summer*; *Killer View*; and *Killer Weekend*. He was the first American to be awarded the Raymond Chandler/Fulbright Fellowship in Detective Fiction at Oxford University.

GREG CALL has illustrated the entire Peter and the Starcatchers series. He has worked for clients in music, entertainment, and publishing. His work has garnered many honors, including the ADDY Award.

BOOKS IN THE SERIES



PETER AND THE STARCATCHERS

Hardcover

978-0-7868-5445-5

\$17.99

Paperback

978-0-7868-4907-9

\$7.99



PETER AND THE SHADOW THIEVES

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