

Answers to Questions

1. Why do you think that Peter decided to run away?

He was unhappy at home, his parents shouted, his dad had gone away and he didn't like the narrow street in the city where he lived as it was very noisy.

2. What plan did he have to make sure no one would miss him?

He told his mum that he was going on holiday with his father.

3. What difference does it make to Peter when he is in the garden?

He loves the peace and quiet, the space and the sense of being a part of nature and the plant and animal world.

4. How did Peter manage to eat when he was in the garden?

To start with, he bought food in the cafes and picked exotic fruit from the greenhouses. We also see him fishing. Then, later, he lived on other people's left-overs.

5. What made Peter realise that he was lonely?

He peeked in through the windows of a house in the park. The children were playing happily, there were two parents and no-one was shouting. It looked very happy and Peter felt lonely because he didn't have a family like that.

6. Why do you think that Peter decided to go home?

The change of season – summer ended and autumn got under way. Everything slowed down and stopped growing. The leaves started to fall and he realised it was time to go home.

7. How was life the same and how was it different now?

What was the same: the noise still went on, he still lived in a tiny, noisy street, people still shouted, and the city roared.

What was different: Peter had planted a garden – he had his own paradise and he knew that he would always have a garden as a little bit of paradise.

8. Why do you think that the garden was the place that Peter decided to run away to?

Perhaps because the garden was so different from Peter's home, also because it was so spacious and full of flowers, plants, ponds, trees, birds and creatures. It was a place of nature, wonder and peace.