

When it comes to his appearance, Hook liked to be spruced up and often wore a hat and heavy brocade coats. He had short ginger hair and it was rare to see him without two cigars, which he smoked simultaneously from a holder of his own invention. But the most terrible and curious thing about him was his steel claw. When you pluck up the courage to ask him about the claw, you might or might not find out how the captain fought with Mr. Peter, who slashed off his left hand and gave it to a shark. Then he might continue, saying how terrified he is of the shark, which now follows him day and night, on land and on sea, and drools at the idea of eating the rest of him. "And so he surely would have eaten me already," he would add, overjoyed, "if it wasn't for that alarm clock he swallowed. It's still there ticking in his belly, warning me when he gets close."