



## CLASSROOM GUIDE



# PETER PAN

Priceless. Bright Star Touring Theatre



**"THE MOMENT YOU DOUBT WHETHER YOU CAN FLY, YOU CEASE FOR EVER TO BE ABLE TO DO IT."**

## WHO CREATED PETER PAN?



### J.M. BARRIE, PETER PAN AUTHOR

James Matthew Barrie in 1860, was a Scottish author and playwright best known for creating the beloved character Peter Pan. His imaginative works often explored themes of childhood, fantasy, and the complexities of growing up. Barrie's enduring legacy includes not only his iconic creation of Peter Pan but also a range of novels, plays, and essays that continue to captivate readers with their whimsical charm and profound insight into the human experience. His writing style blends wit, tenderness, and a deep understanding of the magical world of childhood, making him a cherished figure in literature.

### PETER PAN

Peter Pan, created by J.M. Barrie, first appeared in a 1902 novel titled "The Little White Bird." This story introduced Peter Pan as a magical boy who never grows up and can fly. The character's popularity led Barrie to write a play, "Peter Pan, or The Boy Who Wouldn't Grow Up," which premiered in 1904. The play expanded on Peter Pan's adventures in Neverland, a fantastical island where he leads a band of Lost Boys and encounters iconic characters like Wendy, Tinker Bell, and Captain Hook. The play's success prompted Barrie to adapt it into a novel titled "Peter and Wendy," published in 1911.



## WHO IS PETER PAN

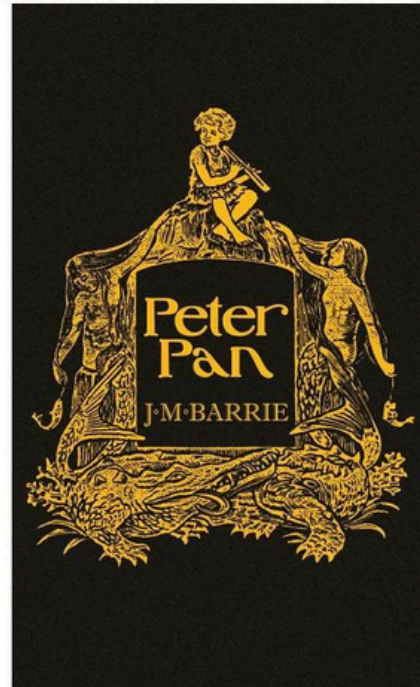


# ABOUT OUR PRODUCTION

We face many challenges in producing adaptations for the stage, as you can imagine. In our shows we're often able to get around the obstacles these shows present through adapting them with our characters Lenny and Mabel.

Lenny and Mabel enable us to present stories like Peter Pan as a kind of play within a play. As you saw in the show this enables us to creatively recreate iconic scenes like flying or the magic of Tinkerbell in a more feasible and easy to produce format.

Our goal is to breathe hysterical life and high energy into these wonderful works of literature. Theatre can so often be a kind of escapism in our lives. And we hope that's what our show did for you and all our young audience members. Laughter is the greatest gift and we hope there were moments that caught you by surprise and left you laughing like one of the lost boys.



## Fun Facts About Peter Pan!

- \*In stage productions, Peter is almost always played by a female. This started back during the first production. English law did not allow minors under the age of 14 to work after 9pm, and an adult male would be too tall and his voice too deep in comparison to the rest of the children on stage. Charles Frohman, the Broadway producer, suggested his protégé, Maude Adams, play the part. From then on it became tradition.
- In 1929, Barrie donated all the rights to Peter Pan to Great Ormond Street Hospital with the stipulation that the amount of money they receive through royalties should never be revealed.
- Among the actors to have played Peter Pan over the decades was Walt Disney in a school production.
- In the original stories, Peter Pan doesn't live in Neverland.
- Fairy dust enabling you to fly was introduced to the story later, to deter children from trying to fly from their beds or even windows, following reports of accidents.
- A 1924 American silent adventure film Peter Pan released by Paramount Pictures. It was the first film adaptation of the 1904 play by J. M. Barrie.
- The Walt Disney version introduced the iconic green color linked to Peter Pan.
- Barrie was something of an eccentric: he used to order Brussels sprouts every day for lunch purely because he enjoyed saying the words.



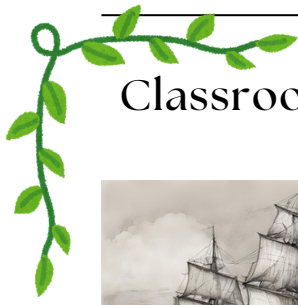
Tinkerbell premiered in 1904. Initially, Tinker Bell was represented on stage by a darting light and was not fully embodied as a character until later adaptations.



The captain of the pirate ship, The Jolly Roger, Hook is Peter Pan's rival and arch-enemy. Captain Hook's first appearance was in J.M. Barrie's original play from 1904.



Wendy Moira Angela Darling is a fictional character and one of the main protagonists of the 1904 play and 1911 novel Peter and Wendy.



# Classroom Activities



## Character Choice

Activity #1

Either assign or let each student pick a character from Peter Pan. Let them come up with an analysis of that character. Create a profile that includes their detailed personality traits, motivations and how they contribute to the story of Peter Pan overall. Share their findings with the group and talk about them.



## Let's Chat

Activity #2

Prepare a list of open-ended questions about the story and discuss.

- \*What are the benefits of never growing up?
- \*What drives Peter Pan to stay in Neverland?
- \*What drives Hook to behave the way he does?
- \*Is Peter Pan a hero or anti-hero?



## Get Creative

Activity #3

Take a moment to talk about the ending of Peter Pan. Did you like how it ended or not?

Come up with your very own alternate ending of the play. Take several minutes to re-write your very own new and improved ending. Have fun with it. Does your version end happily? Sad? Perhaps with a cliffhanger? Share it with the rest of the class and compare.



## Actor's Choice

Activity #4

It is time to stand up and act out different scenes from the story of Peter Pan!

Divide the class into groups and the story into scenes. Assign roles to each person and let them come up with a short play acting out the scene with the characters. What motivates the character? How do they feel? What drives them. Discuss after each skit.

## Deep-Dive

Activity #5

- Deep-dive into the author of Peter Pan, J.M. Barrie. What about his life may have influenced his inspiration to create this iconic story?
- Do you see any of the author's personal influences or themes reflected in the story?
- How does Barrie use storytelling techniques (narration, symbolism, etc.) to convey his messages about childhood, adventure and growing up?
- Do you like the story overall? Why or why not?
- Who was your favorite character or what was your favorite part of the story of Peter Pan?



Imagine yourself as a lost boy or a fairy. What would your map of Neverland look like?

A large empty rectangular box with a thick black border, intended for drawing a map of Neverland.





# PETER PAN

## WORD SEARCH

Find 10 expressions related to Peter Pan. The expressions will appear either vertically or horizontally within the puzzle.

P	A	K	C	R	O	C	O	D	I	L	E	S	O
E	S	P	R	N	K	I	R	E	T	O	C	L	P
T	I	Q	X	W	V	S	T	F	N	S	M	E	T
E	A	N	D	Y	C	A	N	E	P	T	Z	I	I
R	H	Y	U	V	W	Y	Z	G	I	B	S	G	N
P	I	R	A	T	E	U	A	U	T	O	C	H	K
A	O	C	N	W	N	R	I	U	J	Y	D	L	E
N	B	P	O	F	D	M	I	N	D	S	E	R	R
F	T	Y	W	L	Y	E	X	H	K	C	Y	U	B
L	O	N	D	O	N	R	L	E	T	O	E	L	E
T	A	M	A	D	S	M	I	M	L	J	A	T	L
U	A	W	N	B	E	A	G	I	F	T	F	E	L
Z	Q	H	C	T	N	I	D	M	G	Y	O	H	A
C	H	F	A	I	R	Y	A	S	T	R	E	E	N
C	A	P	T	A	I	N	H	O	O	K	L	Q	O

PETER PAN      WENDY      CAPTAIN HOOK  
LOST BOYS      CROCODILE      PIRATE  
FAIRY      TINKER BELL      LONDON  
NEVERLAND      MERMAID

# Behind The Scenes of Our Theatre



We travel the country in mini vans!

## WHO ON EARTH IS BRIGHT STAR THEATRE?

Founded in 2003, Bright Star tours with a number of shows each season, from anti-bullying and STEM to Black History, and everything in between. The company strives to make professional theatre as accessible as possible with affordable pricing and quality shows.

We thank you for the opportunity to serve your young audience and hope you found the show and actors pleasant and enjoyable. We hope to make theatre a part of every young person's life!

## THEATRE DEFINITIONS

**Actors:** The people on stage that perform the play.

**Backdrop:** The background for the play.

**Props:** Anything that an actor holds while on stage--a cane, book or rubber chicken.

**Downstage:** the area closest to the audience -- a long time ago stages were built at angles.

**Upstage:** The area away from the audience-- like the back wall of a stage.

**Director:** The person who tells the actors where to go while they are on-stage and helped them create the characters they would play.

**Costumes:** The wigs, clothing and glasses that the actors wear to help flesh out their characters.

**Auditions:** How an actor gets a role is by auditioning. They may have to interview, pretend to be a character from the play, read something from it, etc.

**Set designer:** The person who decides what should be on the background and who paints or creates it.

## CONTACT US ANYTIME

Connect with us anytime! We love receiving feedback, thank you cards, pictures and whatever else from you and your students.

The best way to contact us is to send an email to [booking@brightstartheatre.com](mailto:booking@brightstartheatre.com)

Our actors average around 1,000 miles a week traveling the country to entertain young audiences.

Our company was founded in 2003 and is owned by an Emmy winning Actor.

Our programs have been seen around the country and across the world!