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THE AUTHOR



James Matthew Barrie was born on 9th May, 1860, in Kirriemuir, Scotland. He was one of ten brothers and sisters. Barrie's mother loved his older brother David most of all. Sadly, David died in a skating accident when Barrie was six. His mother fell into depression and young Jamie was deeply affected by it.

Barrie became a writer when he left university. He worked for a newspaper called the *Nottingham Journal*, but his true love was the theatre. Barrie moved to London and started to write plays and books. In 1904, he wrote a play called *Peter Pan, The Boy Who Wouldn't Grow Up*. Later on, Barrie decided to turn the play into a book and changed the title to *Peter Pan*.

The book was full of magic and was a huge success with people of all ages. His books were very popular but none were ever quite as successful as *Peter Pan*. Barrie became a baronet in 1913. He died in 1937 at the age of 77. People remember him as one of the greatest children's writers of all time.



BACKGROUND

Barrie wrote *Peter Pan* for the sons of his friends, Sylvia and Arthur Llewelyn Davies. The boys' names were George, Jack, Peter, Michael and Nicholas. Barrie met the boys when he was walking his dog, Porthos, in Kensington Gardens. He became friends with the Llewelyn Davies family, and enjoyed spending time with the boys. He played games with them for hours, and often told them stories. One of these stories was about a character called Peter Pan. *Peter Pan* was a fairy tale, but there was also some truth in it. Like Peter Pan, Barrie was a boy who refused to grow up. The character's name comes from two sources: Peter Llewelyn Davies, and Pan, the naughty Greek god of the woodlands. When Mr and Mrs Llewelyn Davies died, Barrie looked after the boys. He loved all of them very much, and he hoped that the story of Peter Pan and the magical Neverland would help them recover from losing their parents.

There are several plays, musicals and films based on the story of *Peter Pan*. It is so famous that there are statues of Peter Pan in England, Belgium, America, Canada and Australia.

THE PLOT

Peter Pan is a little boy who refuses to grow up, and spends his time having magical adventures. Peter lives in the Neverland with his friends, the Lost Boys. The Lost Boys do not have a mother, so Peter invites Wendy Darling to the Neverland, and he asks her to be a mother for the Lost Boys. Wendy's brothers, John and Michael, come to the Neverland with Wendy. The children have many adventures there. They save the fairy Tinker Bell, and they fight the dangerous Captain Hook. In the end, Wendy decides that the best place for her is at home. She brings all the boys back to London, and they live happily there. Wendy and the boys grow up, but what happens to Peter? Will he ever grow up?

THE CHARACTERS

THE DARLINGS

MR DARLING

... is the father of Wendy, John, and Michael and the husband of Mrs Darling. Mr Darling is a strict man. However, he loves his children and he only wants what is best for them.

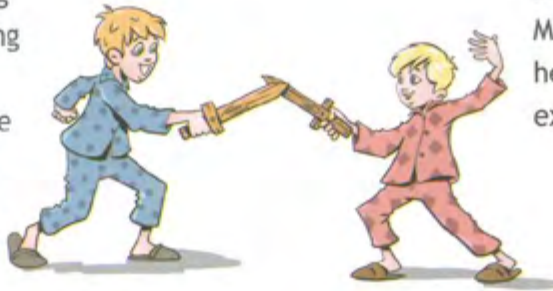


MRS DARLING

... is the mother of the three children. Mrs Darling is loving and imaginative and loves her family more than anything in the world.

JOHN

... is the middle Darling child. He enjoys playing games and having adventures. He is quite a brave boy. He loves his brother and sister, but he sometimes teases Michael.



MICHAEL

... is the youngest Darling child. Michael likes games, too, and he often pretends to travel to exciting places.

WENDY

... is the oldest of the Darling children. She becomes good friends with Peter. Wendy also becomes a mother for the Lost Boys, and she enjoys her job very much. She is kind and loving.



NANA

... is a loving nanny. She looks after the Darling children. She is kind and good, and she loves the children very much. There is something a little bit strange about her ... Nana is a large dog!





PETER PAN

... is a magical little boy. He never wanted to grow up, so he ran away when he was born. He now lives in the Neverland, and he is the leader of the Lost Boys. He can be gentle and kind, but he is usually naughty, and a little bit uncaring.

TINKER BELL

... is a tiny, pretty fairy. She is Peter Pan's friend, and she goes everywhere with him. Tinker Bell loves Peter, and she is very jealous of Wendy.



THE PIRATES



CAPTAIN HOOK

... is the captain of the pirates and an evil man. Hook hates Peter Pan. He is afraid of the crocodile, because it wants to eat him.

STARKEY

... is a pirate and he lives in the Neverland. The children are afraid of Starkey because he is a very strict and unkind man.



SMEE

... works for Captain Hook. He is not very clever. He is very afraid of his captain so he always does what Hook tells him to do. Smee is not really a bad man.



THE LOST BOYS

The Lost Boys are young boys who used to live in the real world. Sadly, their parents lost them when they were babies and no one ever found them. The Lost Boys came to live in the Neverland. Peter looks after them, but they really need a mother, because they have never had one.



TOOTLES



SLIGHTLY



CURLY



NIBS



THE TWINS



• 1. The Darlings •

The Darling family lived in London. Mr Darling was a strict and serious man, but he loved his children very much. His wife was loving and sweet. There were three Darling children. Wendy was the oldest, then there was John, and last of all, there was Michael. The Darlings were not rich, but they wanted a nanny for their children. Luckily, they found Nana. Nana was perfect in every way. She loved the children and looked after them carefully. However, people stopped to stare when they saw the three children with their nanny. You see, Nana was a large yellow dog that the Darlings met in the park. Mr Darling worried that his neighbours might think he was strange, but Nana was the best nanny in London. She kept the children safe and she made them very happy. In fact, the Darling family was the happiest family in London until Peter Pan came.



The Darling children often dreamed of the magical land called the Neverland. They saw the strange land with its lagoons, caves and forests. The Neverland was different for each of the children. John lived in a boat turned upside down on the sand. Michael lived in a wigwam, while Wendy lived in a house made of leaves sewn together. They all dreamed of Peter, however, especially Wendy. She knew that Peter often came to the children's room at night while they were asleep. When she told her mother about this, Mrs Darling did not believe her.

"No one can get into the house without knocking, dear," said Mrs Darling.

"I think Peter comes in through the window," said Wendy.

"But my love, the window is three floors up," smiled Mrs Darling.

"Yes," said Wendy, "but Peter can fly."

Mrs Darling was sure that Peter was just a dream, but the next night showed that Wendy had not been dreaming and that Peter was real.