

Study Guide prepared by
Catherine Bush
Barter Playwright-in-Residence

Peter Pan

Adapted by Catherine Bush from the book by J.M. Barrie

*Especially for Grades K-6

The Barter Players, touring Jan. thru March 2020
Barter's Smith Theatre– April, 2020

(NOTE: Standards listed below include those for reading the story *Peter Pan*, seeing a performance of the play, and completing the study guide.)



Virginia SOLs

English – K.1, K.5, K.7, K.8, K.11, K.12, 1.1, 1.7, 1.8, 1.9, 1.12, 1.14, 2.1, 2.6, 2.7, 2.10, 2.12, 3.1, 3.2, 3.4, 3.5, 3.8, 3.10, 4.1, 4.2, 4.4, 4.5, 4.7, 4.9, 5.1, 5.2, 5.4, 5.5, 5.7, 5.9, 6.1, 6.2, 6.4, 6.5, 6.7, 6.9

Theatre Arts – 6.5, 6.7, 6.10, 6.18, 6.21

Tennessee /North Carolina Common Core State Standards

English/Language Arts - Reading Literacy: K.1, K.2, K.3, K.5, 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.10, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.7, 4.10, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.10, 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4, 6.7, 6.10

English Language Arts – Writing: K.1, K.3, K.4, K.5, K.8, 1.1, 1.3, 1.5, 1.8, 2.1, 2.3, 2.5, 2.8, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.7, 3.8, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.7, 4.8, 4.9, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.7, 5.8, 5.9, 6.2, 6.3, 6.7, 6.9

Tennessee Fine Arts Curriculum Standards

Theatre – K.T.P1, K.T.Cr2, K.T.R1.A, K.T.R2, K.T.R3, 1.T.Cr2, 1.T.Cr3, 1.T.R1, 1.T.R2, 1.T.R3, 2.T.Cr2, 2.T.Cr3, 2.T.R1, 2.T.R2, 2.T.R3, 3.T.Cr2, 3.T.Cr3, 3.T.R1, 4.T.Cr2, 4.T.Cr3, 4.T.R1, 5.T.Cr2, 5.T.Cr3, 5.T.R1, 6.T.Cr2, 6.T.R1, 6.T.R2, 6.T.R3

North Carolina Essential Standards

Theatre Arts – K.A.1, K.AE.1, 1.A.1, 1.AE.1, 1.CU.2, 2.C.2, 2.A.1, 2.AE.1, 3.C.1, 3.C.2, 3.A.1, 3.CU.1, 3.CU.2, 4.C.1, 4.A.1, 4.AE.1, 5.C.1, 5.A.1, 5.AE.1, 5.CU.2, 6.C.2, 6.A.1, 6.CU.2

Setting

A children's nursery in London and the island of Neverland...



Characters

Wendy – a young girl with an imagination

John– Wendy's brother

Michael – Wendy's youngest brother

Mrs. Darling – the children's mother

Mr. Darling – the children's father

Nana – a dog, the children's nurse

Peter Pan – a boy who won't grow up

Tinkerbell – a fairy who loves Peter

Shadow – Peter's shadow

Captain Hook– leader of the pirates, Peter's nemesis

Smee– Hook's first mate

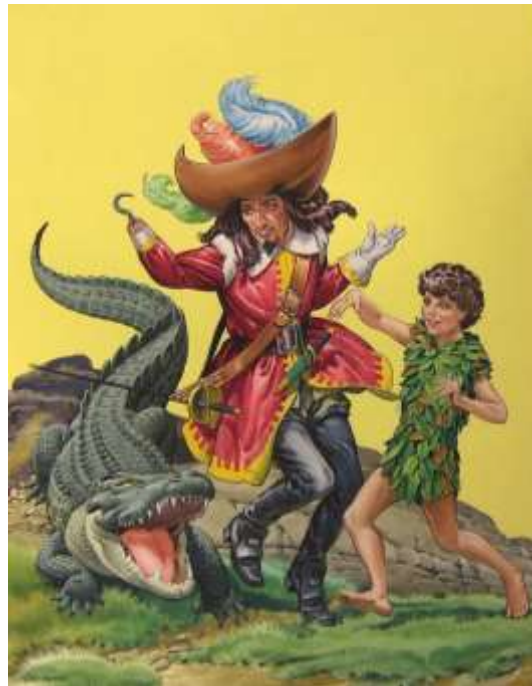
Great Big Little Panther – Chief of the PA-Ja-Ma tribe

Tiger Lily – princess of the PA-Ja-Ma tribe

Crocodile – a beast with an appetite for Captain Hook

Note: Cast Size and Doubling of Actors

In this production of **Peter Pan**, we will be using only six actors. Some actors will be required to play more than one role. Doubling of actors requires distinction between characters. In this production, characters will be distinguished by costume, voice and other physical character traits.



Synopsis

Wendy Darling and her younger brothers John and Michael are playing pirates when their mother, Mrs. Darling, interrupts in order to put them to bed. When Mrs. Darling asks about the game they were playing, Wendy explains that one of its main characters is a young boy named Peter Pan, who visits them every night while they're sleeping. In fact, the last time Peter was there, he left his shadow behind, and Wendy has locked it in the trunk for safekeeping. The thought of a nightly intruder unnerves Mrs. Darling, and when Mr. Darling insists that they go out for the evening, Mrs. Darling is reluctant to leave her children. She wants the children's nurse – a dog named Nana – to sleep in the nursery with them, but the no-nonsense Mr. Darling is adamant that Nana be chained in the yard like every other dog. Mrs. Darling finally acquiesces, but before she leaves she sings her children a lullaby about a far-off place called Neverland.

With Mr. and Mrs. Darling gone for the evening, the children asleep, and Nana chained in the yard, the coast is clear for Peter Pan to retrieve his shadow. Aided by his faithful fairy, Tinkerbell, he locates it in the trunk, but his efforts to reattach it awaken Wendy. Wendy introduces herself, and Peter explains his predicament.

Wendy sews his shadow back on. While she does so, Peter regales her with tales of fairies and pirates and the Lost Boys of Neverland. Peter asks Wendy to fly back to Neverland with him so she can be a mother to the boys, tucking them into bed every night and telling them bedtime stories. Tinkerbell is furious; she's jealous of Peter's attention to Wendy, but Peter ignores her. Wendy reminds Peter she doesn't know how to fly. Peter offers to teach her, and Wendy insists that he teach John and Michael as well. Peter agrees, the boys are awakened, and with the help of happy thoughts and a little fairy-dust, they are all out the window and en route to Neverland.



Once there, we meet Captain Hook and his first mate Smee, who are seeking revenge on Peter Pan; Great Big Little Panther and his daughter Tiger Lily, who are seeking revenge on Captain Hook; and a ticking Crocodile who, after devouring Captain Hook's hand, won't give up until he's eaten the rest of him.

Synopsis (cont.)

Peter takes Wendy, John, and Michael to his Hideout under the Grove of Trees, and he introduces them to the Lost Boys. Wendy immediately begins to mother them – giving them medicine before tucking them in and reading them a bed time story. Meanwhile, Tiger Lily, determined to retrieve the Royal Necklace of the PA-Ja-Mas – which Hook stole – sneaks aboard Hook's ship, the Jolly Roger but is caught before she can get it back and tied up.

The next day, Wendy, Peter and the boys are swimming at Marooner's Rock when they notice the pirates approaching. The boys swim to shore, but Wendy and Peter have no choice but to hide. Hook and Smee row up in a boat with their prisoner, Tiger Lily. Their intention is to abandon her there so that when the tide comes in, she'll drown. Suddenly Peter springs up from behind the rock, rips the Royal Necklace from Hook's grasp, frees Tiger Lily, gives her the necklace then tells her to swim for it. Peter and Hook battle. Peter gets hurt and Hook is about to finish him off when he hears the ticking of the Crocodile. Hook and Smee flee in the boat with the Crocodile in pursuit. The tide is coming in, and Peter and Wendy are going to drown unless they get off the rock, but Peter is too injured to fly or swim. Suddenly John appears on the shore with his kite; he flies the kite out to the Rock, Wendy and Peter grab hold of the tail, and John is able to "fly" them to shore.



On the way back to the Hideout, Wendy and Peter are met by Great Big Little Panther, who thanks Peter for saving Tiger Lily's life. Realizing that Peter is wounded, Tiger Lily places the magical Royal Necklace around his neck and he is healed. Panther and Tiger Lily promise to guard the Grove of Trees to prevent the pirates from attacking the Hideout. Back in the Hideout, Wendy tells the boys a bedtime story about her family. In the story, Wendy reveals that she is certain that Mrs. Darling will leave the bedroom window open for them forever. Peter assures her that the opposite is true. He tells her that when he went back to his home after his adventures, the window was shut and another child was sleeping in his bed. Panicking at the very idea of being replaced, the Darling children determine to go home that very night. Peter refuses to go with them. Wendy is heartbroken. Before she leaves, she fills a glass with medicine for Peter to take, but he refuses that as well. Wendy and the boys leave.

Synopsis (cont.)

Meanwhile, above the ground, in the Grove of Trees, the pirates have launched a surprise attack against the PA-Ja-Mas, and Panther and Tiger Lily have no choice but to flee for their life. As Wendy and the boys, leave the Hideout, the pirates capture them and Smee takes them back to the ship. Hook finds the secret entrance and makes his way into the Hideout, where he finds Peter asleep. Hook decides the best way to kill Peter is to put poison in his medicine – but he is unaware that Tinkerbell is watching. Hook leaves and Peter wakes up. Tinkerbell informs him that Wendy and the boys have been captured by the pirates. Peter wants to rescue them, but before he does so, he decides to drink his medicine. Tink warns him that it's been poisoned, but Peter doesn't believe her. Desperate to save him, Tinkerbell drinks the medicine instead and starts to die. Peter brings her back to life by convincing those around him to clap for her and *believe*. Tinkerbell's health is restored and they off to rescue their friends.

Aboard the Jolly Roger, Captain Hook is just about to make Wendy walk the plank when Peter shows up. Once more the pirate and the Youth do battle. This time, Peter has the upper hand. Peter pushes Hook overboard and he falls into the mouth of the waiting Crocodile. Peter then leads Wendy and her brothers back to the Nursery, arriving just before their parents return. Wendy begs Peter to stay, but Peter reminds her that he would be expected to grow up, and he is determined never to do that. Peter watches as Mrs. Darling enters and makes sure her children are tucked in for the night, and then he leaves for another adventure.



Biography of the Author



James Matthew “J.M.” Barrie was born May 9, 1860 in Kirriemuir, Scotland. Barrie decided to become a writer when he was quite young. By the time he was twenty-two, he was already a freelance drama critic and book reviewer. He moved to London in 1885, and his work started getting noticed. A great lover of theatre, he eventually started writing for the stage. He met the actress Mary Ansell at an audition, and the two married in 1894. Then, in 1897, Barrie was introduced to Sylvia Llewelyn Davies, a society matron whose children Barrie had befriended on an outing in Kensington Gardens. Soon the two families began socializing regularly. Barrie adored the Davies boys, and would tell them adventurous tales of pirates that would eventually become the basis for

his most enduring novel *Peter and Wendy*, which is known today as *Peter Pan*. (Peter was named after Sylvia’s middle son, Peter Llewelyn Davies.) When Sylvia Davies and her husband Arthur were lost to illness, Barrie assumed financial/parental responsibility for the five boys and raised them to adulthood. Barrie continued to write plays until his death on June 19, 1937.

Biography of the Playwright

Catherine Bush lives in Abingdon, VA where she is Barter Theatre’s playwright-in-residence. Her plays for young audiences include *Cry Wolf!*,



Sleeping Beauty, Rapunzel, Frosty, The Scarlet Letter, The Adventures of Tom Sawyer, My Imaginary Pirate, The Red Badge of Courage, All I Want for Christmas is My Two Front Teeth, The Princess and the Pea, The Call of the Wild, Aesop’s Fables, Santa Claus is Coming to Town, Mother Goose: The Musical, The Legend of Sleepy Hollow, Antigone, Jingle All the Way, Great Expectations, Anne of Green Gables, Old Turtle and the Broken Truth, Robin Hood, Snow White

and the Seven Dwarfs, Alice in Wonderland, Clementine: the Musical, Tarzan, and The Little Mermaid.

Vocabulary Words

pixie	crowing	interfere	perimeter
swarthy	tinker	injure	conundrum
plank	pram	valuable	wretched
reputation	lagoon	sterilize	prisoner
lullaby	revenge	descendant	insolent
reef	impudence	consider	sinister
conceited	villain	adopt	infernal

Define each of the vocabulary words listed above then write sentences using them. Remember: anyone reading your sentence should be able to understand the word from the context in which it is used.

Find the Lost Boys!

Have some of your students draw pictures of the six Lost Boys in the novel *Peter Pan*: Nibs, Curly, Tootles, Slightly, and the Twins. Hide the pictures around the classroom, and draw a treasure map with clues that will help your students find them. The addition of a loudly ticking clock can add to the excitement; the students must find them before the Crocodile does!





A Brief History

Barter Theatre was founded during the Great Depression by Robert Porterfield, an enterprising young actor. He and his fellow actors found themselves out of work and hungry in New York City. Porterfield contrasted that to the abundance of food, but lack of live theatre, around his home region in Southwest Virginia. He returned to Washington County with an extraordinary proposition: bartering produce from the farms and gardens of the area to gain admission to see a play.

Barter Theatre opened its doors on June 10, 1933 proclaiming, “With vegetables you cannot sell, you can buy a good laugh.” The price of admission was 40 cents or the equivalent in produce, the concept of trading “ham for Hamlet” caught on quickly. At the end of the first season, the Barter Company cleared \$4.35 in cash, two barrels of jelly and enjoyed a collective weight gain of over 300 pounds.

Playwrights including Noel Coward, Tennessee Williams and Thornton Wilder accepted Virginia ham as payment for royalties. An exception was George Bernard Shaw, a vegetarian, who bartered the rights to his plays for spinach.

Today, Barter Theatre has a reputation as a theatre where many actors performed before going on to achieve fame and fortune. The most recognized of these alumni include Gregory Peck, Patricia Neal, Ernest Borgnine, Hume Cronyn, Ned Beatty, Gary Collins, Larry Linville and Frances Fisher. The list also included James Burrows, creator of *Cheers*, Barry Corbin, and the late Jim Varney.

Robert Porterfield passed away in 1971. His successor, Rex Partington, had been at Barter in the 1950s as an actor and in the 1970s as stage manager. Rex returned as chief administrator from 1972 until his retirement in 1992. In March 2006, he passed away.

Richard Rose was named the Producing Artistic Director in October 1992. During his tenure, attendance grew from 42,000 to more than 163,000 annual patrons. Significant capital improvements were also made, including renovation of the main stage (now Gilliam Stage) in 1995 and the 2006 addition of The Barter Café at Stage II (now the Smith Theatre). Rose retired in December of 2019 and Katy Brown, who had been at Barter since 1998 as the Director of the Barter Players and as an Associate Artistic Director, was named the fourth Producing Artistic Director – and is the first woman to hold the position.

Barter represents two distinct venues of live theatre: Barter Theatre’s Gilliam Stage, and Barter’s Smith Theatre. Gilliam Stage, with over 500 seats, features traditional theatre in a luxurious setting. Barter’s Smith Theatre offers seating for 167 around a thrust stage in an intimate setting and is perfect for more adventurous productions. Barter Theatre is also home to The Barter Players, a talented ensemble of actors who produce plays for young audiences throughout the year.


History is always in the making at Barter Theatre, building on legends of the past; Barter looks forward to the challenge of growth in the future.

Questions/Activities

1. What was Peter looking for when he flew into the nursery at the beginning of the play? Did he find it?
2. In words (oral or written) or pictures, describe what happened in the play you saw. Be sure to include the characters, how they were represented on stage, and what each of them wanted. (**Hint:** Who? What? When? How? Why?)
3. In the book *Peter Pan*, the Narrator tells us that every child has his or her own unique Neverland. For example, in John's Neverland, there was a lagoon over which flamingos flew. In Michael's Neverland, Michael made his home in a wigwam, and in Wendy's Neverland, she had a pet wolf. If you could imagine your own Neverland, what would be in it? Would it be an island? A mountaintop? A desert? **Write a paper describing your Neverland and the adventures that await you there. Present it to your class.**

EXTRA CREDIT: using pictures from magazines, catalogs, etc. make a collage of your Neverland. Display them in the classroom. Can your classmates pick out which Neverland is yours?



4. **Write a critique** of this play, discussing what you liked, didn't like, and what you would have done differently.
5. Why did Peter want Wendy to fly to Neverland with him? How was he able to persuade her to go? **Discuss.**
6. Why is Captain Hook afraid of the Crocodile? **Using the internet, research crocodiles.** Where do they live? What do they eat? How do they compare to alligators? **Present your findings to the class in an oral report.**
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7. What do the children need to use in order to fly? If you could fly out your window at night, where would you go? What would you do? Imagine you were given the gift of flight and **write a paragraph describing** what it felt like.

8. After reading *Peter Pan* by J.M. Barrie and seeing a performance of the Barter Player's production, how do the two compare? How many characters are in the book? How are the Lost Boys represented in the play? Which version did you like better? Why? **Discuss.**

9. J.M. Barrie was born in Scotland. Using the internet, research the people of Scotland and their culture. What language do they speak? What foods do they eat? What is their climate? The population of the country? What sort of government does it have? **Present your findings to the class.**

10. "Growing up" and "motherhood" are two recurring themes in this story. What do these concepts mean to Peter and the Lost Boys? What do they mean to Wendy? **Discuss.**



11. How does a touring show at your school compare to a show produced at a theatre in terms of set, props, costumes, and performing space. **Discuss.**

12. After reading *Peter Pan*, **write a paper comparing and contrasting** the characters of Mr. Darling and Captain Hook. What do they have in common? How are they different? In theatre, it is a tradition that the actor playing Mr. Darling also plays Captain Hook. Why do you think this is? If Peter Pan ever grew up, would he be more like Captain Hook or more like Mr. Darling? **Discuss.**

13. **Write a letter** to your favorite actors from this production. Tell them what you liked about the play, their performance, etc. Mail your letters to:

The Barter Players
c/o Barter Theatre
P.O. Box 867
Abingdon, VA 24212-0867
ATTN: Peter Pan

14. This play, *Peter Pan*, is adapted from a well-known children's story. Pick another favorite childhood story: *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*, *Little Red Riding Hood*, etc. Divide the class into groups and assign each group a scene from the story. **Have each group adapt their scene into the scene for a play.** Try to avoid using a narrator. Instead, tell the story through action and dialogue (conversation between two or more people). Now **have each group present their scene in chronological order.** Is the story told? How different is your play from the fairy tale? How difficult is it to take a piece of literature and turn it into a theatrical event? **Discuss.**

BUILD A FAIRY HOUSE FOR TINKERBELL!

Check out the link below for step-by-step instructions on how to build a happy home for one of literature's most famous (and favorite) fairies!

<https://www.wikihow.com/Make-a-Fairy-House>



WORD SEARCH

Find the following words below:

Peter Pan, Wendy Darling, crocodile, Captain Hook, John,
Neverland, Tiger Lily, Lost Boys, Michael, kite, Marooner's Rock,
lagoon, Jolly Roger, Nana, fairy dust, Tinkerbell, Hideout, plank,
PAJaMa tribe, medicine, poison, believe

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

Color the picture of Captain Hook!



True and False

Write **T** if the statement is **True** and **F** if the statement is **False**.

1. ____ *Peter Pan* was written by J.M. Barrie.
2. ____ Tinkerbell is a grumpy garden gnome.
3. ____ Wendy is the younger sister of John and Michael Darling.
4. ____ The children's nurse – Nana – is a dog.
5. ____ Tiger Lily is the daughter of Great Big Little Lion.
6. ____ Peter Pan is captain of the Jolly Roger.
7. ____ Captain Hook has a wooden leg.
8. ____ Peter uses fairy (pixie) dust to help the children fly.
9. ____ Peter saves Tiger Lily from drowning on Marooner's Rock.
10. ____ Tinkerbell is Wendy's best friend.
11. ____ Nibs is Captain Hook's first mate.
12. ____ Peter Pan can't wait to grow up.
13. ____ Kensington Gardens is where the Lost Boys live.
14. ____ Wendy, Michael, and John decide to leave Neverland.
15. ____ Mr. and Mrs. Darling adopt Peter Pan.

Matching

Draw a line connecting the person/place in the first column with its corresponding description.

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Jolly Roger | a. refuses to grow up |
| 2. Smee | b. Peter's sworn enemy |
| 3. Crocodile | c. Captain Hook's ship |
| 4. Peter Pan | d. the Darling's nurse |
| 5. Neverland | e. where Lost Boys live |
| 6. Captain Hook | f. Hook's first mate |
| 7. Nana | g. swallowed a clock |

Suggested Further Reading/Links

Other stories by J.M. Barrie:

The Little White Bird

Peter Pan in Kensington Gardens

To find out more about J.M. Barrie, his life and his work, go to this link:

<https://www.biography.com/writer/jm-barrie>

