

## J. M. Barrie and *Peter Pan*

James Barrie was born in 1860 in Scotland. When he was six his brother David died at thirteen in a skating accident, and his mother retired to her bedroom for months. It is commonly agreed that Barrie decided to comfort his mother by becoming his dead brother, using his clothes, mimicking his habits, and remaining always a boy. Besides, Barrie was very short and thin since childhood. At eighteen he didn't enjoy the company or the interests of the men of his age, which included women. In his notebooks, he wrote things like "Greatest horror, dream I am married, wake up shrieking ... Grow up and have to give up marbles, awful thought". He became a successful playwright in London, where he had literary friends like Conan Doyle and was acquainted with Milne, and married an actress, the protagonist of one of his plays, *Walker, London* (1892). The couple never had children. They bought a St. Bernard who was bigger than any of them and whom they called Porthos. Barrie used to take Porthos for a walk in Kensington Gardens, and it was there that he met the Llewelyn Davies's, the most glamorous and well-connected family in London, who had five sons. Barrie became a close friend of this family, adored Sylvia, the mother, and regularly took the boys out to play or to the theatre. He also played with them and his dog in Kensington Gardens, where the children spent afternoons with their nanny.



Barrie fictionalized his relationship with the Llewelyn children in a book called *The White Little Bird* (1902). This book was turned into a very successful play, *Peter Pan, or The Boy Who Wouldn't Grow Up* (1904), first performed in Christmas time following the model of 19<sup>th</sup> century English pantomimes: holiday treats for children which included music, humour, magic, flying, and fantastic elements. In these performances, the most important boy characters were generally played by women rather than male children, partly because they could memorize the lines better and because they could look like little boys more easily. Barrie adapted the play into the 1911 novel *Peter and Wendy*, later published simply as *Peter Pan*. In the 1920s, Barrie decided to give the copyright of this work to the Great Ormond Street children's hospital. In the summer of 2009, the hospital will lose the rights in the work. A competition was set up to write a sequel to the work before that deadline, which has been won by Geraldine McCaughrean's *Peter Pan in Scarlet* (Imlah 2008).

The 1900s witnessed the publication of a number of children's classics such as Kenneth Grahame's *The Wind in the Willows* (1908), Edith Nesbit's *The Railway Children* (1906), F.H.Burnett's *The Secret Garden* (1909), *A Little Princess* (1905), and Beatrix Potter's tales.

*Peter Pan* is the story of a fairy/god/boy figure, Peter Pan, who enters the nursery of the Darling children, Wendy, John and Michael, and teaches them to fly. The Darling children have a loving mother, a cruel father and a nurse who is an English sheepdog. One night, when the dog is locked up, they fly away with Peter to his wild

island, Neverland. Wendy fulfils the role of mother in the group of lost boys and their adventures include battles with Indians, pirates led by the terrible Captain Hook, and a crocodile who ticks because he has swallowed a clock. They nearly die when Hook captures them, but Peter fights him and kicks him into the sea, where he is eaten by the crocodile. The children return home, the Darling parents adopt the lost boys, but Peter refuses to join them and remains always a boy in Neverland. The novel has a fantasy setting, the Neverland island with the Mermaid's Lagoon, the Marooner's Rock, the neverbirds.

Peter Pan symbolizes eternal youth. It is inspired in Pan, the Greek God of nature who was half-boy and half-beast, a playful, irresponsible creature that never ages. The Pan figure influenced other children's writers of this time, such as Robert Louis Stevenson, Kenneth Grahame (*Wind in the Willows*) or Kipling (*Puck of Puck's Hill*). In contrast, the crocodile symbolizes the passage of Time. Traditionally, Mr Darling and Captain Hook are played by the same actor when the play is performed. These characters are mature villains over whom the child Peter and the Lost Boys win (Wullschläger 2001).

There is a Disney version of *Peter Pan* as well as two films, the sequel *Hook* (1991), and *Finding Neverland* (2004), which fictionalizes Barrie's life and his composition of *Peter Pan*.

### **Bibliography and works consulted**

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Imlah, Mick. "Neverland Regained". *Times Literary Supplement Online* at <http://tls.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,25339-2421248,00.html>

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Rose, Jacqueline. *The Case of Peter Pan or the Impossibility of Children's Fiction*. McMillan, 1994.

Wullschläger, Jackie. *Inventing Wonderland: The Lives of Lewis Carroll, Edward Lear, J.M.Barrie, Kenneth Grahame and A.A. Milne*. London: Methuen, 2001.

**Photograph:** "Peter Pan". (c) Blu, blue 2007. In flickr with cc licence.



Unit 12. Sheep, Jeep, Cheap. The Consonant Sounds /t̃/, /d3/ and /t̃̃/. Unit 12; Part A. Listen to the sound /t̃̃/. Look at the mouth diagram to see how to make this consonant sound. Notice that there is no voice from the throat, and you can feel the air on your hand when you pur it in front of your mouth.Â Sharon shouldn't wash her shoes in the shower. Unit 12; Part B. Listen to the sounds /d3/ and /t̃̃̃/. Look at the mouth diagram in Ðj to see how to make these consonant sounds. With /t̃̃̃/ there is no voice from the throat, with /d3/ there is. Notice that you can make the sound /t̃̃̃/ into a continuous sound, but you cannot do this with /t̃̃̃/ and /d3/. Unit 12; Part C. Listen to the sound /d3/ on its own. Listen to the target sound /d3/ in the words below and compare it with the words on each side. JM Barrie: evil genius or a misunderstood ingenue? JM Barrie, Scottish playwright and author of Peter Pan, was born in Kirriemuir, Angus, on May 9, 1860. National Portrait Gallery Art Gallery Barrie Paisley Art Artist David Lloyd George Art Uk Painting Art. Sir James Matthew Barrie (1860â€“1937), Author | Art UK.Â J. M. Barrie - The Little White Bird. James M Barrie Peter Pan Creator Dies at 77 June 20th 1937 Scots Author B1. JM Barrie bowls a left-hander at Dundee University College in 1922. Famous Scots Author. The final team line-up in 1913 included AA Milne (middle row, far left) and JM Barrie (middle row, third left).Â The Orchid â€“ Page 12 â€“ Gabrielle Ray. Posts about The Orchid written by summertime75. J M Barrie. Unit 17: Building Regulations and Control in Construction: Assignment 1. 5 pages. From the beginning if the drawings are inaccurate and hard to see it could. Kansas State University. CNS 321 - Spring 2014. Unit 8- assignment 1. 11 pages. When working in the construction area there are acts and regulations that must. Kansas State University. CNS 321 - Spring 2014. Unit 6 assignment 2. 5 pages. Unit 10 surveying assignment 2. Kansas State University. J.M. Barrie was born in 1860, the son of Margaret and Alexander Barrie, in the Scottish town of Kirriemuir. He had an older brother, David, who was known to be one of those beautiful golden children who everyone adored. In the winter of 1867, David was hit by a fellow ice-skater. He fell, cracked his skull, and died. Barrie's mother never recovered mentally, and was said to find small comfort in the fact that David would remain a boy forever. It was here that Barrie's lifelong obsession with boys and the preservation of their innocence became anchored in his psyche. Barrie moved to L