

A World of IMAGINATION

PETER PAN

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

J.M. Barrie was a Scottish dramatist, best known for writing *Peter Pan* (1904), or *The Boy Who Would Never Grow Up*. The son of Scottish weavers, he moved to London to pursue his interest in becoming a playwright. It was there where he met the Llewelyn Davies boys who inspired his masterpiece. Based on Barrie's enchanting characters, Disney created the animated classic, *Peter Pan*.

After having some success with fiction, Barrie began writing plays in 1890s. His play, *Walker London*, was warmly received. The comedy poked fun at the institution of marriage. He got married himself in 1894 to actress Mary Ansell, but it didn't turn out to be a happy union. (The couple later divorced.) Perhaps to escape his difficult home life, Barrie took to going out for long walks in London's Kensington Gardens where he met the five Llewelyn Davies brothers in the late 1890s. He found inspiration for his best-known work—*Peter Pan*—in his friendship with the Davies family. (Barrie would later become the boys' guardian after the death of their parents.)

The famous character of *Peter Pan* first appeared in the 1902 book *The Little White Bird*. Two years later, his play *Peter Pan* premiered on the London stage and became a great success. Audiences were drawn in the fantastical tale of the flying boy who never grew up and his adventures in Neverland with the Darling children. Barrie also wrote a book based on the play called *Peter and Wendy*, which was published in 1911. The book earned raves from critics.

J. M. Barrie died on June 19, 1937, in London, England. As a part of his will, he gave the copyright to *Peter Pan* to a children's hospital in London. After his death, Barrie's beloved characters were transformed into animated figures in the Disney classic *Peter Pan* (1953). The story was also the basis for the 1991 film *Hook*. And a live-action version of the story, *Peter Pan*, was released in 2003.



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JAMES MATTHEW BARRIE

Name: J.M. Barrie

Occupation: Writer, Playwright

Birth Date: May 09, 1860

Death Date: June 19, 1937

Education: University of Edinburgh

1. Introduce the documents.

a. type / place / time ...

2. What was Barrie's nationality?

3. What famous story did he write?

4. How did he find inspiration for his story of Peter Pan?

5. How was the story welcomed by the critics and audience?

6. What was special in his will? Why?

7. What are the most famous adaptations of his play of Peter Pan?