

Peter Pan is a fictional character created by Scottish novelist and playwright J. M. Barrie. A free-spirited and mischievous young boy who can fly and never grows up, Peter Pan spends his never-ending childhood having adventures on the mythical island of Neverland as the leader of the Lost Boys, interacting with fairies, pirates, mermaids, Native Americans, and occasionally ordinary children from the world outside Neverland. Peter Pan has become a cultural icon symbolizing youthful innocence and escapism. In addition to two distinct works by Barrie, *The Little White Bird* (1902, with chapters 13–18 published in *Peter Pan in Kensington Gardens* in 1906), and the West End stage play *Peter Pan; or, the Boy Who Wouldn't Grow Up* (1904, which expanded into the 1911 novel *Peter and Wendy*), the character has been featured in a variety of media and merchandise, both adapting and expanding on Barrie's works. These include the 1924 silent film, 1953 Disney animated film, a 2003 dramatic/live-action film, a television series and many other works.

**Contents**  
 1 Origin  
 2 Physical appearance  
 3 Age  
 4 Personality  
 5 Abilities  
 6 Cultural allusions  
 7 Relationships  
 7.1 Family  
 7.2 Friends  
 7.3 Adversaries  
 8 Publications  
 8.1 Original works  
 8.2 Motion pictures and television  
 8.3 Manga/anime, games, and comics  
 8.4 Music  
 8.5 Other uses in popular culture  
 9 Public sculptures  
 10 See also  
 11 References  
 12 External links

**Origin**  
 Peter Pan first appeared as a character in Barrie's *The Little White Bird* (1902), an adult novel. In chapters 13–18, titled "Peter Pan in Kensington Gardens", Peter is a seven-day-old baby and has flown from his nursery to Kensington Gardens in London, where the fairies and birds taught him to fly. He is described as "betwixt-and-between" a boy and a bird. Following the success of the 1904 play, Barrie's publishers, Hodder and Stoughton, extracted these chapters of *The Little White Bird* and published them in 1906 under the title *Peter Pan in Kensington Gardens*, with the addition of illustrations by Arthur Rackham.[1] Barrie returned to the character of Peter Pan, putting him at the centre of his stage play entitled *Peter Pan, or The Boy Who Wouldn't Grow Up*, which premiered on 27 December 1904 at the Duke of York's Theatre in London.[2] Barrie later adapted and expanded the play's storyline as a novel, which was published in 1911 as *Peter and Wendy*. J. M. Barrie may have based the character of Peter Pan on his older brother, David, who died in an ice-skating accident the day before his 14th birthday. His mother and brother thought of him as forever a boy.[3]

**Physical appearance**  
 1907 illustration of Peter Pan by Oliver Herford  
 Barrie never described Peter's appearance in detail, even in his novel, leaving it to the imagination of the reader and the interpretation of anyone adapting the character. In the play, Peter's outfit is made of autumn leaves and cobwebs.[4] His name and playing the flute or pipes suggest the Greek god and mythological character Pan. Barrie mentions in *Peter and Wendy* that Peter Pan still had all his "first teeth".[5] He describes him as a "lovely boy, clad in skeleton leaves and the juices that ooze out of trees".[5] Traditionally, the character has been played on stage by a petite adult woman.[6] In the original productions in the UK, Peter Pan's costume was a reddish tunic and dark green tights, such as that worn by Nina Boucicault in 1904. This costume is exhibited at Barrie's Birthplace.[7] The similar costume worn by Pauline Chase (who played the role from 1906 to 1913) is displayed in the Museum of London. Early editions of adaptations of the story also depict a red costume[8][9] but a green costume (whether or not made of leaves) becomes more usual from the 1920s,[10] and more so later after the release of Disney's animated movie. In the Disney films, Peter wears an outfit that consists of a short-sleeved green tunic and tights apparently made of cloth, and a cap with a red feather in it. He has

pointed elf-like ears, brown eyes and his hair is red. In *Hook* (1991), the character is played as an adult by Robin Williams, with blue eyes and dark brown hair; in flashbacks to him in his youth, his hair is light brown. His ears appear pointed only when he is Peter Pan, not as Peter Banning. His Pan attire resembles the Disney outfit (minus the cap). In the live-action 2003 *Peter Pan* film, he is portrayed by Jeremy Sumpter, with blond hair, blue eyes, bare feet and a costume made of leaves and vines. Age In *The Little White Bird* (1902) and *Peter Pan in Kensington Gardens* (1906), he was only seven days old. Although his age is not stated in Barrie's play (1904) or novel (1911), the novel mentions that he still had all his baby teeth. In other ways, the character appears to be about 12–13 years old. Personality Peter is an exaggerated stereotype of a boastful and careless boy. He claims greatness, even when such claims are questionable (such as congratulating himself when Wendy re-attaches his shadow). In the play and book, Peter symbolises the selfishness of childhood, and is portrayed as being forgetful and self-centred. Peter has a nonchalant, devil-may-care attitude, and is fearlessly cocky when it comes to putting himself in danger. Barrie writes that when Peter thought he was going to die on Marooners' Rock, he felt scared, yet he felt only one shudder. With this blithe attitude, he says, "To die will be an awfully big adventure". In the play, the unseen and unnamed narrator ponders what might have been if Peter had stayed with Wendy, so that his cry might have become, "To live would be an awfully big adventure!", "but he can never quite get the hang of it".[11] Abilities Peter's archetypal quality is his unending youth. In *Peter and Wendy*, it is explained that Peter must forget his own adventures and what he learns about the world in order to stay childlike. Peter's ability to fly is explained, but inconsistently. In *The Little White Bird*, he is able to fly because he is said to be part bird, like all babies. In the play and novel, he teaches the Darling children to fly using a combination of "lovely wonderful thoughts" and fairy dust. In Barrie's Dedication to the play *Peter Pan, The Boy Who Wouldn't Grow up*,[12] the author attributes the idea of fairy dust being necessary for flight to practical needs: ...after the first production I had to add something to the play at the request of parents (who thus showed that they thought me the responsible person) about no one being able to fly until the fairy dust had been blown on him; so many children having gone home and tried it from their beds and needed surgical attention. – J. M. Barrie Peter has an effect on the whole of Neverland and its inhabitants when he is there. Barrie states that although Neverland appears different to every child, the island "wakes up" when Peter returns from his trip to London. In the chapter "The Mermaids' Lagoon" in the book *Peter and Wendy*, Barrie writes that there is almost nothing that Peter cannot do. He is a skilled swordsman, rivalling even Captain Hook, whose hand he cut off in a duel. He has remarkably keen vision and hearing. He is skilled in mimicry, copying the voice of Hook and the ticking of the clock in the crocodile. Peter has the ability to imagine things into existence and he is able to feel danger when it is near. In *Peter and Wendy*, Barrie states that the Peter Pan legend Mrs Darling heard as a child, was that when children died, he accompanied them part of the way to their destination so they would not be frightened. In the original play, Peter states that no one must ever touch him (though he does not know why). The stage directions specify that no one does so throughout the play. Wendy approaches Peter to give him a "kiss" (thimble), but is prevented by Tinker Bell. However, John Caird and Trevor Nunn's introduction to the script for the 1997 Royal National Theatre production, states that this was never Barrie's original intention, and was only added for a production in 1927, where

Jean Forbes–Robertson took the title role, and played the part with a lighter, more fairy–like, physicality. Robertson was to play the part almost every year until 1939. Cultural allusions The character's name comes from two sources: Peter Llewelyn Davies, one of the five Llewelyn Davies boys who inspired the story, and Pan, a minor deity of Greek mythology who plays pipes to nymphs and is part human and part goat. This is referenced in Barrie's works (particularly *Peter Pan in Kensington Gardens*) where Peter Pan plays pipes to the fairies and rides a goat. The god Pan represents Nature or Man's natural state in contrast to Civilisation and the effects of upbringing on human behaviour. Peter Pan is a free spirit, being too young to be burdened with the effects of education or to have an adult appreciation of moral responsibility. As a 'betwixt–and–between', who can fly and speak the language of fairies and birds, Peter is part animal and part human. According to psychologist Rosalind Ridley, by comparing Peter's behaviour to adults and to other animals, Barrie raises many post–Darwinian questions about the origins of human nature and behaviour. As 'the boy who wouldn't grow up', Peter exhibits many aspects of the stages of cognitive development seen in children and can be regarded as Barrie's memory of himself as a child, being both charmingly childlike and childish solipsistic.[13] Relationships Main article:

**Characters of Peter Pan Family** Peter Pan ran away from his parents when he was a baby as told in *Peter Pan in Kensington Gardens* and *Peter and Wendy*. Finding the window closed and seeing a new baby boy in the house when he returned some time later, he believed his parents no longer wanted him and never came back. This younger sibling is referred to in the chapter "Lock–Out Time" in *Peter Pan in Kensington Gardens* but is not mentioned again. **Friends** Maimie Mannering While in Kensington Gardens, Peter meets a lost girl named Maimie Mannering and the two quickly become friends. Peter proposes marriage to Maimie. While Maimie wants to stay in the Gardens with Peter, she comes to realise that her mother is so worried that she must return to her. Maimie promises to always remember Peter and goes back to her mother. When Maimie grows up, she continues to think of Peter, dedicating presents and letters to him. To remember Maimie, Peter rides the imaginary goat that Maimie created for him. She is considered to be the literary predecessor of Wendy Darling.[14] **The Darlings** Wendy Darling Main article: Wendy Darling It is hinted that Wendy may have romantic feelings for Peter, but unrequited because of his inability to love. In the 2003 film *Peter Pan*, the feeling is mutual. Captain Hook can only take away Peter's ability to fly by thoughts of Wendy leaving him, growing up, and replacing him with a husband. Wendy saves Peter by giving him her hidden kiss which gives him the will to live, signifying she is his true love. In the movie *Hook*, an older Wendy implies that she used to (and perhaps, still does) have feelings for Peter, saying that she was shocked that he did not prevent her wedding day. In the sequel to the 1953 Disney film, *Return to Neverland*, Peter and a grown–up Wendy are briefly, but happily, reunited after many years and continue to show feelings for each other. In the original novel, Peter later befriends Wendy's daughter Jane (and her subsequent daughter Margaret), and it is implied that this pattern will go on forever. From time to time Peter visits the real world, and befriends children. Wendy Darling, whom he recruited to be his "mother", is the most significant of them; he also brings her brothers John and Michael to Neverland at her request. It is mentioned that Wendy was the only girl who captured his attention. **John Darling and Michael Darling** John is Wendy's younger brother. He is fascinated with piracy and imitates Captain Hook while playing at home with his siblings. He is also

courageous and smart. Michael, the youngest of the Darlings, is convinced that Peter Pan is a real person after hearing Wendy's vivid narratives about him. During nursery games, it is Michael who plays the role of Peter Pan.

**Mary and George Darling** The parents of Wendy, John and Michael. Mr. Darling works as a clerk in the City, and is named after George Llewelyn Davies. Mrs. Darling is named after Mary Ansell, Barrie's wife.

**Neverland inhabitants**

**Tiger Lily** Tiger Lily is the daughter of Great Big Little Panther, the chief of the Piccaninny Native American tribe resident in Neverland. Barrie refers to her as "a princess in her own right", and she is often described as such. She is kidnapped by the pirates and left to die on Marooners' Rock, but is rescued by Peter. It is hinted later that she may have romantic feelings for Peter but he does not return them, as he is completely oblivious of other people's feelings. In the Disney film, Tiger Lily shows her gratitude by performing a dance for Peter and kissing him. The kiss makes him turn bright red, and makes Wendy jealous of Tiger Lily.

**Tinker Bell** Main article: Tinker Bell Tinker Bell is a common fairy who is Peter Pan's best friend and often jealously protective of him. He nicknames her "Tink." She is the friend who helps him in his escapades. Tink's malicious actions are usually caused by her jealousy; these lead to the Lost Boys shooting arrows at Wendy (or nearly stoning her to death in the Disney film), and eventually to revealing Peter's hideout to Captain Hook, in the hope that Wendy will be captured rather than Peter. When Tink realises her serious mistake, she risks her own life by drinking the poison Hook has left for Peter (or pushing Hook's bomb away in Disney's movie). Her extreme loyalty and dedication to Peter is everlasting.

**The Lost Boys** Main article: Lost Boys (Peter Pan) Peter is the leader of the Lost Boys, which include Tootles, Nibs, Slightly, Curly, and The Twins. The Lost Boys is a band of boys who were lost by their parents after they "fall out of their perambulators" and came to live in Neverland. In Barrie's novel *Peter and Wendy* (but not the original play *Peter Pan*), it is stated that Peter "thins them out" when they start to grow up. This is never fully explained, but it is implied that he either kills them or banishes them. In the song "I Won't Grow Up" from the 1954 musical, the boys sing "I will stay a boy forever", to which Peter replies "and be banished if I don't". In *Peter Pan in Scarlet* (2006), the official sequel to Barrie's *Peter and Wendy*, what happens to the Lost Boys when they begin to grow up is revealed when Slightly starts to grow older, as Peter banishes him to Nowhereland (which basically means that he and all his allies will ignore the banished person's existence), the home of all the Long Lost Boys whom Peter has banished in times past.

**The Crocodile** The crocodile (Tick-Tock in the Disney film) is Captain Hook's nemesis. After Peter Pan cut off Captain Hook's hand in a fight and threw it into the sea, the crocodile swallowed it and got a taste for Hook, so it now seeks to consume him whole. It also swallowed a ticking clock, which alerts Hook of its presence.

**Adversaries**

**Captain Hook** Main article: Captain Hook Captain Hook, whose right hand was cut off in a duel, is Peter Pan's arch-enemy who leads a large group of pirates. Hook's crew, including Smee and Starkey, also consider him a foe. Captain Hook's two principal fears are the sight of his own blood (which is supposedly an unnatural colour) and one saltwater crocodile. His name plays on the iron hook that replaced his hand cut off by Peter Pan and eaten by the aforementioned crocodile, which continues to pursue Hook. In the 1953 animated film, Hook seeks revenge on Peter Pan for having fed the crocodile his hand, and refuses to leave Neverland without satisfaction.[15] Hook is supported by Mr. Smee. After promising Tinker Bell 'not to lay a finger (or a hook) on Peter Pan', he lays a bomb in Peter's hideout. At

the conclusion of the film, Hook is chased by the crocodile into the distance. Walt Disney insisted on keeping Hook alive, as he said: "The audience will get to liking Hook, and they don't want to see him killed." [16] In the sequel *Return to Never Land*, Hook mistakes Wendy's daughter Jane for Wendy, and uses her as bait to lure Peter Pan to his death.

**Mr. Smee** Main article: *Mr. Smee* Mr Smee is Captain Hook's boatswain ("bo'sun") and right-hand man in J. M. Barrie's play *Peter Pan* and the novel *Peter and Wendy*. Mr Smee is Captain Hook's direct confidant. Unlike the other pirates, Smee is often clumsy and incapable of capturing any of the Lost Boys. Rather than engaging in Hook's evil schemes, Smee finds excitement in bagging loot and treasures. Publications For a more comprehensive list, see *Works based on Peter Pan*.

**Cover of 1915 edition of J. M. Barrie's novel, first published in 1911, illustrated by F. D. Bedford** [17] Original works *Peter Pan, or The Boy Who Wouldn't Grow Up* (1904 play), a play in which Peter brings Wendy and her brothers to Neverland, where he has a showdown with his nemesis, **Captain Hook**. Barrie adapted this play as a novel; numerous variations and other adaptations have been produced in various media. *Peter Pan in Kensington Gardens* (1906), an origin story wherein the infant Peter flies away from his home, takes up residence in Kensington Gardens, and befriends the fairies. It is a "book-within-a-book" that was first published in Barrie's *The Little White Bird* (1902). When *Wendy Grew Up – An Afterthought* (1908), Barrie's sequel play. *Peter and Wendy* (1911), a novel Barrie adapted from the 1904 play, later republished as *Peter Pan and Wendy*; it also incorporates events of Barrie's sequel play, *When Wendy Grew Up – An Afterthought* (1908). Motion pictures and television *Peter Pan* appeared for the first time on screen in the 1924 American silent adventure film *Peter Pan* released by Paramount Pictures as an adaptation of the original stage play. Since their 1953 animated film, Walt Disney Animation Studios has continued to use Peter Pan as a character. The studio featured him in the sequel film *Return to Neverland*, in their parks as a meetable character based in Fantasyland and as the protagonist of the dark ride, *Peter Pan's Flight* also located in Fantasyland within most parks. He also appears in *House of Mouse*, *Mickey's Magical Christmas*, and the *Kingdom Hearts* video games. *The Paradise of Peter Pan* by Edward Mason Eggleston, 1934. In the anime-styled web series *RWBY*, the character Scarlet David is based on Peter Pan. The 1987 teen horror film *The Lost Boys* is loosely based on the story of Peter Pan and the title of the film is a direct reference to Peter's gang in the book. [18] In 1991, Robin Williams portrayed Peter Pan in the live-action film *Hook*, directed by Steven Spielberg, also starring Dustin Hoffman as Captain Hook and Julia Roberts as Tinker Bell. In the animated film *Shrek* (2001), Peter Pan is seen in a line ready to sell Tinker Bell to Duloc authorities. His only line in the film is "He can fly!", as a response to seeing Donkey flying thanks to Tinker Bell's fairy dust. In 2003, Jeremy Sumpter portrayed Peter in the live-action film directed by P J Hogan. In the television series *Once Upon a Time*, a malevolent version of Peter Pan, portrayed by Robbie Kay, appears as the main villain in the first half of the show's third season. and in the second half of the fifth season. In this series, he was originally a man named Malcolm and was father to Rumpelstiltskin, whom he sent away so he could be young again and took the name Peter Pan from Rumpelstiltskin's doll. In 2012, "Les Nouvelles Aventures de Peter Pan" are a french animation in "France 3" product by "DQ Entertainement" and "Method Animation". Manga/anime, games, and comics In the early 1930s, Edward Mason Eggleston painted a series of images for calendars that included Peter Pan, Indian princesses

and pirates. J. R. R. Tolkien's biographer Humphrey Carpenter has speculated that Tolkien's impressions of a 1910 production of Barrie's *Peter Pan* in Birmingham "may have had a little to do with" his original conception of the Elves of Middle Earth.[19] He appears in the Italian comic series *Martin Mystère*. Japanese manga artist Mayu Sakai appropriated the English term for her series *Peter Pan Syndrome*. [20] Game author Diana Gaeta developed a *Dungeons & Dragons* campaign setting named *Neverland – The Impossible Island* that allows players to interact with Peter Pan in an environment based on Peter and Wendy by J. M. Barrie. [21] Fiction writer Jonathan Green published a role-playing gamebook titled *Here Be Monsters!* in which Peter Pan appears as a playable character. This version's background story attributes his flight ability and eternal youth to cybernetic implants installed by his genius father after Peter was severely injured by one of the dinosaurs roaming Neverland. [22] Music Singer-songwriter Ruth B released the piano ballad "Lost Boy" in 2015, featuring Peter Pan and Neverland. Italian songwriter Edoardo Bennato released a concept album "Sono solo canzonette" in 1980 based on Peter Pan and other characters created by Barrie. Swiss singer Paola del Medico performed a song themed on the Peter Pan tale in 1982. Pop-rock musicians The Jonas Brothers' song "Fly With Me" makes direct references to Peter Pan and Wendy in the lyrics. Country singer-songwriter Kelsea Ballerini released a top-charting country single and song titled "Peter Pan", in 2016. South Korean boy-band BTS released a music video called "Adult Child", the song makes reference to the Peter Pan story. British musician Kate Bush included her song "In Search of Peter Pan" on her second album *Lionheart* (1978). Korean boy-band EXO released a track called "Peter Pan" on both the Mandarin and Korean versions of the album *XOXO* (2013). Serbian and Yugoslav rock band *Petar Pan* was named after the character. Peterpan is the former name for an Indonesian pop-rock band, now called Noah. The eleventh track of singer-songwriter Troye Sivan's debut studio album *Blue Neighbourhood* (2015) is entitled "Lost Boy", inspired by Peter Pan. In Chance The Rapper's song 'Same Drugs', featured in the album *Coloring Book* (2015), he makes multiple references to Peter Pan and Wendy, another major character in the novel. Taylor Swift's single "Cardigan" includes multiple references to the Peter Pan story. Blues/psychedelic rock band Kula Shaker included the track "Peter Pan RIP" featured in their fourth album *Pilgrims Progress*. Other uses in popular culture The name Peter Pan has been adopted for various purposes over the years: Several businesses have adopted the name, including Peter Pan Bus Lines, Peter Pan peanut butter, Peter Pan Records, and Peter Pan Seafoods. Three Thoroughbred racehorses have been given the name, the first, Peter Pan I, was born in 1904. In the early 1960s, some Cuban families sent their children to resettle in Miami in an emergency effort calculated to save the children from perceived potential mistreatment under the Castro socialist regime; the program was called Operation Peter Pan (or Operación Pedro Pan). American psychologist Dr. Dan Kiley popularised the Peter Pan syndrome (*puer aeternus*) in his book *The Peter Pan Syndrome: Men Who Have Never Grown Up* (1983). [23] He described individuals (usually male) with underdeveloped maturity. [24] His next book, *The Wendy Dilemma* (1984), advises women romantically involved with "Peter Pans" how to improve their relationships. [25] Public sculptures Main article: Peter Pan statue Peter Pan statue in Kensington Gardens, London, England, 1912, by George Frampton Barrie commissioned a statue of Peter Pan by the sculptor George Frampton, which was erected overnight in

Kensington Gardens on 30 April 1912 as a May Day surprise to the children of London. Seven statues have been cast from the original mould.[26] The other six are located in: Egmont Park [fr], Brussels, Belgium,[27] 1924 Bowring Park, St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada, 1925 Johnson Park, Camden, New Jersey, United States,[28] 1926 Queens Gardens, Perth, Western Australia,[29] 1927 Sefton Park, Liverpool, England,[30] 1928 Glenn Gould Park, Toronto, Ontario, Canada,[31] 1929 Other statues are: In 1925, the town council of Melbourne, Australia, commissioned a statue of Peter Pan by Paul Montfort;[32] it is now located in Melbourne Zoo.[33] In 1928, Charles Andrew Hafner created a bronze statue for a fountain in the lobby of the old Paramount Theater in Times Square, but it is now situated in Carl Schurz Park, New York.[34] In 1949, a statue of Peter Pan by Alex Proudfoot RSA, Principal of Glasgow School of Art, was erected at the Mearnskirk Hospital for children in Glasgow, commissioned by Alfred Ellsworth in memory of his friend Dr John A Wilson, first superintendent of Mearnskirk Hospital. Wilson had also been a school friend of J.M. Barrie's.[35] A statue by Ivan Mitford-Barberton was commissioned by Vyvyan and Gwen Watson in remembrance of their son Peter and given in 1959 to the Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital in Western Cape, South Africa.[36] A pair of statues by Cecil Thomas, one showing Peter Pan and Tinker Bell, and the other Wendy and the Darling children, have been located in Dunedin Botanic Gardens in Dunedin, New Zealand since the 1960s.[37] Two bronze casts of a statue by Alistair Smart, originally commissioned by the Angus Milling Company in 1972, are in Kirriemuir, Scotland, one in the main town square and the other in the Peter Pan Garden by Barrie's Birthplace, now owned by the National Trust of Scotland.[38] In 1976, Ronald Thomason sculpted a bronze statue in front of the Weatherford, Texas public library honouring Weatherford native Mary Martin, who had portrayed Peter Pan in the 1954 Broadway musical production and several subsequent telecasts. A bronze statue by Diarmuid Byron O'Connor was commissioned by Great Ormond Street Hospital in London and unveiled in 2000, showing Peter blowing fairy dust, with Tinker Bell added in 2005.[39]