



Peter Pan



Study Guide
May 17-19, 2019

Why A Study Guide?

Welcome to Peter Pan! Within our study guide you will find helpful tips to prepare your students to experience and talk about the performance. Use this guide to:

Study Guide
Info

- Introduce students to theatre etiquette
- Introduce students to the roles of a theatrical production
- Share insider knowledge about the world of the show
- Explore themes of Peter Pan
- Further discuss the show after seeing a performance
- Connect Peter Pan to your classroom curriculum across a number of subject areas
- Dive into further readings to learn even more!



For more information about Columbus Children's Theatre and how we inspire, enrich and empower the imaginations of children and their families through live theatre and theatre education, visit our website at www.columbuschildrenstheatre.org



About Peter Pan

It's a bird! It's a plane! It's...a boy? Join CCT as they take to the skies after 10 years, back to Neverland, with their production of the beloved musical Peter Pan. When young Peter and his fairy sidekick Tinkerbell visit the nursery of the Darling children one night, they all travel across the night sky on a journey filled with lost boys, evil pirates, a ticking crocodile, and of course plenty of pixie dust. CCT is excited to celebrate their 55th year sharing this classic tale in the timeless Southern Theatre.

Theatre Etiquette

Theatre etiquette is a simple set of rules to help audience members fully enjoy the show, and for actors and the backstage crew to safely perform their work for you! Here are some important elements of theatre etiquette at CCT:

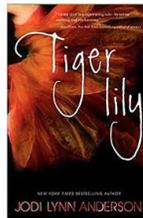
Theatre
Etiquette

- Arrive on time
- For the safety of the actors and the audience, please stay seated for the performance
- Visit the restroom before the performance begins
- The use of electronic devices (other than access devices), is strictly prohibited
- Please do not talk to your neighbor during the performance
- If you like something that you see, you may clap or laugh - it shows the actors that you like what they are doing!

Suggested Reading

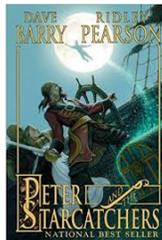
Tiger Lily

By, Jodi Lynn Anderson
Grades 7+



Capt. Hook

By, J. V. Hart
Grades 6-8



Peter and the Starcatchers

By, David Barry & Ridley Pearson
Grades 6-8

Peter Pan

By, J.M. Barrie
Grades 3-5



Theatre Location

The Southern Theatre
21 E. Main St
Columbus 43215

Who Is Involved In A Theatrical Production?

Performances at Columbus Children's Theatre are the result of groups of people working together. Many people know and understand what actors are - the people on the stage telling the story. But did you know that there are more people working hard "behind-the-scenes" to make the performance happen? Below are just a few of those people.

Before
The
Show

The Director:

Responsible for the overall concept of the show - they guide a vision to create a world on stage in which the show may exist. Works with the actors to help them interpret their characters and move on stage. Works closely with designers in planning the sounds, lights, scenery, costumes, props - basically, everything you see on the stage.

The Designers:

Work with the director and with each other to create the look of the lights, scenery, costumes, make-up, sound and special effects. They make the world on stage come to life.

The Crew:

There are a lot of different crew people. Some help build the scenery, costumes, and props you see on the stage, and some are working backstage during the show helping actors change costumes, moving pieces of scenery on and off, or operating the lights and sound.

The Choreographer:

Directs the dances onstage.
Designs dance moves that help tell the story of a musical.
Teaches the dances to the actors.

The Stage Manager:

Organizes every aspect of the production - schedules, resources and communications. In charge of making everything run smoothly from rehearsal to performance. Guarantees the same great performance every single time, whether you attend a show during the school day, or with your family in the evening or on the weekend.

The Cast:

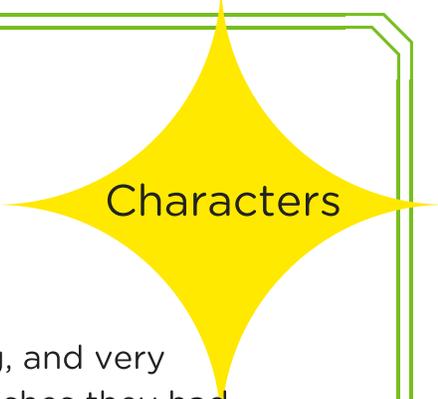
The Cast is what we call all of the actors who are on stage performing the characters in front of the audience.

The Audience:

This is where you come in! The show you see would not exist without you. The hard work everyone puts in to create a show is all meant to share a story with you.

Who Are The Characters?

As described in the Peter Pan script given to all actors, directors, and designers:



Characters

Wendy Darling:

The eldest Darling child. Wendy is compassionate, incredibly loving, and very protective of her younger brothers. She is the child every parent wishes they had.

John Darling:

The middle Darling child. A sly smile is always at home on John's face. He has a mischievous twinkle in his eye and is always ready for an adventure.

Michael Darling:

The youngest Darling child. Never far from his favorite Teddy, Michael is sweet and innocent. He is ever so lovable and very huggable.

Mrs. Darling:

The Darling matriarch. Mrs. Darling glides about gently but swiftly from task to task with motherly precision. She has a pleasant strength to her demeanor.

Mr. Darling:

A bit of a grouch, Mr. Darling is a professional who happens to be a father. Though sparkles of his love peek through from time to time, he often has places to go and people to see. He usually doubles as Capt. Hook.

Peter Pan:

Childhood and boyishness personified, Peter is athletic and not shy about taking to flight when the moment suits him. His reflexes are catlike and his presence exhilarating. A creature of constant motion.

Captain Hook:

The one-handed captain of the Jolly-Roger. Relentless and restless in his pursuit of Pan, Hook is short-fused and ridiculous. He is a larger than life villain. Usually Doubles as Mr. Darling.

Smee:

Captain Hook's knockabout lackey. An archetypical evil side-kick, Smee might be a bit rotund and is definitely dwarfed by Hook. Should be portrayed by an actor with physical comedy chops.

Tiger Lily:

A striking American Indian princess, Tiger Lily is a tough girl and an excellent dancer. She should command the stage when taking it and move about it as would mist.

Ensemble:

American Indians; The Lost Boys; Pirates;
Various Animals

Themes From Peter Pan



Themes

Growing Up:

The character of Peter embodies the theme of childhood and growing up. The author displays the natural transition between childhood freedom and adult responsibility. Peter, "The Boy Who Wouldn't Grow Up," chooses to remain a child forever. Peter gets to continue having adventures and living a life of freedom and imagination. However, Peter's choice means he also misses out on familial love. Some may see Peter Pan as a story of how we lose imagination and freedom as we grow up. However, others may see the story as showing how growth and change can be hard, but it are a necessary part of life.

Home:

The children are longing for adventure, for they have very strict rules at home. However, once they venture to Neverland, they realize how much they appreciate their mother and father and the safety of their home. In fact, the first thing they do upon arrival in Neverland, is build a home for Wendy to mother the Lost Boys and play house with Peter Pan.

Family:

The Darling children find stability in their familial relationships, which is why they declare Wendy their "mother" almost immediately after they arrive in Neverland. The musical frequently doubles the casting of Mr. Darling and Captain Hook, and it is a statement on how the children view their father - as the villain. While it is initially the parents' strict rules and the children longing for adventure that makes them decide to leave, it is their love and need for family that inspires their return.

What's Next?

Use these questions to spark conversation on the way back to school from the theatre, in your classroom the next day, or as writing prompts for students' journals!

Questions

- Do you wish that you would never grow up? Why?
- Captain Hook and Mr. Darling are often played by the same actor. What are their similarities and what are their differences?
- What happens to Peter after the play ends? With Hook, and the Lost Boys no longer in Neverland, and with Jane at his side, what new adventures will Peter discover?
- Where did Peter come from? How did he end up in Neverland?
- Peter Pan is typically played by a female actor - why do you think that is?



Activity Time!

Use these activities with your students to deepen their understanding of the story, and to add enrichment across content areas!

Activities

"Fly" Like Peter Pan!

In order to fly, the kids had to "think happy thoughts". Using paper, paint, markers, and other art supplies, create a bunch of posters full of "happy thoughts" so you can feel like you're flying!



Write About It!

Imagine you are flying to Neverland, and write your own story about the adventure. Who is going on this trip with you? How long are you gone? Are you going to tell your parents? What makes you want to go to Neverland?



More Activities!

Activities

Shadow Play!

The shadow scene opens the door for a great learning opportunity. What is a shadow? How is it made? Why can't we see our shadow all the time? Do other things make shadows? Once the sun is shining, use these shadow activities or come up with your own!

- Trace your shadow
- Create shadow puppets
- Go on a shadow hunt
- Compare the shape/size of shadows from different objects
- Enjoy the shadow (shade!) of a large tree



We can't wait
to perform for
you! See you at
the Theatre!