



## WHAT'S THE Story?

THE WISHBONE-ESQUE  
BOOK CLUB YOU NEVER  
KNEW YOU WANTED

### Peter Pan

The character of Peter Pan first appeared not in his own titular work but in the 1902 novel *The Little White Bird* by Scottish writer J. M. Barrie. Peter Pan only appears in a portion of the work, with a few chapters of the novel describing how Peter is carried off as a week-old baby and taught to fly by fairies. Even though the character's appearance was short, Peter Pan would go on to become J.M. Barrie's most famous creation.

The first adaptations of this character were actually made by Barrie himself. Barrie featured Pan as the protagonist in a West End stage play entitled *Peter Pan: or the Boy Who Wouldn't Grow up* just two years later. The play introduced other notable story elements including the world of Neverland, Peter's friends The Lost Boys, the notorious Captain Hook, Wendy Darling, and the pixie Tinkerbell. The work would later be adapted by Barrie in 1911 into *Peter and Wendy*, the first novel starring the character.

Due to its history as a play as well as a novel, the story of Peter Pan has been extensively adapted not just in print but in performance. Over the years the story would be reinterpreted as a pantomime, several films, and a stage musical. Some of the most notable dramatic reinterpretations of the work have included the 1953 animated Disney Film, the 1950's musical starring May Martin as Peter Pan, and the 1991 live action film *Hook* starring Robin Williams as a Peter Pan that does in fact grow up. The story is so prevalent on stage and screen that it actually has some production traditions associated with it. For example, most stage and film productions of Peter Pan will double cast one actor as both Mr. Darling and Captain Hook. Even the animated Disney film has both played by the same voice actor.

In modern literature we also have several reinterpretations of Barrie's work. Some of these focus on Pan, but many more use their retellings to shine the light on other characters from the original tales. Novels like *Wendy Darling* by A. Wise, and *The Wendy* focus on Wendy Darlings. Others like *Hook's Tale* by John Pielmeier and *Lost Boy* by Christina Henry explore the origins of the villainous Captain Hook. Throw in some horror retellings and modern romances, and you will see that in just over a century *Peter Pan* has had the same kind of impact on modern culture as any classic fairy tale.

### What is a Retelling?

Whenever an existing story inspires a movie, book, television show, video game, or play, it goes through a process called adaptation. Retellings adapt stories by changing elements to fit a new context. For example, a retelling may change its source material to fit a new type of medium, a different genre, or a new era. Despite changes, retellings inherently carry story elements from the source material.

Retellings and adaptations have been around as long as stories have been told. Many classic myths and fables had hundreds of versions before being put into print. Retellings are part of our collective history, existing in every culture, medium, and time period.

The What's The Story Book Club seeks to understand how classic stories influence our past and continue to expand how we think, feel, and experience the world through adaptations and retellings.

Each month we choose a well-known myth, fairy tale, or piece of literature. We discuss the original, or best-known versions of the story. Then you choose a retelling that you wish to experience. Your choice can be any genre or medium, as long as the story relates to that month's source material.

As you read or watch your retelling, take note of what elements you recognize from the original story, what elements are changed, and anything you find interesting about the adaptation. We will discuss each version that our group chose when we meet again.



## YA Novels

Darling by K. Ancrum  
Straight on Till Morning by Liz Braswell  
The Navigator's Touch by Julia Ember  
The Neverland Wars by Audrey Greathouse  
Tink and Wendy by Kelly Ann Jacobson  
Escaping Neverland by Melissa Lemon  
Unhooked by Lisa Maxwell  
Second Star by Alyssa Sheinmel  
Everland by Wendy Spinale  
Dust by Kara Swanson  
Lost in the Never Woods by Aiden Thomas

## Adult Fiction

Lost Boy: True Story of Captain Hook by Christina Henry  
Peter Darling by Austin Chant  
Alias Hook by Lisa Jensen  
Hook's Tale by John Leonard Pielmeier  
Wendy, Darling by A. C. Wise

## Children's Fiction

Peter and the Starcatchers by Dave Barry (ebook)  
Capt. Hook: Adventures of a Notorious Youth by James Hart  
Peter Pan in Scarlet by Geraldine McCaughrean  
Hook's Revenge by Heidi Schultz  
Sisters of the Neversea by Cynthia Smith

## Other Media

Peter and the starcatcher : the annotated script of the Broadway play by Rick Elice  
The Promised Neverland by Kaiu Shirai (manga)  
Cheshire Crossing by Andy Weir  
The Wendybird by WmW (on Webtoon)

## eMaterial on Libby or Hoopla

Tiger Lily by Jodi Anderson  
Tigerheart by Peter David  
Lost Girl by Chanda Hahn  
Second Star To The Right by Mary Alice Monroe  
Wendy Darling (Series) by Colleen Oakes  
Never Never by Brianna Shrum  
The Wendy by Erin Sky

## TV/ Movies

Disney's Peter Pan (1953)  
Finding Neverland  
Hook  
Neverland  
Once Upon A Time (season 2)  
Peter Pan (2004)  
Peter Pan Live (2014)  
Peter Pan: The original 1955 telecast

## Awesome things that Phoenix Public Library doesn't own

Come Away (2020) streaming on ePix  
The Lost Girls (2022) streaming on Roku  
Pan (2015) streaming on Hulu  
Peter Pan & Wendy (upcoming release) Disney+  
Peter & Wendy (2015)  
Wendy (2020) streaming on HBONow  
All Darling Children by Katrina Monroe  
Surviving Tiger Lily by Mandy Nachampassack-Maloney  
Never Ever by Sara Saedi  
Second Star by J. M. Sullivan  
Hook by K.R. Thompson  
Pan by K.R. Thompson

