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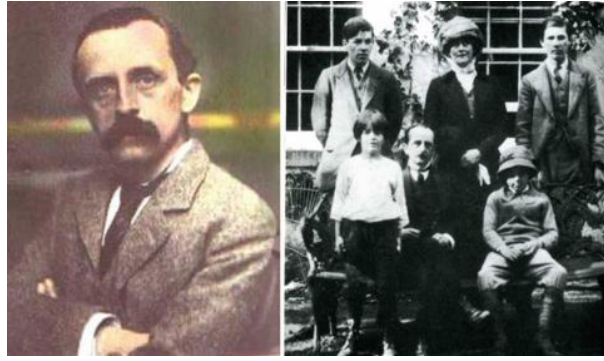
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Barrie and the Llewelyn-Davies boys visited Scourie Lodge, Sutherland—in northwestern Scotland—during August of 1911. In this group image we see Barrie with four of the boys together with their hostess. In the back row: George Llewelyn Davies (age 18), the Duchess of Sutherland and Peter Llewelyn Davies (age 14). In the front row: Nico Llewelyn Davies (age 7), J. M. Barrie (age 51) and Michael Llewelyn Davies (age 11). Online via Andrew Birkin and his [J.M. Barrie website](#).

After their mother's death, the five Llewelyn-Davies boys were alone. Who would take them in? Be a parent to them? Provide for their financial needs?

Neither side of the family was really able to help.

In 1976, [Nico recalled](#) the relief with which his uncles and aunts greeted Barrie's offer of assistance:

*...none of them [the children's uncles and aunts] could really do anything approaching the amount that this little Scots wizard could do round the corner. He'd got more money than any of us and he's an awfully nice little man. He's a kind man. They all liked him a good deal. And he quite clearly had adored both my father and mother and was very fond of us boys. I think it was a wonderful relief to them...to know that we can leave...all this business...to Barrie.*

Not only did Barrie provide for the general financial needs of the family, he made sure the boys each had an excellent education. The tab at [Eaton College](#) could not have been small.

One of Nico's fondest [childhood memories](#) was walking around Round Pond (between the ages of ten and twelve) with his hand in Barrie's. As they walked together, Nico would either listen to "Uncle Jim's stories" or, on occasion, he'd answer Barrie's questions about *The Black Arrow*.

To Nico, at least, Barrie was "a [perfect uncle](#) who left us all in fits of laughter." (The link is to Sheridan Morley's BBC interview with Nico Llewelyn Davies in September of 1978.)

Five years after Sylvia's death, Europe plunged into World War I. [George](#) and Jack knew they would be called upon to serve their country. [Peter](#) was not far behind. England, allied with France, was soon embroiled in the conflict. [Jack served](#) in the Royal Navy. George was sent to the trenches of France.

Sylvia's older brother [Guy du Maurier](#), a professional soldier, wrote to his wife about life in the trenches. It is a wonder his words passed muster with the Army censor:

*The trenches are full of dead Frenchmen. When one is killed they let him lie in the squelching mud and water at the bottom; and when you try and drain or dig you unearth them in an advanced state of decomposition...All the filth of an Army lies around rotting...The stink is awful. There are many dead Highlanders just in front - killed in December [of 1915] I think - and they aren't pleasant. One gets used to smells...Two hundred of my men went to hospital today - mostly frost-bitten feet; bad cases are called gangrene and very bad cases the toes drop off...When we've done our four days I'll try and go over and see George who I think is only two miles off. I haven't seen anyone I know lately. I fancy most of the Army I know are killed or wounded.* (Quoted in *Lost Boys*, page 236.)

For his part, George was appalled - but realistic - about what he saw at the Western Front. Barrie sent him supplies and had the sad job of telling him his Uncle Guy had died. With poignant words, "[Uncle Jim](#)" expressed his own desires:

*...I don't have any little iota of desire for you to get military glory. I do not care a farthing for anything of the kind, but I have the one passionate desire that we may all be together again once at least. You would not mean a feather-weight more to me tho' you came back a General. I just want yourself. There may be some moments when a knowledge of all you are to me will make you a little more careful, and so I can't help going on saying these things.* (Quoted in *Lost Boys*, page 242.)

It was, of course, not only the Llewelyn Davies boys, and their friends, who were at risk during the first part of the war. People throughout Europe were dying. Those who succumbed became members of a lost generation. In May of 1915, before America joined the war, Charles Frohman, Barrie's trusted producer, needed to get to London quickly. The only way for him to make the crossing was on a ship - called the *Lusitania*.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/BARRIE-AND-THE-BOYS-Finding-Neverland>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/BARRIE-AND-THE-BOYS-Finding-Neverland>

## Media Stream

### J.M. Barrie and the Llewelyn Davies Boys

In August of 1911, Barrie (the Scottish author of "Peter Pan") took the boys (who inspired the famous story) to visit Scourie Lodge, Sutherland (in northwestern Scotland).

In this image we see Barrie with four of the boys—all except Jack—together with their hostess. In the back row:

- George Llewelyn Davies (age 18);
- The Duchess of Sutherland, also known as Millicent Leveson-Gower (who sometimes wrote using the pen name Erskine Gower); and
- Peter Llewelyn Davies (age 14).

In the front row:

- Nico Llewelyn Davies (age 7);
- J M Barrie (age 51); and
- Michael Llewelyn Davies (age 11).

The group photo is online via Andrew Birkin and his J.M. Barrie website.

Click on the image for a better view.

Photo of J.M. Barrie with four of the Llewelyn-Davies boys; online via Andrew Birkin's website, J.M. Barrie.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/J.M.-Barrie-and-the-Llewelyn-Davies-Boys>



ETON COLLEGE BEAGLES painted by JOSEPH APPELYARD for "HOLLY LEAVES" 1953

### Eaton College

Image online, courtesy the [josephapplyard.co.uk](http://www.josephapplyard.co.uk) website.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Eaton-College>



### George Davies Photo

Image online, courtesy the jmbarrie.co.uk website.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/George-Davies-Photo>



### Peter Llewelyn Davies - Photo

Image online, courtesy sociedadaugusta.com website.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Peter-Llewelyn-Davies-Photo>



### Jack Llewelyn Davies - Royal Navy

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Jack-Llewelyn-Davies-Royal-Navy>



### J.M. Barrie - "Uncle Jim"

Image online, courtesy the jmbarrie.co.uk website.

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