



0. SCENES FROM LIFE - Story Preface

1. J.M. BARRIE - EARLY LIFE

2. MARY ANSELL BARRIE

3. SYLVIA LLEWELYN DAVIES

4. PETER PAN IS BORN

5. OPENING NIGHT

6. TRAGEDY STRIKES

7. BARRIE AND THE BOYS

8. CHARLES FROHMAN

9. SCENES FROM LIFE

10. THE REST OF THE STORY

"Learning to Fly," a sculpture by Cecil Thomas depicting the Peter-Pan characters Wendy Darling and her brothers, as they embark on an adventure. Located in Dunedin Botanical Garden, New Zealand. Photo by Mike O' Kane; online via the Otago Sculpture Trust Website.

Let's take a virtual tour of some of the places where James Barrie and the Llewelyn Davies family lived and played.

- Kensington Gardens, where Barrie first met the Davies boys, features a sunken garden and the palace gardens.
- Kensington Gardens was also a beautiful place during Victorian times.
- The nearby Kensington Palace was home to Princess Diana and was the scene of massive bouquets of flowers following her death in 1997.
- Round Pond, at Kensington Gardens, as it looks today compared with how it appeared during the 19th century.
- A statue of Peter Pan now stands in Kensington.
- During her marriage to James Barrie, Mary Ansell Barrie purchased a country retreat known as Black Lake Cottage. It was located near Farnham, in Surrey, and the Llewelyn Davies children often visited. Peter is the subject of this photograph, taken there in 1901.
- Even though he was guardian of the Llewelyn Davies boys, Barrie did not actually live with them. He had a nearby London flat at Adelphi Terrace where his massive study overlooked the Thames River.
- Andrew Birkin, author of the brilliant book of primary sources on Barrie and *Peter Pan*, *JM Barrie and the Lost Boys*, has generously created a wonderful web site which includes many pictures of the famous writer, the boys, their parents, and the history of Peter Pan.

More than one hundred years after the play was first staged, none of the people responsible for its creation are still with us. How did they live out the rest of their lives? Did they have peaceful times—or—did more tragedies befall the Llewelyn Davies family?

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

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/SCENES-FROM-LIFE-Finding-Neverland>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/SCENES-FROM-LIFE-Finding-Neverland>

Media Stream

Learning to Fly - Wendy Darling and Her Brothers

Harold Richmond, a philanthropist, grew-up loving Sir Thomas Clapperton's "Wonderland" sculpture located in Oamaru, a town located on New Zealand's South Island.

That "Wonderland" statue—seen below—depicts a boy and a girl, surrounded by fairies which are located at the base of the Oamaru sculpture.



Later in life, Richmond—remembering how much he loved Oamaru's "Wonderland"—commissioned Cecil Thomas—a Welsh-born, London-based sculptor—to create a statue for the Botanic Gardens in Dunedin, depicting Wendy and her brothers "Learning to Fly."

The image, at the top of this page, depicts that Dunedin sculpture—also known as "The Wendy Group"—which Thomas finished in 1968. At the foot of the tree is a depiction of Nana (the Darlings' dog), based on J.M. Barrie's pet Newfoundland (named "Luath").

Three years previously, Thomas had created a statute of Peter Pan (which is also located in Dunedin's Botanic Gardens).

Richmond wanted young children to experience what it is like to look down on a world filled with exciting things (like fairies), so the two-meter sculpture has lots of "wear marks" on it.

J.M. Barrie and Peter Pan, no doubt, would be pleased with such explorations!

Photo, by Mike O'kane, online via the Otago Sculpture Trust Website.

View this asset at:

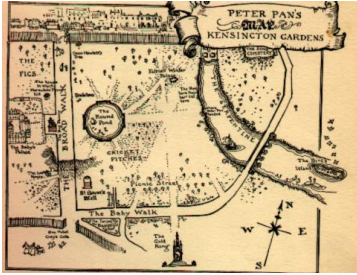
<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Learning-to-Fly-Wendy-Darling-and-Her-Brothers>



Kensington Gardens

Image online, courtesy kensington.net website.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Kensington-Gardens>



Drawing of Kensington Gardens

Image online, courtesy the arthurrackhamillustrations website.

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Kensington Garden Photo no. 3

Image online, courtesy the prew.hu website.

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Round Pond at Kensington Gardens - Recent Photo

Image online, courtesy the Virtual London website.

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The Round Pond, Kensington Gardens

Image online, courtesy gallery-tm.com website.

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Kensington Garden Statute of Peter Pan

Image online, courtesy jochen-mengel.de website.

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Early Photo of Kensington Gardens

Image online, courtesy gallery-tm.com website.

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