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## Insert for Theatre Studies Section A

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### Dramaturgy

The play *Peter Pan or The Boy Who Would Not Grow Up* by JM Barrie is a popular English play that was first produced in 1904. Though intended for a young audience, it has been a favourite among both children and adults ever since.

The play was originally designed to be performed naturalistically, on a grand stage. The play has since been adapted to a wide variety of later styles and conventions.

It explores enduring **themes** such as:

- constriction vs freedom
- the power of imagination
- the struggle between staying young and growing old
- the importance of family and belonging
- good vs evil
- identity and self-discovery.

**Original context** of Act I: The nursery in the Darlings' Bloomsbury home, 1904

- rigid upper-class family structure
- restrictive world of conservative values
- strict rules about roles and how people should behave
- expectations of conformity.

**Original context** of Act II: The Never Land, home to the Lost Boys

- magical, fantastical and colourful
- a fun place but it comes at the price of being trapped in an endless childhood adventure, forgetting lessons learned
- wild and reckless, without structure
- lonely and unpredictable.

### Plot

Wendy and her brothers Michael and John are taught to fly to the Never Land by Peter Pan. They escape from the nursery and the need to obey their parents, Mr and Mrs Darling.

In the Never Land, Peter lives with the Lost Boys and the fairy Tinkerbell (Tink). Tink can be jealous, spiteful and ill-tempered, but she is devoted to Peter Pan. Wendy plays the role of mother to the Lost Boys. From her observations of her own mother, Wendy thinks this means telling fun stories and giving nasty medicine.

The children have many exciting adventures in the Never Land, including:

- Wendy being accidentally shot out of the sky and later nearly being drowned by a jealous mermaid
- the pirates being defeated in a fierce sword battle
- the pirate captain kidnapping Wendy and the others, and threatening to make them walk the plank.

The children return to the Bloomsbury nursery and grow up. Peter Pan refuses to grow up and remains in the Never Land.

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# Dramaturgy

Image 1



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Image 4



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Image 2



Image 5



Image 6



Image 3



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