

KEEP FLYING!

Use these teaching ideas to help students at all grade levels participate in the magic of **Peter Pan LIVE!**

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

- Peter Pan describes Neverland as a small island "nicely crammed with hardly any space between one adventure and another. And all the seasons are in different parts of the island, all at the same time." Help students imagine this magical place by creating a map of Neverland, plotting the different parts of the island they remember from viewing **Peter Pan LIVE!** Have them use their maps to create stories about new adventures Peter could find in Neverland.
- Use the song *I Gotta Crow!* to explore the character of Peter Pan. Have students recall words and phrases from the song that describe Peter's personality. What is appealing about Peter Pan? What makes him a natural leader? Conclude by having students compose their own versions of *I Gotta Crow!*, with lyrics that say what they have to crow about.
- Tell students that the story of Peter Pan was first staged more than 100 years ago. Ask them to describe things they saw in **Peter Pan LIVE!** that tell the audience that Wendy and her brothers made the trip to Neverland a long time ago. Then invite students to write or draw their ideas for updating the story to match life in the 21st century.
- Have students imagine the adventures that Wendy's daughter Jane will have when she and Peter fly away to Neverland at the end of the musical. Has Captain Hook survived his encounter with the crocodile? Has a new crew of Lost Boys arrived in Peter Pan's world? What modern ideas about adventuring might Jane bring with her to Peter's home?
- Ask students to compare Neverland to other fantasy worlds they may have visited through children's literature: for example, Narnia, Oz, Alice's Wonderland, and Winnie the Pooh's Hundred Acre Wood. What do you learn about growing up in each of these make-believe places? How do Neverland and other story book worlds compare to fantasy worlds students have seen in video games and films?

ignores Tinker Bell's warning about the poisoned medicine? What do we learn when he sticks to his decision to stay in Neverland? Have students suggest other moments that provide insight into Peter's character and role in the story. Do his choices help solve problems or usually create new ones?

- There are several different types of families portrayed in **Peter Pan LIVE!** – the Darlings; the family of Lost Boys that forms around Wendy; Tiger Lily's island tribe; the pirate "family" led by Captain Hook. How do these family structures, which were imagined more than 100 years ago, differ from families of today? Does the story suggest that one type of family is the right one? To broaden this discussion, have students compare the families of **Peter Pan Live!** with the different types of "families" they belong to as classmates, teammates, friends, and part of their family at home.
- Have students work in small groups to improvise scenes for an updated version of **Peter Pan LIVE!** set in the 21st century. Would Captain Hook still be a pirate, or might he become an oil tycoon or a Wall Street mogul? Would Tiger Lily still lead a tribe of Islanders, or might she become a community activist? Would Wendy and Peter play grown-up in the same way, or might Wendy go adventuring and leave Peter in charge of the Lost Boys? Allow time for students to perform their new scenes and explain how they changed the story to reflect today's society.



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- Explore the songs of **Peter Pan LIVE!** Have students name their favorite songs and perform the lines they remember. Point out that almost all the songs in the show are led by Peter Pan or Captain Hook. How do their different singing styles help create their characters? As an experiment, students might try singing Peter's *I Gotta Crow!* in the style of Captain Hook, or *Hook's Waltz* ("Who's the swiniest swine in the world?") in the style of Peter Pan.

RESOURCES

NBC.com/peter-pan-live
ymiclassroom.com/peterpan

SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

- Peter Pan is a fascinating character who makes lots of unusual choices. Discuss his character by focusing on some of these decision-points in the story. For example, how does Peter react when Wendy discovers him in her room trying to re-attach his shadow? How does he react when the Lost Boys mistakenly fire an arrow at what they think is a "Wendy Bird?" What do we learn about Peter when he rescues Tiger Lily, or when he

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