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PETER PAN

A HOLIDAY BROADWAY MUSICAL EVENT **LIVE!**

THURSDAY DEC 4 • 8/7c  NBC

SYNOPSIS

Use this synopsis to familiarize your students with the plot and characters of the Broadway musical before they watch **Peter Pan LIVE!** on Thursday, December 4th at 8/7c on NBC.

The story begins in London, at the start of the 20th century, in the home of Wendy, John, and Michael Darling. It's bedtime on an evening when their parents are dining out and their nurse — a St. Bernard dog named Nana — has been chained in the yard for musing Mr. Darling's trousers. As soon as the children are asleep, Peter Pan and his fairy, Tinker Bell, come soaring into the bedroom to search for Peter's shadow, which he had lost while listening in one evening when Mrs. Darling was telling stories to her children. When Peter finds the shadow, however, he cannot re-attach it until Wendy awakens and sews it to his heels. Fascinated by Peter, Wendy gives him a tour of her home and then agrees to fly back with him to Neverland, a magical place where no one grows old, and where she will be the mother to his band of Lost Boys. But Wendy won't leave her brothers behind, so Peter sprinkles all three children with fairy dust and teaches them how to fly by thinking happy thoughts. Then they are all off to Neverland!

As Peter and the Darlings fly above Neverland, they discover that Peter's arch enemy, Captain James Hook, has returned with his pirate crew, seeking revenge. Peter had cut off Hook's hand in a sword fight and tossed it overboard, where it was gobbled up by a crocodile. Now that Hook is back in Neverland, the croc follows him everywhere, hoping to eat the rest of him, but luckily for Hook, the croc has also swallowed a clock, whose ticking alerts Hook whenever his nemesis is nearby. When Hook spots Peter, he fires a cannon at him, so Peter sends Wendy off with Tinker Bell to find the Lost Boys while he takes John and Michael to fly over the Jolly Roger as a decoy.

While Peter, John, and Michael contend with Hook, the Lost Boys are battling a tribe of Islanders who also live in Neverland, led by their princess, Tiger Lily. The Lost Boys and Tiger Lily's Islanders constantly quarrel about the borders dividing their separate parts of the island, but when they realize that Hook has returned, both sides run for safety. The Lost Boys head for their underground home, where they think Hook won't find him, but the pirates discover this hideout and Hook heads back to his ship to hatch a plot that will destroy them.

Soon after the pirates leave, Wendy and Tinker Bell appear in the sky, and Tinker Bell mischievously tells the Lost Boys that Peter wants them to shoot down Wendy Bird with an arrow. Luckily, she is only stunned, and when Peter arrives, he and the boys lead her down into their underground home, where she agrees to play the part of their make-believe mother if Peter will play the father's part. Wendy tells the boys stories, and keeps them from harm when Hook tries to lure them out with a poisoned cake. Together with Peter, she happily acts out all the household customs she can remember from the world of grown-ups, even though Peter and the boys insist they will never grow up.

Meanwhile, Hook has been hatching a new plot to capture Peter and his band and keep Wendy to play mother for his pirate crew. When Tiger Lily learns of this plot, she tries to warn Peter, but Hook captures her and chains her to a rock in Mermaids' Lagoon, to drown in the rising tide. That same evening, Peter and Wendy glide through the moonlit lagoon to see the mermaids, and manage to rescue Tiger Lily from her horrible fate. As a result, Peter and Tiger Lily become allies in the fight to defeat Captain Hook.

By this time, however, Wendy and her brothers have decided that they can't stay in Neverland. They miss their parents and want to go home. The Lost Boys decide they will leave too, but Peter is determined to stay in Neverland and remain a boy forever.

Unfortunately, as they are leaving, Wendy and the boys are captured by Captain Hook, who sees a chance to destroy Peter by poisoning a glass of pretend medicine that Wendy has left for Peter. Tinker Bell foils this plot by drinking the potion herself, and as her light flickers out, Peter calls on all the children in the world to revive her with their belief in fairies. The sound of cheers and applause brings Tinker Bell back to life, and Peter rushes off to save Wendy and the boys by defeating Hook in a dangerous and exciting duel.

Although Neverland is now safe, Wendy and the Lost Boys still choose to return to the world of growing up. She has Peter's promise, however, that he will come back for her each spring. But when he does come back, many spring times later, Wendy has grown up and become a real mother and cannot return to the world of make-believe again. Her daughter Jane can fly there, however, and with a sprinkle of fairy dust and happy thoughts, she and Peter soar off to adventure in Neverland once more.

