

## Assignments

### Bookwriter

*If you are enrolled as a bookwriter, please do this assignment only.*

*If you are enrolled as a bookwriter/lyricist, you may combine this with the lyric assignment.*

*If you are enrolled as part of a team, you may combine all three assignments rather than sticking to the different parameters of each.*

**Romance for a skeptical audience.** Write three short scenes for the characters of Peter Pan and Wendy (not longer than 2 pages for each scene). You may read Philip M. Barrie's play if you like – but remember it was written for a simpler time. Your audience is in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and won't put up with any goop. Peter is naïve and childlike. Wendy is more mature, but understands that she is not yet a woman.

1. Peter is convincing Wendy to fly away with him for an exciting adventure in Neverland.
2. Peter wants a mother to wash his clothes, fix his dinner and tell him bedtime stories. Wendy wants a boyfriend to hold her hand, tell her she is attractive and maybe even give her a kiss or two.
3. Wendy is leaving Neverland and won't return. She doesn't want to hurt Peter, but she does want to grow up. They can't be together.

### Composer

*If you are enrolled as a composer, please do this assignment only.*

*If you are enrolled as part of a team or as a hyphenate, you may combine this with the others as appropriate (i.e., write a song for third Peter and Wendy scene above with your lyricist, for instance.).*

**Listening for the romance in the words.** Read the lyric below carefully. Listen for the central message of the lyric – what is it about? How old do you think the singer is? What kind of music is appropriate here, given the character's diction and objective?

Eddie is finishing a writing task, which he interrupts periodically to carry on a one-sided conversation with a photograph of an uncle, an air force pilot who was shot down and lost in a war many years ago.

#### EDDIE

I've got to get away from here. I applied for a job in California, teaching. It doesn't pay a whole lot, but it's as far away as I can get without leaving the country. I hope I get the job. I haven't told Mama about it...she'll be lonely with both me and Tom gone. I sure wish she'd connect with Phil Barnes! And Nana's getting worse, giving Mama a hard time lately. I don't want to hurt Mama, but I can't wait to leave. I want to go someplace where I'm not Eddie Morse that nice young man every virgin's mother can trust. I want to go away, just like you. Well, not exactly like you. I can't be my own pilot.

INTRO:

BUT I'M GONNA FLY AWAY  
TO A FARAWAY PLACE  
WHERE NOBODY KNOWS MY FACE  
WHERE NOBODY KNOWS MY NAME

WHERE NOBODY KNOWS WHERE I CAME FROM  
WHERE I CAN BE WHATEVER I DECIDE TO BE  
THIS FLIGHT WILL BE A MAGIC CARPET RIDE TO ME

A1 FASTER THAN LIGHTNING AND HIGHER THAN MOONBEAMS AND  
STILL I'D BE FLYING TOO SLOW AND TOO LOW  
I NEED NO MAP WITH DIRECTIONS TO OZ  
'CAUSE IT'S THERE AND I KNOW I CAN GO  
EMERALD CITY  
RESTING ON GOLD  
WELCOME THIS STRANGER  
BEFORE HE'S TOO OLD

A2 NEWER THAN NEXT SUNDAY'S PAPER AND DRESSED IN A  
WHITE LINEN SUIT, YES, I MEAN TO BE SEEN  
SEEING THE SIGHTS IN MY SHINY NEW CITY  
IT'S BIG AND IT'S CLEAN AND IT'S GREEN  
EMERALD CITY  
HIDING AWAY  
WELCOME THIS STRANGER  
AND DO IT TODAY

B. SOLVING YOUR INTRICATE MYS'TRIES  
WITH PRIVATE INVENTIONS OF MINE  
THAT'S WHAT WILL BE  
AND HUNDREDS OF EXQUISITE PRINCESSES  
SCRAMBLING TO GET INTO LINE  
COMPETING FOR ME

A3 I'LL BE YOUR MOST WILLING VICTIM, YOU'LL SEE ME SUR-  
-RENDER TO YOU LIKE THE MOSS TO A FROST  
NEVER TO FIND MY WAY BACK IS MY OBJECT  
NOW WHAT DOES IT COST TO BE LOST?

B MIRACLE CITY  
STATELY AND GRAND  
CODA OPEN YOUR GATE FOR ME  
CITY PLEASE WAIT FOR ME  
PRETTY PEASE, GRATEFUL  
I'LL GIVE YOU MY HAND  
WELCOME THIS STRANGER  
TO A STRANGE LAND!

## Lyricist

*If you are enrolled as a lyricist, please do this assignment only.  
If you are part of a team, you may take the third scene from the bookwriter assignment as your  
takeoff point for this lyric rather than the paragraph above.*

**Avoiding cliché and being true to the character in the moment.** Write a song for Wendy,  
who is leaving Neverland for good, never to return. She wants Peter to know she truly cares for

him but can't be the mother he wants. She needs to go home and finish growing up, then perhaps she will have children of her own and learn how to be a mother. This song is a solo for Wendy, not a duet with Peter. But she is saying goodbye to his face – it's far harder to do than running away and leaving a note, hence the romance of the moment: she knows she is hurting his feelings and has decided to take care of her own needs anyway.