

SAMPLE SPEECH
CATEGORY: EULOGY FOR WENDY DARLING
CHARACTER: PETER PAN

My greatest foe has taken the life of my greatest friend, Wendy Darling. The enemy I speak of is age... growing up. We are often remembered by what we leave behind, and for Wendy that was her stories, the first of which I heard 60 years ago from the window of her nursery. One night I had come searching for my shadow when she and her brothers awoke. I taught them to fly and that memory became one I would treasure for years. Wendy loved the idea of her stories coming to life and being given the ability to fly put the biggest smile on her face.

Wendy was the counterpart to my, admittedly, vain personality. She taught me the importance of growing up despite my denial of its necessity and immunity from its inevitability. Most importantly, I learned that the certainty of growing up isn't why we should accept its occurrence. We should embrace its benefits. Whether it be the greater desire to remember special moments of our lives and what it was like to be young, or the wisdom developed through experience and the opportunity to love and care for new people in ways that are unique to each. This is what Wendy encapsulated: a motherly love for the lost boys and her brothers, a respect and adoration for her parents, and a young and naive love for me - one that I will never come to know again.

Perhaps this is why Wendy will always be so special to me. Yes, I only knew her for a time, but that time with her taught me more in days than I can ever learn through the eyes of a child. Yet, I visited her often after her departure from Neverland; Meeting her at the window and hearing of new adventures she experienced as she grew older... the milestones that made her into the woman she was before she died.

I will forever miss the brave, caring, and adventurous spirit that thrived within Wendy Darling, and I will forever cherish the memories we made. For those gathered here today remember this: never say goodbye because saying goodbye means going away and going away means forgetting. And for Wendy who resides somewhere far beyond the second star to the right... always be waiting for me.