GEORGE, JACK, PETER, MICHAEL, BARRIE

ACT I – SCENE 3: KENSINGTON GARDENS

START

SYLVIA

#3A – Kensington Gardens

GEORGE, JACK and MICHAEL run on, playing.

GEORGE

I'm going to catch you, just you wait!

JACK

You'll never get us!

BARRIE tries to catch their attention. PORTHOS appears with PETER.

BARRIE

Boys? Oh Porthos, there you are. Hello Peter.

PETER

I was sitting quite happily by the tree until your dog came and started bothering me.

BARRIE

I'm sure he was just being friendly. I haven't seen you or your family for a few days.

PETER

Mother was feeling a little under the weather, so we stayed indoors.

BARRIE

Can I ask you something? Why did you stop playing with your brothers?

PETER

Because it's just silly, isn't it. Why did you stop playing?

BARRIE

Me? … I grew up.

PETER

But you're a writer. You make up stories. That's not particularly grown up.

BARRIE

It sometimes feels terribly 'grown-up', these days…

(SYLVIA and the BOYS enter.)

GEORGE

En garde!

JACK

Fear my blade!

MICHAEL

Mr. Barrie!

SYLVIA

Hello again. Oh I hope we're not preventing you from working.

BARRIE

No, not at all. In fact Peter was just reminding me that writing didn't used to feel like 'work'.

(realizing)

When I first began making up stories, I was about your age, Peter. I used to imagine the world to be anything I wanted.

MICHAEL

But we do that all the time! Don't we?

GEORGE

Today we've been pretending the park is an island.

BARRIE

An island?

JACK

Full of mysteries and adventure!

PETER

But it isn't. It's just a park.

BARRIE

(getting into the game, now).

"Just"? "Just"?!! That is the most pointless word in the English language. Why does anything ever have to "just" be anything?

END