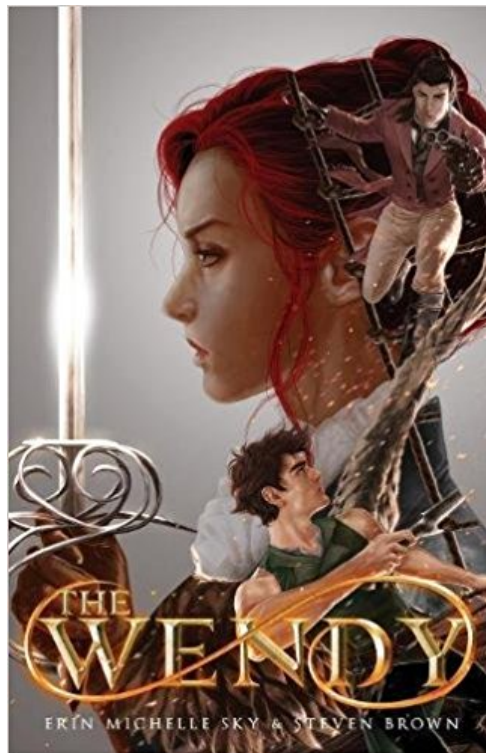


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Review of *The Wendy*
By Erin Michelle Sky and Steve Brown

Adult/Educator Reviewer: Margaret Robbins
Mount Vernon Presbyterian School, Atlanta, GA
Student Review: Grace Gilmour, 7th Grade



Sky, E.M., & Brown, S. (2017). *The Wendy*. Franklin, GA: Trash Dogs Media.

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Adult Review: Margaret Robbins

The *Wendy* is a retelling of the classic fairytale *Peter Pan* that follows Wendy Darling's childhood as an orphan into her young adulthood in England during the late 1700s. Wendy very badly wants to be a ship captain, but this profession was not considered acceptable for women. She does, however, accept a less high-ranking job with the Fourteenth Platoon of the Nineteenth Light Dragoons, a regiment with a secret mission of fighting a mystical enemy, Peter Pan! Wendy has contact with Pan himself and tries to convince Captain Hook to take her incident reports seriously. Hook doesn't at first, but he eventually allows Wendy to join his discovery mission, along with her friends John and Michael. But will Wendy eventually stand behind Peter Pan or Captain Hook? In a world of magic where the enemies and the friends are not clear cut, Wendy must learn to navigate her way as a woman who wants to sail the seas.

"The fairytale retelling aspect with a stronger female character would be very intriguing to discuss in classroom settings, along with the book being written in Wendy's point of view, rather than Peter Pan's or Captain Hook's."

This book is a high-quality YA fantasy novel that will appeal to middle and high school students, along with mature upper elementary school students. Wendy Darling has the primary role in this version of the story and is a strong, empowered female protagonist who is determined to defy traditional gender roles

and to make something of herself amid the military men in her platoon. The theme stated on the back cover of the book will resonate with adolescents in particular: "When the world doesn't want you to be who you are, you must become more yourself than you knew you could be." Wendy lives in a world where people do not always take women seriously, but she still fights hard for what she wants. By the end of the book, she also learns the value of magic.

The book does not have any explicit content that would be offensive to students or parents. Some of the messages are feminist (ex: a woman should not feel obligated to care for children), so some students might need to unpack and discuss messages related to gender roles. The fairytale retelling aspect with a stronger female character would be very intriguing to discuss in classroom settings, along with the book being written in Wendy's point of view, rather than Peter Pan's or Captain Hook's. "The Wendy" is significant as a title, as the reader finds while reading farther into the book, as it is important to Peter Pan to acknowledge Wendy as her own person. The book is a part of a series, as shown by the novel's end, so students can look forward to reading forthcoming additions.

Student Review: Grace Gilmour

The *Wendy* was an important book because it showed a strong woman, Wendy, and that is always an important thing to show. I liked that the book was based off of a fairytale, but it had been re-imagined with a stronger woman character

and different characteristics of Peter Pan and The Lost Boys.

I would recommend this book to all of my friends because it has a lot of

“I liked that the book was based off of a fairytale, but it had been re-imagined with a stronger woman character...”

character development and is written really well. I think that all genders would like this book, but it is more tuned for older kids, from ages 11 up. All in all, I loved *The Wendy*. I think it would definitely go places, and I cannot wait for the second book to come out.