What’s In A Name?

Ever since I was a young girl I have adored the story of Peter Pan, and have often wondered if this is mainly because of the name my parents bestowed upon me years ago. They claimed that there was little choice of girls’ names that began with the letter “W”, so no other names were considered as possible candidates. That was how I became Wendy Beth; named after my paternal grandfather William, who unfortunately had passed away long before I was born. Wendy is originally derived from a British version of the name; however, J.M. Barrie, author of *Peter Pan* created the character of Wendy Darling, a character who symbolized mothering, caring, loyalty and friendship. I believe this to be an accurate description of me as well. Names can define and shape who you are to others as well as to yourself; and in my case this is the truth.

Nicknames can be just as important as given names, however that is not always true. It is difficult to create a nickname for “Wendy” because it is so short and sweet. It rolls off your tongue, soft and simple. My closest friends often refer to me as “Wen”, but I prefer Wendy. In addition to “Wen”, my grandmother always called me “Wendala”; an old fashioned Eastern European version of “Wendy”. While I have fond memories of these, Wendy is what suits me best.

Names can define and shape who you are to others as well as to yourself. Why would I ever want to change this wonderful moniker? While there may be a plethora of appealing names in the world, I can honestly say that Wendy is the one and only name for me. There are so many reasons why I feel the way I do. First of all, I have never had to share my name with another classmate. Wendy is uncommon and unique, just like me. In addition, it is easy to pronounce and even easier to remember! Finally, it has forever been associated with a beloved Disney character. Not everyone can claim that. I am forever grateful to my parents for choosing an honorable name that fits me to a tee.