The Ugly Duckling
Based on the Story by
Hans Christian Andersen
Book, Music, and Lyrics by
Richard Giersch

TEACHER RESOURCES
The Ugly Duckling and study guide are produced in support of the Virginia Standards of Learning in English. Activities provided support curriculum K-5.

AT THE LIBRARY
Hans Christian Andersen
Children’s Fairy Tale Collection by Hans Christian Andersen and J. H. Stickney

Hans Christian Andersen: Prince of Storytellers (Rookie Biographies) by Carol Greene

Duck at the Door by Jackie Urbanovic

The Two of Us Belong Together: A Story About Friendship - Despite Being Different by Michael Engler

HENRY WONDERED: A Story About Jealousy, Serendipity, And Flamenco! by Hazel Pacheco

ON THE WEB
Hans Christian Andersen Fairy Tales and Stories hca.gilead.org.il/

PLAY SYNOPSIS
We all know the fable of the swan who grows up “ugly” in a family of ducks, later to find his appearance changing as he discovers his true identity. Follow along as our “duck” finds friendship with other unlikely misfits: a mole who hates dirt and the bald eagle with a full head of hair. These three “misfit” heroes work together to earn their home on the Baron’s estate and find the self-confidence that only friendship and accomplishment can provide. Please join us for this all-singing, all-dancing, all-delightful musical.

Fairy Tales...
are types of folk tales. They usually begin with “Once upon a time...” and end with “...happily ever after.” Also, fairy tales usually have events happening in threes, and involve magic.

Folktales...
are short, with a simple plot. They have characters representing a characteristic like good or bad and feature events that are repeated, especially in threes. They are based in fantasy.

You have an important part to play!
How to play your part:
A play is different from watching television or a movie. The actors are right in front of you and can see your reactions, feel your attention, and hear your laughter and applause. Watch and listen carefully to understand the story. The story is told by actors and comes to life through your imagination.
GET TO KNOW THE AUTHOR

Hans Christian Andersen (1805-1875) wrote plays, novels, poems, travel books, and several autobiographies, but his fairy tales achieved wide renown and are the most frequently translated works in all of literary history. Hans Christian Andersen was born in Denmark in April 1805. His father was a shoemaker and his mother washed clothes. They were a poor family, and he was sent to a school for poor children where he received a basic education. By the age of 14, he moved out of the family home to find work. He wanted to be an actor or dancer, but he wasn’t very talented, so he took to writing.

In 1822, his first story was published. It was called The Ghost at Palnatoke’s Grave. His first book of fairy tales was published in 1835. He went on to write and publish stories until 1872.

His stories were popular all over Europe, and he was invited to many homes of powerful and rich people to read his stories aloud. Despite many having unhappy endings, his stories were so well-received that they have been translated into more than 125 languages around the world, and have been made into many movies, television programs, ballets, and plays.

Hans Christian Andersen’s fairy tales continue to get recognition, almost 150 years after his death. Take a look at the list of some of the stories he wrote. Do you have a favorite?

The Emperor’s New Clothes
The Little Mermaid
Little Ida’s Flowers
The Ugly Duckling
Thumbelina
The Princess and the Pea
The Little Match Girl
The Nightingale
The Steadfast Tin Soldier
The Red Shoes

Hans Christian Andersen , circa 1863. Source: Wisconsin Historical Society
QUICK FACTS

Plays that include songs are called musicals. In a musical, both the dialogue (words spoken by the characters) and the songs are used to tell the story. Read the song lyrics to the right. Then complete the activities on the next page.

DEFINITIONS

Fill in the word that goes with the definition...

dialogue lyrics musicals

Plays that include songs:

Words spoken by characters in a story:

Words of a song:

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY

In the play, there is a familiar song that the playwright has changed to fit The Ugly Duckling (a play about a duck). What is the song? Can you change another familiar song to make it “ducky?”

It Doesn’t Matter

It doesn’t matter what you look like on the outside,
It only matters what you look like on the inside.
If you’re kind to your friends,
And you love everybody.
That’s better than havin’ a beautiful body,
A pretty face comes second place.
To a smile that’s big and wide.

It doesn’t matter what you look like on the outside,
It only matters what you look like on the inside.

For You

For you, I would do anything for you.
It’s true. I would do anything for you.
I’d climb the highest mountain,
Swim the deepest sea.
If I thought that’s what it would take to make you happy.

For me?
You’d risk your life for me?
It’s hard to believe you’re being so nice to me.
I’ve never in my life met a braver one than you.
I guess this is what they mean when miracles come true.
I’ve never in my life met a nicer one than you.
I guess this is what they mean when miracles come true.
### Study Guide

**Songs from The Ugly Duckling**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What message is the playwright trying to get across in &quot;It Doesn’t Matter&quot;?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Why would Honker climb the highest mountain, swim the deepest sea?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What two characters sing “For You”? Why did the playwright choose these two characters for this song?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Which characters would agree with the lyrics of “It Doesn’t Matter” and which would disagree?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What’s better than havin’ a beautiful body?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you agree?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How do you think these songs affect the mood of the play?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In what ways does “It Doesn’t Matter” tell the story of The Ugly Duckling?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In “It Doesn’t Matter”, what comes in first place? What comes in second place?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**THINK ABOUT IT**

Songs are very similar to poems. Some songs even begin as poems.

Find a poem and use musical instruments to make it into a song, or write down the words of a song and recite it like a poem!
STUDY GUIDE

DEFINITION
adapt: to change to fit a new use or situation

Many times writers adapt stories to create new stories. The following are silly adaptations of original fairy tales. Fill in the name of the original fairy tale under each adaptation. If you’re stuck, head to the library and read the adaptation!

• The Horned Toad Prince by Jackie M. Hopkins

• The Runaway Tortilla by Eric A. Kimmel

• Kate and the Beanstalk by Mary Osborne

• Ali Baba and the Forty Aliens by Janeen Webb

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY
If you were Hans Christian Andersen, how would you feel about another author adapting your stories? Explain your ideas.

YOU CAN DO IT!
At your local library, check out the fairy tales section. Read an original story and an adaptation! Then diagram what was the same, and what was different.

Original:

Adaptation:
WRITE YOUR OWN FAIRY TALE

What is a fairy tale? Fairy tales are a genre in literature. It is a story that usually involves imaginary creatures and magic! Fairy tales exist all over the world, and some have very similar plots and characters.

Fairy tales usually include:
- Once upon a time...
- ...and they lived happily ever after.
- Good character
- Evil character
- Royalty
- Poverty
- Magic and enchantments
- Recurring numbers or patterns
- Universal truths

You can create your own mixed-up fairy tale by using elements borrowed from a variety of stories! By using familiar characters, plot, and settings from traditional fairy tales, you can create a fractured version of a tale. By altering the story line, adding unexpected twists, or creating a contemporary spin, you can experiment with satire, irony and parody!

Consider different perspectives of stories. For example, what if the big bad wolf was actually a home inspector? What if the big bad wolf was scared of the three little pigs? What if the big bad wolf was actually just clumsy, or had bad allergies?

Use the story elements on the following page to create your own fractured fairy tale stories.

Here’s how it works:

Divide into four teams. Each team gets one of the following short stories by Hans Christian Andersen:
- The Ugly Duckling
- The Princess and the Pea
- The Little Mermaid
- The Snow Queen

This is the overall plot to your fairy tale.

Print out the following pages and cut apart the story elements, placing them into different bags. Each group picks one piece of paper from each bag and must use those elements to create a new fractured version of the tale.

For example: The story of *The Little Match Girl*, set on a pirate ship, with a magician, and fairy dust. What kind of new story can we tell with those elements?

Print out the script template on the following page to help write your story.
**WRITE YOUR OWN FAIRY TALE** Print out this page and cut apart the story elements, placing them into different bags. Each group picks one piece of paper from each bag and must use those elements to create a new fractured version of the tale.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Settings:</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Airport</td>
<td>Haunted Woods</td>
<td>Carnival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Castle</td>
<td>Outer Space</td>
<td>Deep Cave</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoo</td>
<td>Dungeon</td>
<td>Factory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Witch’s House</td>
<td>Science Laboratory</td>
<td>Cottage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cruise Ship</td>
<td>Palace</td>
<td>Prison Cell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country Village</td>
<td>Under the Sea</td>
<td>Pirate Ship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Granny’s House</td>
<td>Busy Restaurant</td>
<td>Shopping Mall</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characters:</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spy</td>
<td>Doctor</td>
<td>Cowboy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teenager</td>
<td>News Reporter</td>
<td>Clown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball Player</td>
<td>Kindergartner</td>
<td>Magician</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Astronaut</td>
<td>Police Officer</td>
<td>Castaway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evil Genius</td>
<td>Lumberjack</td>
<td>Firefighter</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Magic:</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wand</td>
<td>Three Wishes</td>
<td>Poison Apple</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magic Sword</td>
<td>Wishing Well</td>
<td>Magic Beans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fairy Dust</td>
<td>Genie Lamp</td>
<td>Crystal Ball</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magic Shoe</td>
<td>Dragon</td>
<td>Flying Carpet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Talking Animal</td>
<td>Magic Ring</td>
<td>Wizard</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WRITE YOUR OWN FAIRY TALE  Print out this template page and use the script below to help write your story. Have fun with the ending! Did they live dangerously ever after? Hungrily ever after? Stinkingly ever after?

Once upon a time there was....

And every day...

Until one day...

And then...

And THEN...

And ever since that day...

And they all lived ______ ever after

The end!
THE RHYMING GAME

In the beginning of the play, the Baron introduces us to the story with a song. Sometimes, songwriters use rhyming words to make a song catchy and easy to remember. Using crayons, color the rhyming words in the song the same color.

Now this is a story that we all have heard
It’s about a sad and ugly bird
He began as an egg and from the egg he came
A brave little duck... Honker was his name.
He had two little brothers who treated him meanly.
They told him he was the ugliest duck they’d ever seen.
They laughed and joked... that was their little game,
Making fun of a duck... Honker was his name.

DEFINITION

rhyme: two or more words that share a common ending sound (For example: man, can, Stan and pan all rhyme.)

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY

The Baron’s song introduced the play. Write the words to a song that could be sung at the play’s ending. Be sure your song uses rhyming words and that it tells a little about how the play turned out!

WORD GAME

Place words from the word box to the right into the blanks in the poem so that it rhymes and makes sense.

Little brothers drove him ________________________.
They said he was ________________________.
Not cute and ________________________.
And that’s the story of poor ________________________.

WORD BOX

cuddly
Honker
ugly
bonkers
**DEFINITION**

Character trait: a descriptive word (adjective) that tells about a person.

Physical trait: a character trait that describes appearance or looks. (For example, the word short is a physical trait)

Personality trait: a character trait that describes what a person (or animal) is like on the inside (For example, the word kind is a personality trait)

**FINDING TRUE HAPPINESS: Traits that Matter**

In the play, Snaggle-Claw the cat says this about Melissa: “You see, she has now discovered the true meaning of happiness, and that is, that you cannot be truly happy until you make other people happy, too.”

The following character traits could be used to describe characters from the play. Some are physical traits, and others are personality traits. Underline the physical traits, and circle the personality traits. Then, write the name of the character who could best be described by each trait next to it.

- ugly
- vain
- sad
- silky
- ambitious
- proud
- dapper
- hateful
- hairy
- envious
- clean
- beautiful

Hint: If you are unsure of the meanings of these words, use a dictionary to help!

**EASY ACTIVITY**

Draw a picture of yourself. Be sure that it shows some of your physical traits. Then, list three character traits that you possess. What trait do you like most about yourself?

**CHALLENGE ACTIVITY**

List three physical traits that you possess and three personality traits that you possess. For each, use a thesaurus to find an antonym, or opposite trait. Use these adjectives to begin a story starring you and someone not at all like you!
MORE TEACHER_RESOURCES

STUDY GUIDE

ADDITIONAL_CORE_CURRICULUM_ACTIVITIES

History and Social Sciences:
• Grades K-1 How were the characters in the play good or bad citizens? Explain.
• Grades 2-3 Illustrate and describe the setting of the story. Was it urban, suburban, or rural?
• Grades 4-5 Create a timeline of events from the play. What do you think the most important event was?

Science:
• Grades K-1 Compare and contrast the physical characteristics of ducks and swans. What do ducks, geese, and swans need as part of their habitats?
• Grades 2-3 Research moles. How was Mortimer different than most moles?
• Grades 4-5 Create a food chain chart which includes at least three animals from *The Ugly Duckling*.

Journals / Discussion:
• Grades K-1 What was the moral of the story? What other stories have morals? Compare and contrast the play, *The Ugly Duckling*, with the story.
• Grades 2-3 In what ways was this play a typical fairy tale? In what ways was it unique?
• Grades 4-5 Have you ever felt like one of the characters from the play? Who? Explain.
Cues at the Theatre

When you are in an audience at The Ugly Duckling or any play, pay attention to the following:

**Cue**
1) Command given by stage management to the technical departments.
2) Any signal (spoken line, action or count) that indicates another action should follow.

**House Lights**
The auditorium lighting, which is commonly faded out when the performance starts.

**Blackout**
The act of turning off (or fading out) stage lighting.

**Curtain Call**
At the end of a performance, the acknowledgment of applause by actors — the bows.

**Build / Check**
Build is a smooth increase in sound or light level; check is the opposite — a smooth diminishment of light or sound.

**Fade**
An increase, decrease, or change in lighting or sound.