

Level
3

The Ugly Duckling

Summary of the story

The Ugly Duckling tells the tale of a duckling, abandoned and deserted because he was different. Despite trying to make friends, the ugly duckling is laughed at and rejected by just about everyone he meets. Then one day the ugly duckling comes across a number of beautiful white swans swimming on a lake. It is here that he discovers his real identity, seeing his own reflection in the water. He had grown into a beautiful swan too, and had never been an ugly duckling after all.



About the author

The Ugly Duckling was written by Hans Christian Andersen in 1875, who was born in Denmark in 1805. He was a prolific writer and is universally regarded as one of the masters of fairy tales. Although Andersen's brilliant imagination inspired him to write, many of his stories can in fact be traced back to the traditional European folk tales he listened to as a child. His father, a poor shoemaker, was an eager reader and spent a lot of time nurturing Andersen's literary genius. However, as a boy, Andersen was often teased and laughed at because of his long nose and strange looks. He found it difficult to make friends and was awkward in company. He was almost like an ugly duckling himself, suffering rejection and ridicule only to become one of the world's literary great people.

Related topics and themes

Seasons of the year. The story can lead pupils into thinking about the seasons of the year and the changes that occur, either in the book or in their own country. Learning about weather, seasonal characteristics, spring babies, the notion of time, even migration can all be looked at, using this story as a springboard.

Animals and birds. The story can be used to introduce different classifications of animals and birds, farm animals and birds, wild animals and birds, animal babies; animal and bird habitats; animal and bird sounds and animal and bird features.

The body. The story can be used as a focus for a project on growing up, helping pupils to become aware of the time focus and some of the changes that occur. The story also deals with feelings of sadness and happiness. In particular, the story deals with feelings and emotions, being laughed at and wanting to be the same as everyone else. The story is an excellent way of focusing on these feelings, and showing the importance of understanding other people's feelings and being kind to all.

Making use of the Reader

Movement. Ask the pupils to find a space and curl up into a small ball shape. Get them to try and become as small as they can. Next, ask them to imagine that they are inside an egg. It is springtime and the egg is ready to hatch. Following the teacher's instructions, the pupils begin to sway. Then slowly they begin to hatch, all the time listening to the teacher's instructions. The teacher can alternate instructions. For example, the left leg first, followed by the right leg and so on.

Problem solving. How did the egg get into the nest? The pupils can list possible reasons how the swan egg got into the mother duck's nest. The pupils can then choose one of the ideas and draw a picture explaining what happened. The solutions can be shared and a vote taken to see which one is the most popular.



The Ugly Duckling

Craft work.

1. Making a swan. Cut out two swan templates from thin card and staple together, leaving a gap in the back. Stuff crumpled newspaper or scrap paper into the swan and then staple it together. The pupils can then decorate it accordingly.
2. Character masquerade masks. Using half a paper plate, each pupil can make a mask representing each character in the story. (The pupils can use triangular pieces of colored paper for beaks.) Then tape a disposable chopstick, or a doweling rod to the side of the mask, so that the pupils can hold it over their faces.

Using the accompanying video and audio cassette

One obvious way for the young learners to become engaged in the story is to listen while reading the story on their own. However, in the classroom, the cassette can also be used for activities involving all the pupils.

Before watching or listening to the cassette

(if the pupils have already read the book) elicit the names of the main characters from the story and write them on the board.

Tell the pupil to, for example, stand up when they see The Ugly Duckling or when he speaks, to clap, and so on with all the characters. This will result in very energetic and active viewing or listening.

During watching and listening/whole class prediction. Play the video or audio cassette story through in its entirety. The second time through, stop just before a dramatic event in the story and ask the pupil to tell you what happens next; then view or listen to see if they were right.

Let the pupils create the noises for these birds as they are in English. For example, duck says quack, quack; and baby birds go cheep, cheep, hens say cluck, cockerels say cock-a-doodle-doo; geese hiss; turkeys go gobble gobble. How do the sounds compare with the animal sounds in their own language?

Simultaneous reading and listening in groups will help the pupils with pronunciation and intonation. Parts can be given out for the dialogue, and a narrator chosen.

Record the pupils dramatizing the story on audio or video cassette.

Focus on animal sounds. Before listening to the cassette, ask pupils to guess the sounds made by different animals and birds, including those they think will be in the story. While listening, the teacher can pause the tape, getting the pupil to identify the animal and mimic the sound. The pupils can also keep a tally of all the animals in the story. After listening, the pupils can draw a picture of an animal and in a bubble caption write the sound it makes. The teacher can open this activity up by letting the pupils use any animal, imaginary or real.

Notes and Answers to the activities

In the back of the Reader

After you read

2. Cockerel, duckling, duck, hen, goose, turkey, goose, chick.
3. Duckling, duck, hen, geese, turkey, dog, swan, frog.

To the activities in the Factsheet

Activity 1 checks that the learner comprehends the change of the ugly duckling into a swan.

Activity 2 is a simple reading task involving the recognition of specific words from the story.

b	d	l	w	i	n	t	e	r
c	u	t	a	f	r	e	g	e
a	c	u	u	o	g	w	f	g
t	k	r	g	k	u	o	l	e
m	k	l	z	a	w	n	e	
r	i	e	y	b	c	q	a	s
e	n	y	t	p	k	l	s	e
s	g	f	s	w	a	n	d	g
s	p	r	i	n	g	d	o	g

Activity 3 asks the learner to match animals and the sound they make in the story. The page numbers teach the learner how to refer back to the text in order to find the answers.

Activity 4 is designed to help the learner think about his/her own experiences in relation to one of the main themes of this story, friendship.



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PHOTOCOPIABLE

Pupils' Activities

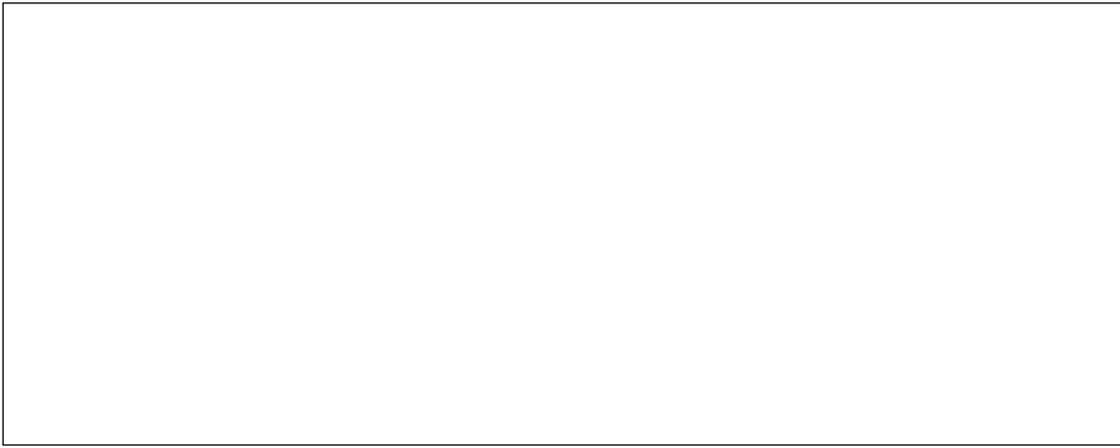
The Ugly Duckling

Name.....

Activity 1

Think about the ugly duckling. What did he look like at the start of the story?
What did he look like at the end of the story?

Can you draw one picture showing what the ugly duckling looked like at the start of the story and one picture showing what he looked like at the end of the story?



Activity 2

Wordsearch

Can you read these words?

duckling ugly quack geese spring winter turkey cat dog swan frog

Now, find these words in the box below.

Circle the words with a pencil.

b	d	l	w	i	n	t	e	r
c	u	t	a	f	r	o	g	e
a	c	u	u	o	q	w	f	g
t	k	r	g	k	u	o	l	e
m	l	k	l	z	a	w	n	e
r	i	e	y	b	c	q	a	s
e	n	y	t	p	k	l	s	e
s	g	f	s	w	a	n	d	g
s	p	r	i	n	g	d	o	g



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PHOTOCOPIABLE

Pupils' Activities

The Ugly Duckling

Name.....

Activity 3

Animal sounds

Which animal makes the sound? Can you write the name of the animal beside the sound it makes? The page numbers will help you find the answers.

Quack! **Page 3** duck

Cheep! Page 4 _____

Squawk! Page 23 _____

Woof! Page 14 _____

Activity 4

Friends

Color the duckling, hen, goose, turkey, swans and duck.
Choose your colors carefully and check with page 9.

