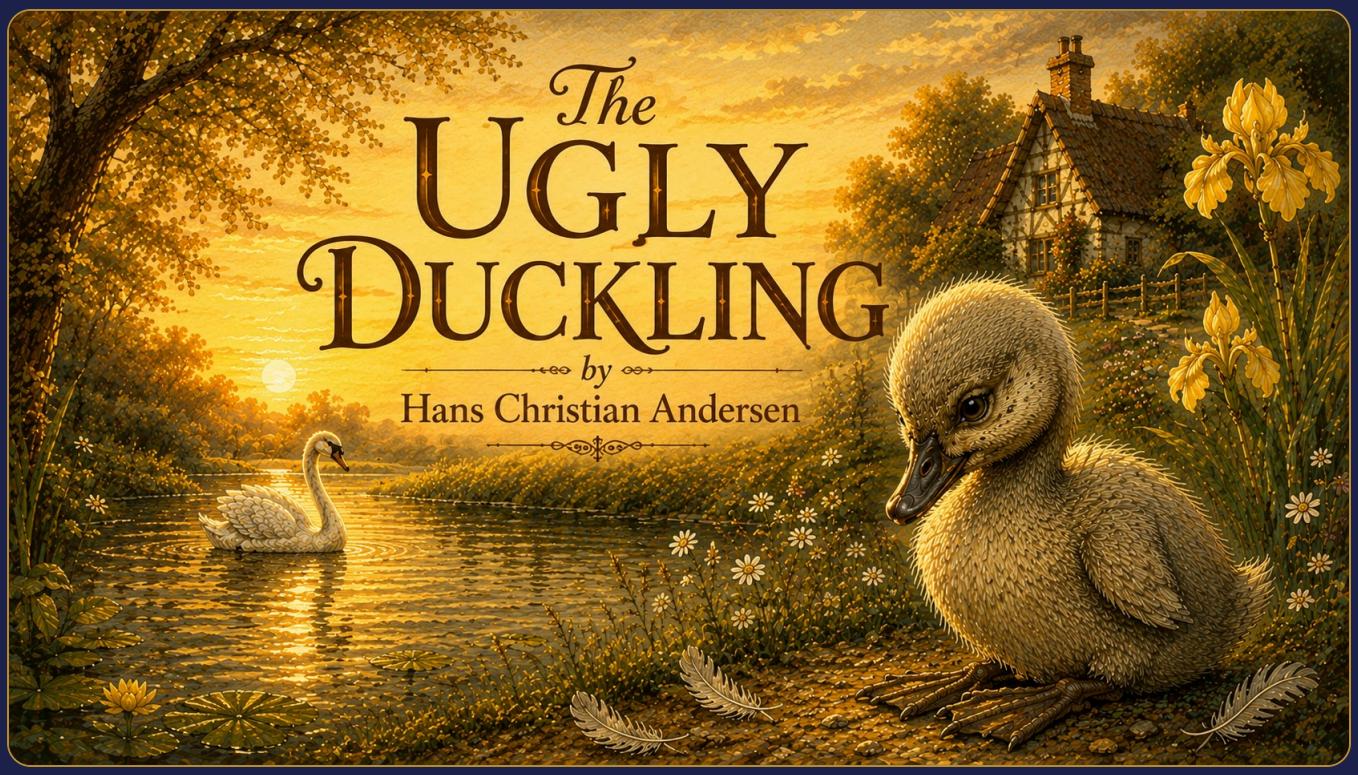
Storyland Classics

FREE STORY GUIDE

A fairy tale by Hans Christian Andersen (1843)



- ✦ Meet the Author
- ✦ The Big Idea & Try It
- ✦ Yes or No & ABC Order
- ✦ Read It With Voices
- ✦ Standards
- ✦ Story Map
- ✦ Word Match & Sort
- ✦ Put It in Order
- ✦ Handwriting
- ✦ Let's Talk
- ✦ Word Search
- ✦ Who Said It? & Feelings
- ✦ Answer Key

Ages 4–8 ✦ Pre-K to Grade 2 ✦ Aligned to Common Core

This cover is for your screen. Print from page 2 to save ink.

FOR GROWN-UPS

How to Use This Guide

This free guide goes with the Storyland Classics read-aloud of "The Ugly Duckling." Every page is ready to print, and no sign-up is needed. Pick the pages that suit your child or class.

ABOUT THE STORY

The last egg in a mother duck's nest hatches into a big, gray duckling who looks different from the others. The farmyard animals tease him, so he runs away. He meets wild ducks, an old woman's cat and hen, and a long, cold winter. In spring he flies to some beautiful swans, expecting to be chased away, but he sees his reflection in the water: he has grown into a swan himself. It is a story about kindness, patience and growing up.

SKILL FOCUS

Character change: how the duckling changes, and how his feelings change, from beginning to end

WATCH AND READ ALONG

Scan the code to watch the read-aloud and read the full story, or visit storylandclassics.com/ugly-duckling-guide. Hans Christian Andersen (1843), in the Storyland Classics retelling heard in the read-aloud.

A simple routine

1. **Day 1.** Watch the read-aloud together, then fill in the Story Map.
2. **Day 2.** Meet the author, then use Let's Talk and The Big Idea.
3. **Day 3.** Learn the words with the word match, word sort and word search.
4. **Day 4.** Put the story in order, then perform it with voices.

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Standards

Every activity is aligned to the Common Core State Standards for kindergarten to grade 2. Codes appear at the bottom of each page, and the full table is on the last page.

Younger children

Children who aren't writing yet can answer out loud or tell a grown-up what to write.

Name _____ Date _____

MEET THE AUTHOR

Hans Christian Andersen

1805–1875 ✦ The Danish storyteller

Hans Christian Andersen was born in Odense, Denmark, in 1805. His father was a poor shoemaker who read stories aloud and built him a toy theater. At fourteen Hans went alone to Copenhagen to become an actor. That did not work out, but he became a writer instead. He made up more than 150 fairy tales, including *The Ugly Duckling*, *The Princess and the Pea* and *The Little Mermaid*.

Questions About the Author

1. In what country was Hans Christian Andersen born?

2. What job did his father have?

3. Andersen made up most of his own stories. What story would you make up?

Name _____ Date _____

STORY MAP

The Ugly Duckling



Look at the picture from the read-aloud. Who do you see? Then fill in the story map.

Characters

Who is in the story?

Setting

Where and when does it happen?

Problem

What goes wrong?

Solution

How is it fixed? How does it end?

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Name _____ Date _____

LET'S TALK

The Ugly Duckling

Young children can answer out loud. Older children can write their answers.

REMEMBER

1. Why did the mother duck think the last egg might be a turkey egg?

2. How did the farmyard animals treat the duckling?

3. What did the duckling see in the water at the end?

THINK

4. How do you think the duckling felt when everyone called him ugly?

5. Why did the swans welcome him?

CONNECT

6. How can you help someone who feels left out?

NARRATION

Close the book and tell the story back in your own words. How did the ugly duckling find out who he really was?

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Name _____ Date _____

THE BIG IDEA

What Does the Story Teach?

THE LESSON

Be kind to those who seem different. Everyone grows and changes in their own time, and the duckling was a swan all along.

What does this mean to you? Tell or write about a time it was true in your life.

Try It

SKILL FOCUS

Character change: how the duckling changes, and how his feelings change, from beginning to end

Draw the duckling at the beginning of the story and the swan at the end. Write one feeling word under each picture.

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Name _____ Date _____

WORDS TO KNOW

Word Match

Draw a line from each word to what it means.

duckling	clumsy, not graceful
hatch	what you see of yourself in water or a mirror
farmyard	a baby duck
awkward	tall grass that grows near water
marsh	the yard around a farm
reeds	moving in a smooth, lovely way
reflection	to break out of an egg
graceful	wet, soggy land with tall plants

Word Sort: Duckling or Swan?

Write each word in the right box.

gray · white · awkward · graceful · small · long neck · teased · welcomed

The duckling at the start	The swan at the end

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Name _____ Date _____

WORD SEARCH

The Ugly Duckling

Find the words from the story. Words go across (left to right) and down (top to bottom). Circle each word, then check it off.

C	A	T	B	T	S	E	N	S	Y
R	I	R	B	W	F	D	E	D	N
R	H	E	N	F	U	F	S	M	I
F	E	E	R	D	G	G	T	T	C
N	R	E	L	U	I	D	U	A	V
O	E	T	D	C	B	R	V	P	O
I	E	G	R	K	A	M	N	O	Y
V	D	R	I	V	S	M	F	N	E
L	S	U	G	R	J	U	H	D	G
S	W	A	N	M	T	K	G	L	G

WORD BANK

- ☐ DUCK
- ☐ EGG
- ☐ SWAN
- ☐ POND
- ☐ HEN
- ☐ CAT
- ☐ NEST
- ☐ REEDS

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CCSS RF.K.1b · RF.K.3c · RF.1.3

Name _____ Date _____

CHECK YOUR READING

Yes or No?

Read each sentence about the story. Circle **Yes** if it is true. Circle **No** if it is not.

1. The last egg took a long time to hatch. Yes No
2. The duckling could not swim. Yes No
3. The farmyard animals were kind to the duckling. Yes No
4. The hen asked, “Can you lay eggs?” Yes No
5. The duckling had a long, cold winter. Yes No
6. The duckling grew into a swan. Yes No

ABC Order

Write these words from the story in ABC order.

swan duck egg marsh pond

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

5 _____

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Name _____ Date _____

PUT IT IN ORDER

What Happens First?

Read each sentence. Write 1 in the circle next to what happens first, 2 next to what happens next, and so on up to 6.

- ◯ The duckling lives with an old woman, a cat and a hen.
- ◯ The last egg hatches into a big, gray duckling.
- ◯ The duckling sees he is a swan.
- ◯ The farmyard animals tease the duckling.
- ◯ The duckling lives through a cold winter.
- ◯ The duckling runs away to the marsh.

Retell the Story

Use the order words to tell the story in your own words. Say it out loud, or write it.

First, _____

Next, _____

Then, _____

Last, _____

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Name _____ Date _____

CHARACTERS

Who Said It?

Read each line from the story. Write who said it. Use the name bank to help.

the cat | the hen | the mother duck | the old duck | the youngest child

"That looks like a turkey egg," _____

"He's not a turkey after all. See how well he swims." _____

"Can you lay eggs?" _____

"Can you purr?" _____

"There's a new swan." _____

How Did the duckling Feel?

Write a feeling word for each part of the story. Use the word bank, or choose your own.

happy | sad | lonely | scared | cold | shy | joyful

When...	the duckling felt...
he first hatched	
the farmyard animals teased him	
he ran away to the marsh	
the long winter came	
he flew to the swans	
he saw his reflection	

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Name _____ Date _____

PERFORM IT

Read It With Voices

Five readers take the parts. Make the hen and the cat sound very bossy!

OLD DUCK	"That looks like a turkey egg. If I were you, I would leave it alone."
MOTHER DUCK	"I have sat on it so long already. I will wait just a little longer."
HEN	"Can you lay eggs?"
DUCKLING	"No."
CAT	"Can you purr?"
DUCKLING	"No."
DUCKLING	"I never dreamed of such happiness as this when I was only an ugly duckling."

My Favorite Part

My favorite part is _____

_____

because _____

_____

Name _____ Date _____

HANDWRITING PRACTICE

The Ugly Duckling

Trace the gray words, then write them on your own on the empty lines. Tall letters touch the top line; small letters reach the dotted line.

The duckling was a swan.

The duckling was a swan.

The duckling was a swan.

Be kind to everyone.

Be kind to everyone.

Be kind to everyone.

☐ I started with a capital letter. ☐ I left spaces between words. ☐ I copied the end mark.

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FOR GROWN-UPS

Answer Key & Ideas

Story Map

Characters: the ugly duckling, the mother duck and ducklings, the farmyard animals, the wild ducks, the old woman, her cat and hen, the swans, the children. Setting: a farm, a marsh, a cottage and a pond, through summer, autumn, winter and spring. Problem: the duckling looks different, and everyone teases him. Solution: he grows into a beautiful swan and finds where he belongs.

Let's Talk

1. It was big and took a long time to hatch. 2. They teased and chased him and called him ugly. 3. His reflection: he had grown into a swan. 4–6. Answers will vary.

Word Search

C	A	T	B	T	S	E	N	S	Y
R	I	R	B	W	F	D	E	D	N
R	H	E	N	F	U	F	S	M	I
F	E	E	R	D	G	G	T	T	C
N	R	E	L	U	I	D	U	A	V
O	E	T	D	C	B	R	V	P	O
I	E	G	R	K	A	M	N	O	Y
V	D	R	I	V	S	M	F	N	E
L	S	U	G	R	J	U	H	D	G
S	W	A	N	M	T	K	G	L	G

Word Match & Sort

duckling: a baby duck · hatch: to break out of an egg · farmyard: the yard around a farm · awkward: clumsy, not graceful · marsh: wet, soggy land with tall plants · reeds: tall grass that grows near water · reflection: what you see of yourself in water or a mirror · graceful: moving in a smooth, lovely way. Sort: The duckling at the start: gray, awkward, small, teased. The swan at the end: white, graceful, long neck, welcomed.

Yes or No? & ABC Order

1. Yes · 2. No · 3. No · 4. Yes · 5. Yes · 6. Yes. ABC order: duck, egg, marsh, pond, swan.

Put It in Order

the last egg hatches → the farmyard animals tease him → he runs away to the marsh → the old woman's cottage → a cold winter → he sees he is a swan.

Who Said It?

1. the old duck · 2. the mother duck · 3. the hen · 4. the cat · 5. the youngest child

Ideas to extend the lesson

- Look at pictures of baby swans (cygnets) and grown swans and compare them.
- Make a kindness chain: write one kind thing to say to a friend on each paper link.
- Read it with The Velveteen Rabbit, another story about changing and growing.

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FOR TEACHERS

Standards Alignment

The Ugly Duckling ✦ Common Core State Standards, kindergarten to grade 2

STANDARDS	WHAT CHILDREN PRACTICE	WHERE IN THIS GUIDE
RL.K.1 RL.1.1 RL.2.1	Ask and answer questions about key details in a text.	Let's Talk and Yes or No?; Let's Talk
RL.K.2 RL.1.2 RL.2.2	Retell stories and poems, including key details, and show understanding of their message.	Put It in Order and Retell; Put It in Order and Retell; The Big Idea; The Big Idea
RL.K.3 RL.1.3 RL.2.3	Identify and describe characters, settings and major events.	Story Map and Character Feelings; Character Feelings
RL.K.4	Understand words and phrases, including rhyme, rhythm and words that appeal to the senses.	Word Match
RL.K.6 RL.1.6 RL.2.6	Identify who is speaking and use a different voice for each character when reading aloud.	Meet the Author; Who Said It?; Read It With Voices
RL.K.7 RL.1.7	Use illustrations and words together to describe characters, setting and events.	Story Map picture
RL.K.10 RL.1.10	Engage in group reading of poems and stories with purpose and understanding.	Reading the story together
RF.K.1b RF.K.1d	Understand the organization of print (left to right, top to bottom).	Word Search; ABC Order
RF.K.3c RF.1.3	Read common high-frequency words by sight.	Word Search
RF.1.4b RF.2.4b	Read aloud with accuracy, appropriate rate and expression.	Read It With Voices
SL.K.1 SL.1.1	Take part in conversations about the text with classmates and adults.	Let's Talk (discussion)
SL.K.2	Ask and answer questions about a text read aloud or presented through media.	Read-aloud video (QR code)
SL.K.5	Add drawings or other visual displays to descriptions as desired to provide additional detail.	Try It (drawing to add detail)
SL.K.6	Speak audibly and express ideas clearly.	Read It With Voices
L.K.1a L.1.1 L.1.1a	Print upper- and lowercase letters and use common position words.	Handwriting Practice; ABC Order
L.K.2a	Use capital letters and end punctuation.	Handwriting checklist
L.K.4 L.1.4	Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown words and phrases.	Word Match
L.K.5a	Sort words into categories, connect words to real life and act out shades of meaning.	Word Sort
W.K.1 W.1.1	Use drawing and writing to share an opinion and give a reason.	My Favorite Part
W.K.2	Use a combination of drawing, dictating and writing to compose informative texts.	Try It
W.1.8	With guidance and support, recall information from experiences or gather information to answer a question.	Try It

Codes are Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts. Find free read-alouds and guides at storylandclassics.com.

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