The Ugly Duckling

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.

Folk tales...

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 than 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.

THE UGLY DUCKLING
BASED ON THE STORY BY
HANS CHRISTIAN
ANDERSEN

BY RICHARD GIERSCH

THE UGLY DUCKLING is a musical written by Richard Giersch, based on the story by Hans Christian Andersen. This program is presented in support of the teaching of the Virginia English Standards of Learning.

Activities provided support curriculum k-5.

AT THE LIBRARY:

Hans Christian Andersen (1805-1875) was a Danish author best known for writing over 150 children’s stories.

Check out the following fairy tales, also by Hans Christian Andersen:
The Emperor’s New Clothes
Thumbelina
The Princess and the Pea
The Steadfast Tin Soldier
The Fir Tree
The Little Mermaid
The Nightingale
Little Match Girl
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.
## SONGS ADD MEANING: The Ugly Duckling

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

Use the frame below to start writing your own fairy tale.

**Once upon a time,**

There was a ____________ who lived in a _____________.
But there was a mean ___________ who always _________________.

One day the ______________ decided to ________________.
There was a magic ___________ that ________________!

After that, _________________.
Then, the ______________ never _________________.

And they lived happily 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 mean.
They told him he was the ugliest duck they’d ever seen.
They laughed and they joked…that was their little game,
   Making fun of a duck…Honker was his name.

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

There once was a duck named ___________________________.

Little brothers drove him ___________________________.

They said he was ___________________________.

Not cute and ___________________________.

And that’s the story of poor ___________________________.

Definition

Rhyme:
Two or more words that share a common ending sound are said to rhyme. 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 BOX

cuddly
Honker
ugly
bonkers
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, name a character who could best be described by each trait next to the trait.

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

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

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? What trait do you like least about yourself?

Challenge Activity

List three physical traits that you possess and three character 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:

Additional Core Curriculum Activities

History and Social Sciences

Gr.K-1- How were the characters in the play good or bad citizens? Explain.

Gr.2-3- Illustrate and describe the setting of the story. Was it urban, suburban, or rural?

Gr. 4-5- Create a timeline of events from the play. What do you think the most important event was?

Gr. K-1- Research the history of the American Bald Eagle. Why is it important to our country?

Science

Gr.K-1-Compare and contrast the physical characteristics of ducks and swans.

Gr. 2-3- Research moles. How was Mortimer different than most moles?

Gr.4-5- Create a food chain chart which includes at least three animals from The Ugly Duckling.

Gr.K-1-What do ducks, geese, and swans need as part of their habitats?

Journals / Discussion

Gr.K-1- What was the moral of the story? What other stories have morals?

Gr. 2-3- In what ways was this play a typical fairy tale? In what ways was it unique?

Gr.4-5- Have you ever felt like one of the characters from the play? Who? Explain.

Gr. K-1- Compare and contrast the play, The Ugly Duckling, with the story.

Write a humorous adaptation of The Ugly Duckling story. Use different characters.