

# The Ugly Duckling

STUDY GUIDE

**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*

## 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.



Plays that include songs are called musicals. In a musical, both the dialogue, or 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 facing page.

### Definitions

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

### Dialogue - lyrics - musicals

Plays that include songs:

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Words spoken by characters in a story:

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Words of a song:

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### 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?"

## Songs from The Ugly Duckling

### 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 t  
o 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

What message is the playwright trying to get across in "It Doesn't Matter"?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Why would Honker "climb the highest mountain, swim the deepest sea?"

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What two characters sing "For You"? Why did the playwright choose these two characters for this song?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Which characters would agree with the lyrics of "It Doesn't Matter"? and which would disagree?

Agree	Disagree

What's better than "havin' a beautiful body"?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Do you agree?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How do you think these songs affect the mood of the play?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In what ways does "It Doesn't Matter" tell the story of The Ugly Duckling?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In "It Doesn't Matter," what comes in first place? What comes in second place?


\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

 **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!



**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 next to each adaptation. If you're stuck, head to the library and read the adaptation!

- The Horned Toad Prince
- The Runaway Tortilla
- Kate and the Beanstalk
- CinderElmo
- Ali Baba and the Forty Aliens



**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.

**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



## Definition

### character trait:

A describing word (adjective) that tells about a person, place, or thing.

### 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.



## Take it one step further:

Fairy tales are just one type of interesting story. Try to write a story of your own at [www.kids-space.org/HPT/1a/11a.html](http://www.kids-space.org/HPT/1a/11a.html).

This site allows you to create your own play, choose characters, and even assign dialogue.

## FINDING TRUE HAPPINESS: TRAITS THAT MATTER

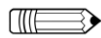
In the play, Snaggle-Claw the cat says this about Melissa:  
*"You see, she has now discovered the true meaning of happiness, and that is, that you cannot be truly happy until you make other people happy too."*

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.

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

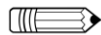
**Hint:** If you are unsure of the meanings of these words, use a dictionary to help!

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### 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!

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presents...  
**THE UGLY DUCKLING**  
BY RICHARD  
GIERSCH  
BASED ON THE FAIRY  
TALE BY  
HANS CHRISTIAN  
ANDERSEN

**Virginia Repertory Theatre**

**Nathaniel Shaw**  
Artistic Director

**Phil Whiteway**  
Managing Director

**Eric Williams**  
Director of Tour  
Operations

**Gordon Bass**  
Tour Manager

**Amber Martinez**  
Arts in Education  
Manager

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## 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.

#### **VIRGINIA REPERTORY THEATRE**

##### *Formerly Theatre IV*

Virginia Rep's Children's Theatre is a nonprofit, professional theatre in Richmond, Virginia. Since 1975 we've created exciting and innovative theatrical productions for young audiences. Each year we stage six shows at our intimate Children's Theatre in Richmond, and we tour national-caliber, educational plays to schools and public venues in Virginia and across the country.

##### **What We Provide:**

- Professional productions of literary classics, holiday shows, and historical biographies connected to the school curriculum
- Meet and Greet the cast at your request
- 40 years of experience of touring professional theatre for young audiences
- Reliable and talented company of actors who load-in and load-out the entire production, including attractive sets, costumes, and sound systems
- Competitive pricing structure
- Question and Answer sessions between our cast and your audience