



# Classroom Connections

For teachers and students grades K - 5

# The Ugly Duckling

By Richard Giersch

Based on the story by Hans Christian Andersen

## Teacher Resources



### In the Classroom

*The Ugly Duckling* is a musical written by Richard Giersch, based on the classic story by Hans Christian Andersen. This program is presented in support of Virginia English Standards of Learning: K.1, 1.1, 2.3, 2.8, 3.1, 3.6, 4.4, 4.5, 5.5, 5.6.

*Activities provided support curriculum in grades 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*
- The Little Match Girl*

Look in the J398 section of your local library for more fairy tales.



### On the Web

[www.TheatreIV.org/sidekicks.html](http://www.TheatreIV.org/sidekicks.html)

*Activities provided are aligned with the Virginia Standards of Learning. Information for teachers and parents, including links to other great web sites.*

## 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.





## Fun Facts

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:

\_\_\_\_\_

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?"

# 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.*

*For you.....*

# Songs Add Meaning: The Ugly Duckling

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

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

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

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

Agree

Disagree

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

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Do you agree?

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

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

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

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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 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



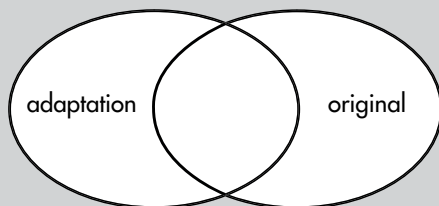
## Challenge Activity

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 in the J398 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 very own fairy tale.

Once upon a time,

there was a \_\_\_\_\_ who  
 lived in a \_\_\_\_\_. But there was a  
 mean \_\_\_\_\_ who always  
 \_\_\_\_\_. So one day the  
 \_\_\_\_\_ decided to  
 \_\_\_\_\_. There was a magic \_\_\_\_\_  
 that \_\_\_\_\_! After that,  
 \_\_\_\_\_. Then,  
 the \_\_\_\_\_ never  
 \_\_\_\_\_.

And they lived happily ever after.

**The End**



# Theatre IV Play 'N Say: The Ugly Duckling

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Listen for the following lines during the play.

"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."  
- Snaggle-Claw

"I hate dirt....Moles are supposed to dig holes and live underground, but I can't stand dirt. It's so...so...unclean. Anyway the other moles laughed at me and I ran away...."  
- Mortimer

"...a good friend once told me that people should like themselves just the way they are...that applies to ducks, too."  
- Honker

"I guess the true meaning of happiness is hard to find."  
- Honker

"Well, hurry up. Like you done said, we ain't got too much time."  
- Jack Quacker

"My father and I do not like mean ducks on our pond...and keeping your own brother shut up in his shell and talking bad about him is very mean." - Melissa

## Easy Activity

One of these quotes is grammatically incorrect. Can you find it? Correct the quote.

## Challenge Activity

For each of the following characters, list a character trait. Think of the things each character said and did in the play.

Snaggle-Claw

Honker

Jack Quacker

Harry the Eagle

Melissa





## 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!

# 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.

## Word Box

cuddly

Honker

ugly

bonkers



Place words from the word box 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 \_\_\_\_\_.

# Finding True Happiness: The 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!



### 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!



## Definitions

### 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.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/fairytales](http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/fairytales)

This site prompts you to create your own story, choose characters, settings and storylines.



# THEATRE IV

114 W. Broad Street  
Richmond, VA 23220  
800 - 235 - 8687

## Theatre IV Presents...

### *The Ugly Duckling*

by Richard Giersch  
Based on the Fairy Tale by  
Hans Christian Andersen

## Special Thanks...

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- The Virginia Business-Education Partnership
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Bruce Miller  
*Artistic Director*

Philip J. Whiteway  
*Managing Director*

Steve Perigard  
*Associate Artistic Director*

Written by Heather Widener, MAT

Designed by Kate Carpenter

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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.



# THEATER ETIQUETTE

We are delighted to have you as our guest and want your experience to be an enjoyable one. Attending a live performance is very different from watching television or going to the movies. You are not simply watching what is happening on the stage; you play an active role. The artists have worked very hard to prepare this performance for you, so please remember the golden rule:

***Treat others the way you would like to be treated.***

**Here are a few guidelines to help you—and your fellow audience members—enjoy the performance:**

## Be Prepared

- Arrive early. Please plan to arrive at the theater at least 15 minutes before curtain time. Be generous in your estimation of travel and parking time.
- Plan ahead to meet anyone in your group who travels separately. Once inside the theater, 'saving seats' for friends will only prove frustrating to all involved.
- Remember to turn off all beepers, cell phones, and watch alarms before entering the theater (And then double check!) and leave all laser pointers, cameras, etc. at home.

## Be Courteous

- Walk, don't run, when entering or leaving the theater. The term "break a leg" means good luck to the performers not the audience!
- Do not take food or drink into the theater, and please – NO GUM!
- Please take children out of the theater if they become restless and disrupt other's ability to listen.
- Actors love to hear applause—it shows how much you enjoyed the performance. If you like something, applaud— if not, don't. It's rude to boo or whistle.

## Be Aware

- It's ok to talk *quietly* with those sitting next to you before the performance; however, when the lights dim, it's time to be quiet and direct your attention to the stage.
- Practice the International Sign of "Quiet Please!" by **silently** raising your finger to your lips to politely remind a neighbor or friend. You communicate your wish for quiet without adding to the distraction. Excessive noise or motion can disturb not only other audience members, but the performers as well.
- Take everything you brought with you when you leave. Once the cast has taken their bows and the house lights come up, check under your seat for any items (coats, backpacks, etc) you might have placed there.

## Be Open

- A good audience member is open to new sights and sounds. Enjoy!



# GETTING TO AMES

Stephens Auditorium is part of the Iowa State Center located at the corner of University Boulevard (formerly Elwood Drive) and Lincoln Way in Ames, Iowa. Plentiful parking is available on all sides of the building. Please follow traffic directors' instructions if you are asked to park in a specific location. Handicapped-accessible and limited-mobility parking is available on the west side of the auditorium.

