

Bridging In-School and Out-Of-School Literacy Practices
A Useful Online
Toolkit for the Teacher

Teaching Through Fairy Tales:

The Ugly Duckling

by Hans Christian Andersen

Learning activities

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The Ugly Duckling



Let's start our journey!

Our guide: The Ugly Duckling

by Hans Christian Andersen



In this unit, we will explore the fairy tale "The Ugly Duckling" and discover important concepts such as **diversity**, **respect**, **inclusion**, **stereotypes**, **prejudice**, and **racism**.

We will work together, think, express our ideas and create!

Why is it important? ★

To learn to respect and appreciate the uniqueness of every person.



1

We share our experiences

We remember our own experiences, get to know the fairy tale and connect what we already know with what we will learn.

We will work through 4 stages of learning!

2

We learn new concepts

We get to know key concepts, explore their meaning and enrich our vocabulary.

What you will need:



The workbook



Pencil and eraser



Colored pencils or markers



Cardstock and A4 paper (for certain activities)



Willingness to cooperate, create and show respect!



4

We create

We use what we have learned to create our own projects, stories and actions.

3

We think and discuss

We observe, analyze, discuss and express our opinions with arguments.

Diversity makes us unique!
Respect makes us better!



By the end, we will be able to...



recognize stereotypes and prejudices



understand diversity better



respect the uniqueness of every person

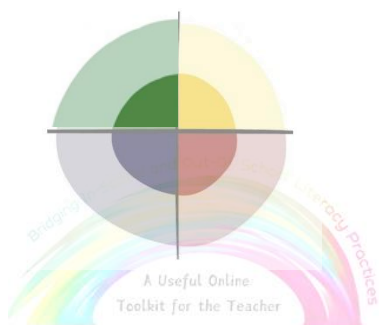


express our opinions with arguments



create our own texts and projects





Can you look through your home library and find two of your favourite children's fairy tales?

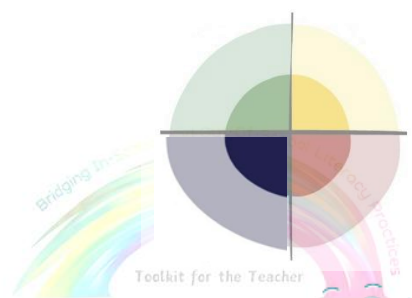
Bring them to class and present them to your classmates.



Draw scenes from the Ugly Duckling that remind you of your own personal experiences. Try to use colors that capture the emotions evoked by those memories.

We will then place all the drawings on a large poster to create our "Wall of Memories"!





Read the following excerpt from the fairy tale again:

«[...] At last it broke, and out came a big, ugly duckling.

"What a big duckling!" said the old duck. "He does not look like us."

[...] You have lovely ducklings. They are all pretty but one. He is very ugly. [...]

Which concept could we use to describe what the duckling is experiencing and why?



Read the following excerpt from the fairy tale again:

«But the poor, big, ugly duckling did not have a good time. [...] The poor duckling was very sad. He did not want to be so ugly. But he could not help it. [...]

Which concept could we use to describe what the duckling is experiencing and why?

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Read the following excerpt from the fairy tale again:

«[...] At night he came to an old house. The house looked as if it would fall down. It was so old. But the wind blew so hard that the duckling went into the house. An old woman lived there with her cat and her hen. The old woman said, "I will keep the duck. I will have some eggs." [...]

Which concept could we use to describe what the duckling is experiencing and why?





Read the following excerpt from the fairy tale again:

«[...] The next day, the cat saw the duckling and began to growl. The hen said, "Can you lay eggs?" The duckling said, "No". "Then keep still," said the hen. The cat said, "Can you growl?", "No," said the duckling. "Then keep still," said the cat. And the duckling hid in a corner. The next day he went for a walk. [...]"»

Which concept could we use to describe what the duckling is experiencing and why?



Read the following excerpt from the fairy tale again:

«[...] One day he flew far away. Soon he saw three white swans on the lake. He put his head down to the water. What did he see? He saw himself in the water. But he was not an ugly duck. He was a white swan. The other swans came to see him. It was a happy time for the ugly duckling.»

Which concept could we use to describe what the duckling is experiencing and why?



STOP RACISM





Working in groups, create an "Anti-Racism Dictionary" and add the concepts we have just discussed. Can you think of any other terms related to racism that could be included in your dictionary?

If you need help, search online for texts published by official organisations (e.g. the United Nations) about racism.



Explore our dictionary and create one of your own!

Good luck, little word explorers!

Anti-racism:



To believe that all people deserve respect and equal opportunities. It means to treat everyone fairly and to help when we see someone being treated unfairly because they are different.

example:

If a child is not allowed by the other kids to play with them because they speak a different language or because they have a disability, I invite them to join my group to play with me and I kindly tell the other children that everyone has the right to participate and play.



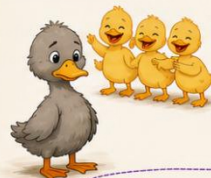
Exclusion:

To leave someone out of a group, a game or an activity and not let them participate.

example: The ugly duckling had been alone all this time, with a sad heart.



Racism:



It is when someone treats another person unfairly or badly just because they are different.

example:

This ugly duckling –that's what they called it– had a wide, flat beak like a plate, was fat and its feathers were gray, like a mouse's! On the farm, everyone made fun of it.



Inclusion:

It means making sure that everyone can participate and feel that they belong to the group, regardless of their differences.

example: If a child uses a wheelchair, we find a game we can all play together!

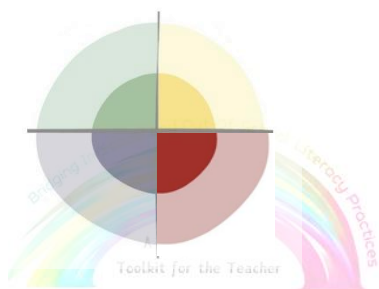
A-G

H-N

O-T

U-Z

Other Words



Answer the following questions:

- How do the animals on the farm and the animals at Grandma's house address the duckling? How do they speak to it?
- How does the duckling feel before and after its physical transformation?
- How is the duckling portrayed through what the other animals say about it?
- How do you think the other animals would react if they did not treat it in such an unfair way?
- If the duckling had never become a swan, would it have deserved less love and respect?

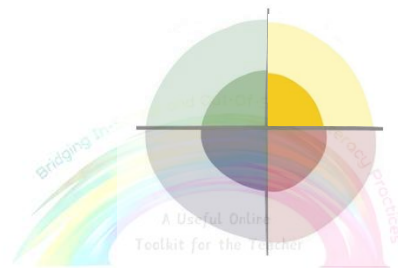
Draw how you imagine the story would look if the duckling had been accepted by the other animals from the beginning.

Discuss the following questions with the classmate sitting next to you:

- What do you think is the message the author wanted to convey through this story? Do you think he achieved his goal?
- What views about diversity are promoted through the fairy tale?
- How is diversity reflected in your everyday life, and how do you think social acceptance can be encouraged?

Write down your ideas and present them to the class.





You will be divided into two groups.

Group 1: Read *The Ugly Duckling* and write down your own views about the story's message.

Group 2: Read *The Ugly Duckling* to people you know (e.g. your parents/guardians, grandparents, friends, or other family members) and write down their ideas about the story's main message.

After collecting everyone's responses, compare and discuss them:

1. How are the opinions similar? How are they different?
2. Which opinion appears most often?
3. Do you think that people's age and life experiences related to physical appearance have influenced their opinions? Why or why not?
4. Do you think there are any other factors that may have influenced their opinions? If yes, what are they?
5. What conclusions can you draw?



We are
ALL EQUAL
Different, but together!



On the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (21st March), the National Council against Racism and Intolerance (NCRI) invites students to create an anti-racist children's story that will be distributed to primary schools across the country as part of the campaign for International Children's Book Day (2nd April).

Create a children's story featuring your favourite animal as the main character. **Your story should not reproduce stereotypes, prejudice, or racist attitudes towards diversity.** Instead, it should promote acceptance, inclusion and respect for diversity.



★ Do you want to become the best storyteller?

★ Follow these steps and write your very own fairy tale!

1 Think of an idea!

What do you want to tell? It can be something that happened, something you imagined, or something you dream about.



2 Create your characters!

Who are the heroes? What are they like? What do they want? Introduce them and describe them!



3 Choose the setting and the time!

Where does your story take place? In a magical forest, in a village, in a castle? When does it happen?



4 Plan the beginning, middle and end!

How does the story start? What happens next? What is the problem and how is it solved? How does it end?



5 Use descriptive words!

Use words that paint pictures in the reader's mind so they can imagine your story.



6 Bring your story to life!

Use your heroes to talk, think and act. This will make your story more exciting!



7 Read, revise and share!

Read your story again. You can improve it and then share it with your friends!

