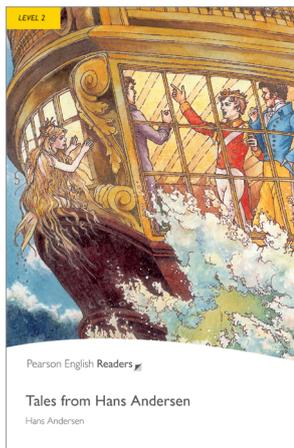


Tales from Hans Andersen

Hans Andersen



About the author

Hans Christian Andersen was born in Odense, Denmark, in 1805. When he was 11 years old, his father died. When he left school he became an apprentice weaver, then a tailor, but he was not happy in this kind of work. At the age of 14, he left home and went to Copenhagen to seek his fortune.

For three years he lived in poverty. He earned a little money singing in a choir and he tried acting and ballet dancing, but failed at both. When he was 17, Andersen came to the notice of a director of the Royal Theatre, who had read one of his plays. He arranged for Andersen to be educated and sent him to a school near Copenhagen, but his teacher was a cruel man who teased him about his ambition to be a writer. In 1828, when he was 23, Andersen passed his entrance examinations to the University of Copenhagen.

Andersen's writings began to be published in Danish in 1829. In 1833 the king gave him a grant of money for travel and he spent 16 months travelling through Germany, France, Switzerland and Italy.

In 1835 Andersen published *Fairy Tales for Children* – four short stories he wrote for the daughter of an acquaintance. Adults and children who read the stories wanted more. Andersen published 168 fairy tales in all. They have been translated into almost every language.

He never married and had no children of his own. Hans Andersen died on August 4, 1875.

Summary

The tales in this collection are five of the most famous Hans Andersen stories that many people have known since early childhood.

The Ugly Duckling

When the last duckling hatches, all the other ducks reject it because it is not like them: it looks ugly. The other animals he meets all treat him unkindly. Eventually, he is so unhappy and lonely that he asks a group of swans to kill him. At this point he discovers that he is a beautiful swan, not an ugly duckling.

The Nightingale

A king discovers that there is a nightingale in his country which is famous for its beautiful song. His servants find the bird and bring it to the palace. The nightingale's song pleases the king so much that he wants it to live in his palace. But the bird needs its freedom and escapes back to its wood. Someone gives the king a replacement – a mechanical bird made of wood; its song is beautiful but never changes and eventually it breaks. Some time later when the king is near to death, the real nightingale returns to see him and sings for him. The king recovers.

The Little Mermaid

A young mermaid is intrigued by life on land and wants to experience it for herself. On a visit, she saves a shipwrecked prince from drowning. She falls in love with him and wants to return to the land permanently. An old woman gives her a magic drink which turns her into a human being, but she can't speak and her feet always hurt. She can never return to being a mermaid, and if she doesn't marry the prince, she will die. She returns as a land person, but the prince marries someone else. The mermaid is given a chance to save herself, but to do this she must kill the prince. She cannot do this.

The Emperor's New Clothes

Two men want to make easy money so persuade the gullible emperor that they can make him some new clothes which only clever people can see. The emperor pays them money and the men pretend to work. The emperor sends servants to check up on the men's progress. Not wanting to appear stupid the servants report that the work on the new clothes is going well. When the men finally present the invisible clothes to the emperor, he can't see them, but because he doesn't want to appear stupid either, he pretends to be impressed. It is only when he goes for a walk through the streets of city that someone – a child – comments on the fact that he has no clothes on.

Thumbelina

Thumbelina is a tiny girl who is born in a flower. First, she is taken away from her home by a toad who wants her to marry his son; she is rescued from this fate by some fish

Tales from Hans Andersen

only to find herself captured by beetles. She escapes from their tree and finds refuge in the house of a field mouse, but here too there is danger. She is forced to work for the mouse and is then promised in marriage to his friend, the mole. She saves a bird from near death, looks after it until it is better and then lets it go. She escapes just before she is due to marry the mole and is taken by the bird to a warm country far away. Here she marries a tiny prince.

Background and themes

Hans Andersen's Tales have a magical quality which makes them irresistible children's stories, but they also have moral lessons to teach.

Feeling rejected: The ugly duckling represents individuals who are rejected by society because they are different in some way from the majority. The same theme crops up in *Thumbelina* who is considered ugly by the beetles because she hasn't got six legs.

Freedom: Freedom is also a key theme running through *The Nightingale* and *Thumbelina*. The nightingale can only sing happily when it is allowed to live freely and not in captivity. Similarly *Thumbelina* dreads the thought of living as a domestic slave for the toad or the mole and is only happy when she escapes and makes her own choice of husband. In *The Little Mermaid* the mermaid pays for and eventually dies for her freedom. *The Emperor's New Clothes* is an attack on hypocrisy and those people who will agree to anything to avoid appearing stupid, especially if going along with the majority viewpoint brings them personal advantages. Significantly, it is the innocent child who points out the truth of the situation.

Discussion activities

The Ugly Duckling, pages 1–6

Before reading

- Discuss:** Talk about Hans Andersen.
Ask students if they know any of Hans Andersen's stories. In case they know the stories only in their first language(s), have them try to explain the plot in English.
Do you know Hans Andersen?
Where was he from?
Do you know any of his stories?
Do you know the titles of his stories in English?
Can you tell us what the story is about?
- Pair work:** Put students into pairs and have them talk about the animals on page 6.
Which animals do you like?
Which animals do you dislike?
Which of these animals can you find in your country?
Which of these animals do people in your country eat?

After reading

- Discuss:** Talk about the message in the story.
Have students work in groups and discuss the following questions:
Are there people like the ugly duckling? Can you think of an example?
How do you feel if people are not nice to you just because you are a little different from other people?
What can you do or say to people like the ugly duckling?
- Role play:** Have students work in small groups. One student in each group takes the role of the ugly duckling. The other students choose the animals or people whom the ugly duckling encounters. Tell them that they have to be very nice to each other even though the ugly duckling is ugly. Encourage students to be creative. Monitor them and ask some groups to act out their dialogues in front of the class.

The Nightingale, pages 7–12

Before reading

- Guess:** Talk about the picture on page 12.
Have students look at the picture on page 12. Ask the following questions:
What is the 'nightingale'?
Can you find the nightingale in the picture?
What is on the table?
Who do you think this man is?
What do you think he is saying?

After reading

- Pair work:** Have students ask and answer the following questions:
Why doesn't the bird want to live in the king's palace?
Why is the real nightingale better than the wooden one?

The Little Mermaid, pages 13–22

Before reading

- Discuss:** Talk about mermaids.
Have students discuss in small groups about mermaids. Ask the following questions:
Do you believe in mermaids?
Where do you think they live?
How long do you think they can live for?
What do you think they eat?
Do you know about any other creatures like mermaids – half human and half something else?

After reading

- Pair work:** Put students into pairs and ask them to discuss these questions.
Is 'The Little Mermaid' a happy story or a sad story?
The little mermaid was the youngest of six sisters. Do you think this is important for the story?
Do you think you can leave your family and your world if you love someone from different world?
What did you learn from this story?
- Watch and compare:** Assign students the task of watching the Disney film *The Little Mermaid*. This could be in class or at home. After watching, ask

Tales from Hans Andersen

students what the differences are between the book and the film. Ask them which they prefer. If there is no time for all the students to watch the film, you could ask the students who have seen the film to explain the plot.

The Emperor's New Clothes, pages 23–26

Before reading

10 Class survey:

Talk about clothes. Put students into groups. Have each group conduct a survey using the questions below. Ask students to share their findings with the rest of the class.

How many times do you change clothes per day?

What kind of clothes do you like?

What colours are good on you?

How often do you get new clothes?

How do you get information on fashion?

After reading

11 Discuss:

Talk about real life. Put students into groups and ask them to discuss the following questions:

What things in real life are like the emperor's new clothes?

Do you ever say you understand something because you don't want people to think you are stupid?

Thumbelina, pages 27–33

Before reading

12 Pair work:

Talk about the name 'Thumbelina'. Show students the picture on page 28. Tell them that her name is Thumbelina. Write 'Thumbelina' on the board and ask students if they can guess why the girl is called Thumbelina. Put students into pairs and have them ask and answer the following questions:

Why do you think she is called 'Thumbelina'?

What names do you want to give her?

If it's a boy, what names do you want to give him?

After reading

13 Retell:

Retell the story of *Thumbelina*. Have students work in groups to retell the story for 5–6-year-old children. Encourage them to make it easy to understand. Then have each group to read out the story to the rest of the class.

Extra activities

14 Discuss:

Put students into groups. Have students choose their favourite stories and characters. Explain that they have to give reasons for their choices. Have them discuss in groups.

15 Pair work:

Talk about children's stories. Put students into pairs, and have them ask and answer questions about the children's stories they enjoyed when they were little. They could be the stories from their own countries or they could be

from the other countries. Students have to explain what the characters are and what the story is about. Monitor the pairs. Ask some pairs to share their stories with the rest of the class.

16 Artwork project:

Draw and write a storyboard. Divide students into five groups. Give each group one of the stories from the book. The goal of the project is to make a storyboard for each Andersen story in the book and to do the storytelling in front of the class. Have each group choose a project manager that should negotiate what each member of the groups can contribute. They need to decide how to tell the stories using their storyboards. This project could be done over a period of time as it takes time to draw pictures. If you let your students work on the artwork in class, create the situations that students need to interact in English. For example, put all the materials (e.g. paper, pens, pencils, paints, scissors, rulers, etc.) at the front of the classroom, and have students talk to you/other students to get the materials they need. Or walk around the classroom and ask some students individually to explain what they are working on. When each group is ready, hold a storytelling day. You could invite an audience from outside the class.

17 Discuss and write:

Have students put themselves in the characters' places. Write the following characters on the board:

the ugly duckling

the mother duck

the nightingale

the king

the little mermaid

the emperor

the emperor's servant

Thumbelina

Have students choose one character from the list and ask them to imagine that they are those characters.

Put students into pairs. Have them talk about what they would do or say in each situation in the stories. Then ask each student to write a paragraph on what they talked about.

You are (character's name).

What are you going to do?

What are you going to say?

Will the story change?

18 Retell:

Show and talk about the storybooks of Hans Andersen. Ask students to try and see if they can find a storybook of Hans Andersen in other languages in the library or at home. If some of them have access to those storybooks, ask them to bring them to the class. Have them show the books to the class. Before retelling the stories, have the rest of the class ask questions about the books/pictures/stories.

Tales from Hans Andersen

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While reading

The Ugly Duckling, pages 1–7

1 Put these sentences in the right order 1–12.

- a A big dog found the ugly duckling.
- b A large ugly duck came out of the last egg.
- c Men with guns killed the geese.
- d Some children tried to catch the ugly duckling.
- e The ducklings started to swim.
- f The little ducklings pushed the big ugly duckling away.
- g the mother duck said to the ugly duckling 'Go away.'
- h The ugly duckling found he was really a swan.
- i The ugly duckling ran away.
- j The ugly duckling watched some swans in the sky.
- k The young swan was very happy.
- l Two geese wanted the ugly duckling to live with them.

2 Find the opposites. You can choose one or more words from the box.

bad beautiful hot kind new pretty
sad small thin unhappy young

- a big
- b cold
- c fat
- d good
- e happy
- f old
- g ugly
- h unkind

The Nightingale, pages 10–13

3 Match the two halves of these sentences.

- 1 The old man stood and listened ...
 - 2 The visitors said, 'Nothing is as beautiful ...'
 - 3 The king wanted the nightingale ...
 - 4 The servants took the nightingale ...
 - 5 When the nightingale sang, ...
 - 6 When the king was ill ...
 - 7 The nightingale couldn't stay in the king's palace because ...
- a to sing to him that night.
 - b the nightingale came to sing to him.
 - c to the palace.
 - d to the little bird.
 - e his home was in the woods.
 - f as the nightingale's voice.
 - g the king started to cry.

4 Complete each sentence with a word from the box.

bird kitchen palace shoes
trees wood wood

- a The king lived in a beautiful
- b A nightingale lived in a tree in the
- c The king said, 'I don't know this
- d The king's servant found a young girl in the palace
- e The nightingale said, 'I live happily in the green
- f The king said, 'Your songs make me happy. I'll give you some pretty
- g The nightingale in the box was made of

The Little Mermaid, pages 1–7

5 Answer these questions.

- a How many children does the Sea King have?
.....
- b Who was the most beautiful of these princesses?
.....
- c What runs after the third mermaid when she visited the land?
.....
- d Why does the prince's ship go down?
.....
- e Where does the prince live?
.....
- f How long do mermaids live for?
.....
- g What does the old woman give the mermaid?
.....
- h Who does the prince marry?
.....
- i Why doesn't the little mermaid kill the prince?
.....
- j What do the children in the sky do?
.....

Tales from Hans Andersen

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- 6 Put the words in the right order.**
- a of / sea / sister / swim / The / the / the / to / to / top / wanted / youngest
.....
 - b The / river / sister / swam / the / third / up
.....
 - c a / beautiful / big / blue / eyes / man / most / prince / The / was / with / young
.....
 - d church / left / mermaid / near / prince / The / the / the
.....
 - e about / everything / know / land / mermaid / people / The / the / to / wanted
.....
 - f afraid / on / people / ship / The / the / were
.....

The Emperor's New Clothes, pages 10–13

- 7 Who said or thought these things? Choose the right person from the box. You can choose the same name more than once.**

the emperor the emperor's servant the child
the two bad men the father of the child

- a 'Only clever people can see it.'
.....
- b 'They're stupid people.'
.....
- c 'Oh, it's very good, very good.'
.....
- d 'Put them on.'
.....
- e 'The emperor has no clothes.'
.....
- f 'Be quiet!'
.....

- 8 Put the words in the box in the right places.**

put put said see see took
touched walked went

- a The emperor to the men's house with his servants.
- b The two bad men out their arms.
- c 'Here are your clothes,' the men said. '..... them on.'
- d 'Yes, yes!' said the servants. But they could not the clothes.

- e The emperor off his old shirt and trousers.
- f The two men round him and his arms and legs.
- g 'We can't any clothes,' the servants thought. But they nothing.

Thumbelina, pages 10–13

- 9 Answer these questions.**
- a What does the old woman give the woman who wanted a child?
.....
 - b Where does the woman first find Thumbelina?
.....
 - c Why does the old toad take Thumbelina?
.....
 - d Why does the toad put Thumbelina and the flower in the river?
.....
 - e Who hears Thumbelina crying and helps her?
.....
 - f Who takes Thumbelina up into a tree?
.....
 - g Who lives in a small house in a field?
.....
 - h Why doesn't Thumbelina want to marry the mole?
.....
 - i Where does the little bird take Thumbelina?
.....
 - j What is Thumbelina's new name?
.....

After reading

- 10 Complete each sentence.**
- a The first story is about an duckling with no friends.
 - b The second story is about a little in the lovely wood and a king in a palace.
 - c In the third story a mermaid a handsome prince and wants to live with him on land.
 - d The fourth story is about an emperor's very strange new
 - e The last story is about a very small, Thumbelina.

Tales from Hans Andersen

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1 The Ugly Duckling: Who said these sentences? Match.

- 1 'I want you to go away!'
 - 2 'Can you make a nice noise?'
 - 3 'The new bird's very young and beautiful.'
 - 4 'Give us some eggs!'
 - 5 'Come with us and be a wild bird.'
- a duck
 - b geese
 - c cat
 - d hen
 - e children

2 The Nightingale: Complete these sentences with the right words from the box.

about from inside through to with

- a The palace had a big garden a lot of lovely flowers.
- b People walked a beautiful wood the sea.
- c Visitors other countries came to see the king.
- d Visitors wrote books the city.

3 The Little Mermaid: Put these sentences in order.

- a The prince married his princess.
- b The little mermaid saw a beautiful prince.
- c The old woman gave little mermaid the magic drink.
- d The little mermaid was a sky person.
- e The little mermaid couldn't speak or sing.

4 The Emperor's New Clothes: Put these words into three groups: clothes / people / places.

child county emperor father
friend house man palace servant
shirt street trousers woman

clothes	people	places
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

5 The Thumbelina: Are these sentences right (✓) or wrong (X)?

- a Thumbelina was happy to marry the toad's son.
- b The beetles thought Thumbelina had six legs.
- c The mole liked Thumbelina.
- d The bird put Thumbelina on a red flower.
- e The prince gave Thumbelina a new name.

6 Answer these questions.

- 1 What kind of birds did the ugly duckling see in the sky?
 - a swans
 - b ducks
- 2 What did the children throw into the water for the swans?
 - a stones
 - b bread
- 3 Where did the king live?
 - a in a palace
 - b in the wood
- 4 What did the king want to give the nightingale after she sang to him?
 - a some beautiful flowers
 - b some pretty shoes
- 5 What was the little mermaid's father?
 - a the Sea King
 - b the Sea Emperor
- 6 Where did the mermaid first see the prince?
 - a in a church
 - b on a ship
- 7 Who can see the emperor's new clothes?
 - a two bad men
 - b nobody
- 8 Who first said, 'The emperor has no clothes.?'
 - a a little child
 - b a servant
- 9 Which animal takes Thumbelina away from her home?
 - a a toad
 - b a mole
- 10 Who does Thumbelina tell a story to every day?
 - a a bird
 - b a field mouse

Tales from Hans Andersen

Book key

- 1 Open answers
- 2 emperor
king
prince
servant
- 3 Open answers
- 4 a 3
b 5
c 1
d 4
e 2
f 6
- 5 a thinks he is strange but clever
b want the cat to eat him
c like him
d thinks he will give her eggs
e think he is ill
f think he is the most beautiful swan in the world
- 6–7 Open answers
- 8 a wood
b at night
c book
d not very pretty
e shoes
f cries
- 9 a the first nightingale
b the new nightingale
c the first nightingale
d the first nightingale
e the new nightingale
f the new nightingale
g the first nightingale
- 10 a a young girl in the palace kitchen
b a cow and some toads
c servants
d a nightingale of wood, in a box
e the key
f the new nightingale's song
g sing when the king is ill
h the first nightingale's song
- 11–13 Open answers
- 14 a fifteen
b youngest
c church
d the prince's love
e sing or speak
f a princess
g jumps into the sea
- 15 a The grandmother is talking about people.
b The little mermaid is thinking about the prince in the dangerous sea.
c The prince cannot remember his night in the sea, or the little mermaid.
d The old woman is talking to the little mermaid about her future life as a land person.
e The prince is talking about the princess.
f The little mermaid is sad because the prince marries the princess.
g The little mermaids' sisters are talking to her. She can be a mermaid again when she kills the prince.
h The children of the sky are telling the little mermaid about their work.
- 16–18 Open answers
- 19 a not day but hour
b not like but dislike / hate – or not work but money
c not stupid but clever
d not can but cannot or can't
e not funny but wonderful
f not cries but laughs
- 20–21 Open answers
- 22 a wants Thumbelina for her son
b push the flower away from the toads
c takes her up into a tree
d wants her to tell him stories
e wants her to live under the ground
f takes her to a warm country
g marries her
- 23–31 Open answers

Discussion activities key

- 1 Possible answers:
- Yes, I do.
 - He was from Denmark.
 - I know some stories, but I don't remember them very well.
 - I don't know the titles of his stories in English.
 - I know one story. In this story, a girl sells matches on New Year's Eve.
- 2 Possible answers:
- I like ducks and ducklings.
 - I don't like beetles.
 - We can find all of them in our country.
 - We eat hen's eggs and hen's meat (chicken).

Tales from Hans Andersen

- 3** Possible answers:
- *I may be wrong, but people with a wheelchair? Or people who cannot see?*
 - *I think I will feel very sad.*
 - *We can be nice to each other.*
- 4** Open answers
- 5** Possible answers:
- *The nightingale is a bird.*
 - *It's outside the window in the tree.*
 - *There is a toy bird.*
 - *I think this man has the bird.*
 - *He is saying, 'There you are!'*
- 6** Possible answers:
- *Because he likes living in the wood.*
 - *He wants to fly around freely.*
 - *The wooden one sings the same song.*
 - *The wooden one gets broken.*
- 7** Possible answers:
- *I don't believe in them.*
 - *I want to believe there are mermaids somewhere.*
 - *I think they live at the bottom of the sea.*
 - *I think they can live long – like a sea turtle.*
 - *I think they eat some shellfish.*
 - *I saw the one in the film called 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe.' He was half human and half goat.*
- 8** Possible answers:
- *I think it's a sad story. The prince doesn't marry her!*
 - *I think it's a happy ending. She becomes a sky person.*
 - *I think being the youngest is important for the story. She had to wait for a long time to visit the land, so she thought the land was better than the sea.*
 - *I cannot leave my family and my world even if I love someone. I'll ask him/her to come to my world.*
 - *Then I don't think it is love.*
- 9** Possible answers:
- *In the film, the mermaid doesn't have sisters or a grandmother.*
 - *In the film, she can still talk and sing after she becomes a land person.*
 - *In the film, the prince marries the mermaid!*
- 10** Possible answers:
- *I change my clothes twice a day.*
 - *I like pretty clothes.*
 - *I like jeans.*
 - *I think the colour red looks good on me.*
 - *I get new clothes every two months.*
 - *I read fashion magazines, and I watch TV.*
- 11** Possible answers:
- *I'm not sure.*
 - *I often say I understand even if I don't, especially when I have to listen to English.*
- 12** Possible answers:
- *She may be the size of a thumb.*
 - *I like to call her 'Little Flower Girl.'*
 - *I think I will call him 'Little Star.'*
- 13** Open answers
- 14** Possible answers:
My favourite story is 'The Emperor's New Clothes.' The little child tells the truth. He doesn't care what other people think or say. I want to be like that.
- 15** Open answers
- 16** Open answers
- 17** Possible answers:
I am the mother duck of the ugly duckling. I am not going to say, 'Go away!' I will take care of the ugly duckling. I am going to say, 'You look a little different from your brothers and sisters, but I love you just the way you are.' I will talk to his brothers and sisters and tell them to be nice to each other. I think the story will change. When the ugly duckling becomes a swan, the mother duck will be surprised. She still loves him. Even if the young swan flies up in the sky to join other swans, I'm sure he will come back and visit the mother duck from time to time.
- 18** Open answers
- ### Activity worksheets key
- 1 a 8 b 1 c 7 d 10 e 2 f 3 g 4 h 11
i 5 j 9 k 12 l 6
- 2 a small b hot c thin d bad e sad, unhappy
f new, young g beautiful, pretty h kind
- 3 l d 2 f 3 a 4 c 5 g 6 b 7 e
- 4 a palace b wood c bird d kitchen
e trees f shoes g wood
- 5 Suggested answers:
- a Six.
 - b The youngest princess.
 - c A dog.
 - d Because the weather is bad.
 - e In a palace near the sea.
 - f 300 years.
 - g A magic drink.
 - h The girl from the church.
 - i Because she loves him.
 - j They help other people. They bring rain and flowers to dry lands. They make sad people happy. They do good things for 300 years.

Tales from Hans Andersen

- 6 a The youngest sister wanted to swim to the top of the sea.
 b The third sister swam up the river.
 c The most beautiful man was a young prince with big blue eyes.
 d The mermaid left the prince near the church.
 e The mermaid wanted to know everything about the land people.
 f The people on the ship were afraid.
- 7 a the two bad men
 b the emperor
 c the emperor's servant
 d the two bad men
 e the child
 f the father of the child
- 8 a went b put c Put d see e took
 f walked, touched g see, said
- 9 Suggested answers:
 a A magic flower.
 b Inside the flower.
 c Because she wants her to marry her son.
 d Then she can't get away.

- e Fish in the river.
 f A big beetle.
 g The field mouse.
 h Because she doesn't want to live under the ground. She wants to see the sun.
 i To a warm country.
 j Maia.

10 Suggested answers:

- a ugly b bird c loves d clothes e girl

Progress test key

1 l a 2 c 3 e 4 d 5 b

2 a with b through, to c from d about

3 a 4 b l c 2 d 5 e 3

4 **clothes:** shirt, trousers

people: child, emperor, father, friend, man
 servant, woman

places: country, house, palace, street

5 a X b X c ✓ d X e ✓

6 l a 2 b 3 a 4 b 5 a 6 b 7 b 8 a

9 a 10 b