

THE UGLY DUCKLING

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by Hans Christian Andersen, adapted and illustrated by Jerry Pinkney (HarperCollins)

Themes: Folktales, Growth and Change, Nature

Grade Level: K--5

Running Time: 20 minutes

SUMMARY

This adaptation revives the classic European folktale in a rural American pioneer landscape, with ponds, woods, fields and farms rendered in lovely watercolor paintings that are both realistically detailed and full of emotion. The art draws children into the world of an odd egg that hatches into a duckling so ugly it is taunted by all the others. The outcast runs away and faces hunger, danger, cold, and worst of all, loneliness. But when warmth and spring return, the duckling turns into a beautiful swan and finds the other swans with which it belongs.

OBJECTIVES

- Children will watch and listen to a classic folktale.
- Children will describe how animals change as they are born and grow up.
- Children will notice visual and verbal details about nature at various seasons of the year.
- Children will identify and express their feelings about growth and change in their own lives.

BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Start by asking the many students who already know the story not to give away the ending to those who don't know it. If the story is unfamiliar to most of the class, start by discussing the title. Ask how the

word "ugly" makes them feel. Ask students to name other bad feelings, such as being lonely or cold. Promise them that in this story bad feelings turn good.

If the story is familiar to all or most of the class, explain that there are many different ways to tell the same story, and that this program has art that makes it especially worth watching. Encourage students to notice details as they watch and listen. What words and pictures are clues about people? Who are the people in the story? What do their houses look like? What plants and animals are in the story?

AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES

To encourage children to express the feelings evoked by the program, ask them to look back at the story from different points of view. For example, have them imagine they're the other ducklings in the brood or the children who want to play. Remind them that none of these characters really understood the duckling—in fact, the duckling did not understand itself. Discuss how the duckling's feelings changed after it realized it was a swan.

Connect the story to a nature or science lesson by reviewing the pictures in detail. Recall the details that showed the changes of the seasons. Challenge younger students to list all the animals they see. Challenge older students to identify both plants and animals by species, with the help of nature guides.

Connect the story to both science and art by asking students to draw pictures of baby animals and their parents. Display the pictures on bulletin boards or assemble them in large scrapbooks that can be

shared with other classrooms.

Connect the story to American history by recalling visual details that were clues to the place and date of the story. For example, remind them that there were no electrical wires in the pictures, and that the people wore old-fashioned clothes. Other details to notice include the wooden fences, carts and farm tools.

Encourage students to collect other versions of the same story and compare them. Use the comparisons to reinforce the idea that the same story can be told in many different ways. Encourage children to retell this and other familiar stories, using pictures, sounds and music as well as words.

Other videos and films about nature available from Weston Woods include:

OWL MOON by Jane Yolen, ill. by John Schoenherr

TIME OF WONDER by Robert McCloskey
THE CATERPILLAR AND THE POLLIWOG by Jack Kent

Other videos and films based on classic European folktales available from Weston Woods include:

RAPUNZEL by Paul O. Zelinsky

THE EMPEROR'S NEW CLOTHES by Hans Christian Andersen, retold and illustrated by Nadine Wescott.

THE THREE BILLY GOATS GRUFF by P.C. Asbjornsen & J.E. Moe, ill. by Marcia Brown

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THE SWINEHERD

The Swineherd

by Hans Christian Andersen, illustrated by Bjorn Winblad

Themes: Fairy Tales

Grade Level: K-3

Running Time: 13 minutes, iconographic

Summary

This is the story of a prince who wishes to marry the Emperor's daughter despite the fact that she refuses his gifts.

The determined prince decides to disguise himself as a swineherd, watching over the Emperor's pigs. He spends his days making more gifts for the Emperor's daughter, magical. The prince offers these things in exchange for kisses. The Emperor's daughter obliges the prince until they are caught by the Emperor. They are tossed out of the palace at once. When the prince reveals himself to the Emperor's daughter, he tells her that he no longer wants her because of her greed. She would not take gifts from an honest prince, but she would take the gifts of a swineherd out of greed.

Objectives

- Children will explore the concept of greed
- Children will enjoy a delightful version of a classic fairy tale
- Children will investigate the ways that they learn by using their senses

Before Viewing Activities

Share the book *The Swineherd* with children. Then ask:

If you were the prince, what would you have done to get the attention of the Emperor's daughter? Why?

Have children talk about their favorite fairy tales. Ask: How do the people (animals) feel at the end of the fairy tale? Could the things that happened in the fairy tale happen in real life? Why? Why not? If your favorite fairy tale characters could come to life, what would you want to ask them? What things could you show them that they might find interesting?

Tell children that they will hear many different sounds as they view the story, including birds singing, wooden shoes moving across stone walkways, rain falling, bells ringing, and many different kinds of music playing. Encourage children to listen carefully for each of these sounds.

After Viewing Activities

Have children dramatize the story of *The Swineherd*. Before beginning, children can create a backdrop for their play by painting a palace and a pig pen filled with pigs on a large sheet of kraft paper. You might want to provide props such as clogs to be worn by the "maiden", pointed hats to be worn by the "Emperor's daughter" and the "maidens" a crown to be worn by the prince, old, tattered clothing to be worn by the "swineherd", a

bird cut from construction paper and a silk flower to represent the prince's gifts and a cooking pot, and an old toy to represent gifts prepared by the swineherd.

Talk with children about the many things we can learn by using our senses. Ask: What special things did the Emperor's daughter smell? What did she hear? What smells do you enjoy? What kinds of things do you like to listen to? What kinds of things can your sense of smell tell you? What can you learn by listening carefully?

Discuss the Emperor's daughter's greedy nature. Ask: Do you know a greedy person? How is this person greedy?

Other book based films and videos about fairy tales are available from Weston Woods. These include: *THE FISHERMAN AND HIS WIFE* by Wanda Gag
GOLDBLOCKS AND THE THREE BEARS by James Marshall
RED RIDING HOOD by James Marshall
STREGA NONNA by Tomie de Paola
THE THREE LITTLE PIGS by Erik Blegvad
THE THREE LITTLE PIGS by James Marshall
THE THREE BILLY GOATS GRUFF written by P.C. Asbjornsen and J.E. Moe and illustrated by Marcia Brown

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