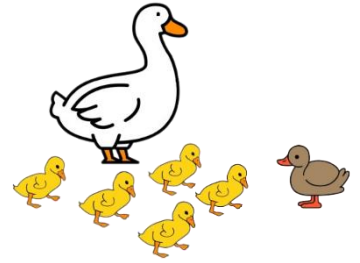


# The Ugly Duckling

by Hans Christian Andersen

## Rewritten story



Read the story and answer the following questions.

1. There once was a mother duck. She eagerly waited for her babies to hatch. At last, the mother duck watched the yellow ducklings step out of the shells one by one. However, there was a large egg still in the nest.
2. Two days later, the big egg started to crack and out came a baby boy. He was brownish grey, large and odd-looking, with a long beak, scruffy feathers and an ugly face! “He doesn’t look like us and is ugly!” exclaimed a duckling. Though the duckling looked different, the mother duck would love him the same. She told her little ones, “Let’s all go to the pond and I’ll teach you all the ways of being a duck.”
3. “Quack! Quack! Ugly! Ugly!” One duckling pointed at his youngest brother and the other ducklings joined in. The ugly duckling did not know why they yelled at him. He followed his mother and jumped into the pond. Though he wanted to play with his brothers and sisters, the ducklings shouted, “Go away! Don’t stay with us!” The mother duck was sad. She told her baby ducklings to be kind to their brother, but could do nothing else.
4. A few days passed. The little ducklings and their mother were in the pond again. There were other ducks nearby and they stared at the ugly duckling and jested, “What is this? Have you ever seen such an ugly duck? I wonder what he is!” They burst into laughter. A duck swam by and pecked at the ugly duckling. His mother made him stay away from the others. The ugly duckling knew his mother was embarrassed. He decided to leave. One night, he flew over the fence and out of the farmyard. He waddled through tall river reeds and marsh plants. He waddled through the mud. All this made him very dirty. He then reached a lake where a family of geese lived. The goslings were brownish grey just like him. He was happy and swam towards the family of geese. “Hello there! May I join you?” said the ugly duckling.
5. “Who are you?” asked the father goose and mother goose.
6. “You’re really ugly!” the goslings said all at once.
7. When the ugly duckling decided to leave them, the father goose greeted him and said, “You sure are strange looking, but you’re welcome to join our family.” The father goose and mother goose were kind to him and he played happily with the goslings. Happy days did not last long, however. One day, a hunter and his basset hound approached the lake. The hunter fired a shot, which did not hit any of the geese but they flew off in fear. The ugly duckling was both sad and frightened.
8. He wandered off to look for a family to take him in. After a few days, he was discovered by a farmer and his wife who lived in a cottage. They decided to keep the ugly duckling because they wanted him to lay eggs for

them to eat. They waited for the ugly bird to lay eggs. They waited and waited, but nothing happened. They did not want to keep the ugly duckling anymore. They told him to go away. He thought to himself, “Nobody wants me,” and was in tears.

9. It was winter and difficult to find food in the lake. Still, the ugly duckling tried hard and miraculously he survived the cold winter. Spring came and he found a new lake. He saw a family of the most beautiful birds he had ever seen – swans. At that moment, a swan glided gracefully through the water towards the ugly duckling. “My, my! How handsome you are! I’ve never seen such white feathers! How they dazzle under the sun!”

10. The ugly duckling was confused. He went to the water and looked at his reflection, which was a very beautiful white swan, with a long and elegant neck! He could not believe his eyes. The swan asked him to join his family. All the swans said, “Stay here with us!” He flapped his wings in great joy! “I’m surely not an ugly duckling! I am now high up in the sky and can go far! Hurray!”