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 to 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.....
A Theatre IV activity in support of the following Virginia Standards of Learning in English: K.1, K.5, K.6, K.8, 1.1, 1.5, 1.6, 1.10, 1.11, 2.7, 2.8, 2.9, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.8, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.7, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6, 5.7.

**Songs Add Meaning: The Ugly Duckling**

**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.

---

**What message is the playwright trying to get across in “It Doesn’t Matter?”**

---

**Why would Honker “climb the highest mountain, swim the deepest sea?”**

---

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

---

**Which characters would agree with the lyrics of “It Doesn’t Matter?” and which would disagree?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Do you agree?**

---

**What’s better than “havin’ a beautiful body?”**

---

**In what ways does “It Doesn’t Matter” tell the story of the Ugly Duckling?**

---

**In “It Doesn’t Matter,” what comes in first place? What comes in second place?**

---

---
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

A Theatre IV activity in support of the following Virginia Standards of Learning in English: K.2, K.6, K.8, K.11, 1.7, 1.11, 1.12, 2.4, 2.8, 2.9, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.8.
Theatre IV Play ‘N Say: The Ugly Duckling

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
**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.

---

Place words from the word box into the blanks in the poem so that it rhymes and makes sense.

**Word Box**

- cuddly
- Honker
- ugly
- bonkers

*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!

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.kids-space.org/HPT/1a/11a.html. This site allows you to create your own play, choose characters, and even assign dialogue.

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!
More Teacher Resources...

Additional Core Curriculum Activities

History and Social Sciences

- How were the characters in the play good or bad citizens? Explain.
- Illustrate and describe the setting of the story. Was it urban, suburban, or rural?
- Create a timeline of events from the play. What do you think the most important event was?
- Research the history of the American Bald Eagle. Why is it important to our country?

Science

- Compare and contrast the physical characteristics of ducks and swans.
- Research moles. How was Mortimer different than most moles?
- Create a food chain chart which includes at least three animals from The Ugly Duckling.
- What do ducks, geese, and swans need as part of their habitats?

Journals / Discussion

- What was the moral of the story? What other stories have morals?
- In what ways was this play a typical fairy tale? In what ways was it unique?
- Have you ever felt like one of the characters from the play? Who? Explain.
- Compare and contrast the play, The Ugly Duckling, with the story.
- Write a humorous adaptation of The Ugly Duckling story. Use different characters.