

A Life of Fairytales

Long ago a baby boy was born in Denmark. His parents named him Hans Christian. 15

No one could have guessed that he would grow up to be a well-known author. This 32

is the true story of his life. As a little boy, he loved to pretend. He made a toy 51

theater. He liked to make costumes for his puppets. But most of all he loved to 67

read plays and books. When he was eleven, Hans Christian's father died. Hans 80

Christian had to work to make money for his family. He had jobs with a weaver, a 97

tailor, and even worked in a cigarette factory. People were often mean to him and 112

he felt alone and sad. When he was fourteen, Hans Christian worked in a theater. 127

A man there was interested in the shy boy and paid for him to go to school. But 145

life at school was even worse. The other students, and even the teachers, treated 159

him unkindly. Also, learning was very difficult for him. His teachers told him not to 174

write, but Hans Christian didn't listen. As a young man, he wrote several books. 188

He also started writing fairytales. At first people weren't interested in those kinds 201

of stories, but slowly they became more popular. When Hans Christian Andersen 213

died, he was known throughout the world as a talented author. And people still 227

read his fairytales today. His stories like *The Steadfast Tin Soldier*, *The Little* 240

Mermaid, and *The Ugly Duckling* are still loved by children around the world. 253

	day 1	day 2	day 3	day 4
words read in 1 minute				
– number of mistakes				
= total words read correctly				
adult initials				

Parent Tips

To help your child to read with expression, remind him what your voice does at each punctuation mark.

A *comma* means to pause while reading. Use a short easy sentence to illustrate and have the child practice. For example: "Sam, come here."

A *period* means to come to a full stop. When students have trouble with this, have them stop and take a breath at each period. Many students will read through the period until they run out of air and then stop for a breath. Instead, teach them to stop at the period and then continue on.

1. What did Hans Christian enjoy doing?

- playing baseball
- imagining stories
- watching movies

2. How was Hans Christian treated at school?

- unkindly
- sweetly
- warmly

3. What does the author want you to understand from this passage?

- If someone says you're not good at something you should stop doing it.
- As a child, Hans Christian liked to play with his puppets and make up stories.
- Hans Christian was true to himself and turned a hard life into a good one.

4. What do you want to be remembered for doing with your life?



A group of children visit the Hans Christian Andersen statue in New York, 1955