

The Ugly Duckling

adapted from Hans Christian Andersen

He was the last egg to hatch—ugly, large, and just plain different. The other 15
 ducklings had yellow feathers, but his were gray. He ate more than his brothers and 30
 was growing bigger and awkward. He knew how to swim, but that was the only way 46
 he was like the other ducklings. No one would play with him. All the farm animals 62
 laughed at him. They even started calling him Ugly Duckling. “Why are you so 76
 different from the others?” Mother Duck asked. Poor little duckling! He secretly 88
 cried at night. Since nobody wanted him, he ran away. He stopped at a river and 104
 asked the other birds if they had seen any ducklings with gray feathers like his. But 120
 no one had, so he was still alone. He ran as far as he could and came to a pond. 140
 If nobody wanted him, he would hide here forever. He was lonely, but at least there 156
 was plenty of food. One day, he saw beautiful birds overhead. They were white 171
 with long necks, yellow beaks and large wings. “If only I could look like them, just for 188
 a day!” said the duckling. Then the duckling saw himself mirrored in the water. 202
 “Goodness! How I’ve changed! I hardly recognize myself.” The white birds flew by 215
 again. When the duckling saw them, he realized he was just like them! Soon they 230
 were friends. “We’re swans like you!” they said. “Where have you been?” Now he 245
 swam majestically with his fellow swans. One day, he heard some children exclaim, 258
 “Look at that swan! He’s the finest of all!” And he almost burst with happiness. 273

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

Parent Tips

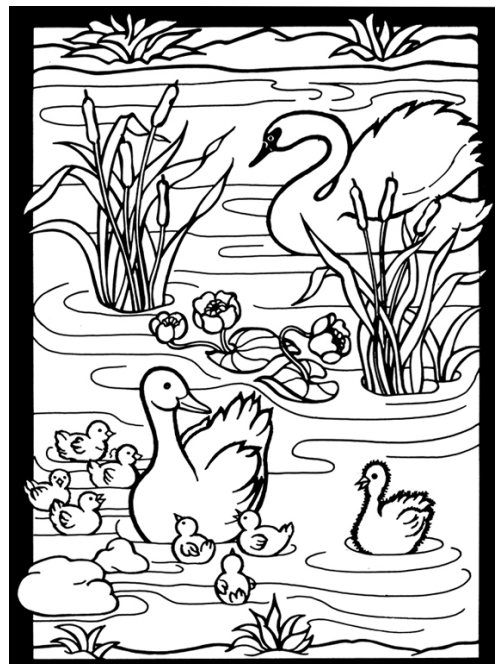
Listening to your learner read will tell you a lot about whether or not she is comprehending a particular passage. No matter how bright a learner is, if she is not reading easily and with expression, there is not enough attention being focused on meaning.

1. What's the Ugly Ducklings main problem?

- o He can't swim.
- o He is too small.
- o He is lonely.

2. How does he solve his problem?

- o He makes friends with other swans.
- o He makes the ducks act nice to him.
- o He finds some kids to live with.



3. What can we learn from the Ugly Duckling?

- o If people are mean, you should run away.
- o No matter what anyone says, you are special.
- o Farm animals like to tease other animals.

4. Hans Christian Andersen said that he felt like the Ugly Duckling when he was growing up. How was Hans Christian's life like the Ugly Duckling's?