

The Ugly Duckling

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A musical play for Primary Schools and Drama Clubs

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Duration approx 40 mins- for a large cast

A memorable end-of-term show or special extended assembly for ages 5 –11

(Some parts can be narrated by the teacher when used solely with younger pupils.)

Fantastic fun to act, sing and dance, but it also explores serious PSHE issues, especially [bullying](#), [homelessness](#) and low [self esteem](#).



This heart-warming version of “The Ugly Duckling” is inspired by Hans Christian Andersen’s classic dark tale. Andersen himself was no stranger to hardship and non-acceptance, which is a theme that could be explored in its own right in school.

Mother Duck’s last egg hatches into an ugly, ungainly creature, and he is ridiculed and bullied in the barnyard. He runs away to the marshes

and is befriended by the wild ducks, but he loses track of them during the hunting season. A travelling gypsy shows kindness to him, and he is then taken in by a farmer and his family. The farmer’s cat, dog and hen become jealous and bully him so he runs away again. At last he matures into a beautiful swan, finds his self-esteem and flies to freedom. Fantastic- A nice simple show with great characters, and thought-provoking songs which are easy to learn. No musical ability needed- just sing and dance to the backing tracks. Brilliant for class lessons too. Comes with a PowerPoint Presentation, ideas for follow-up work and 20 worksheets.

CD LISTING: Photocopiable script, Basic score, Worksheets, Powerpoint Presentation and these Audio Tracks:

- 1) **Come and Look!** (The barnyard animals mock the ugly duckling)
- 2) **Don’t Believe it When They Tell You You’re Not Beautiful!** (Beauty isn’t always physical!)
- 3) **Sad Music** (The ugly duckling leaves home)
- 4 and 5) **Gunshots** (Sound Effects)
- 6) **Keep Smiling** (Cheerful song- it’s great to be alive!)
- 7) **Traveller’s Song** (Sung by the roaming gypsy)
- 8) **Swan dance** (Dreamy instrumental)
- 9) **How Does it Feel to be Bullied?** (Bouncy Song to give advice about bullying)
- 10) **Bedbug Blues** (Popular Action Song- “it’s a brand new day out there!”)
- 11) **Wonderful!** (At last-the ugly duckling has found his self-esteem!)
- 12) **No-one Quite Like Me!** (Celebrate! Everyone in the room is valuable and unique!)
- 13) **You’re So Handsome!** (The ugly duckling flies to freedom)

Tracks 14-26 are instrumental backing tracks of the above, to sing along to.

Cast: (Parts with a prominent singing role are marked with an asterisk)

Ugly duckling *
Narrator 1 Narrator 2
4 baby ducks
Mother duck * Father duck
Cockerel Goose *
3 Wild Ducks *
Turkey
Hunter 1..... Hunter 2
Traveller *
Child 1*, 2* and 3*
Mother..... Father
Grandmother *
Dog..... Cat
Hen
Swan dancers, including Swan 1 * (a female swan)
.....
Singers

Props needed: 2 rifles for hunters, piece of bread for traveller, “bedclothes”

(Father Duck and Baby Duck 1, Baby Duck 2 and other baby ducks sitting onstage)

Narrator 1: Our tale starts on an ordinary farm, late in the springtime. There were some ducks in the farmyard. They were waiting for the final egg to hatch.

Baby Duck 1: Father! Has the last egg hatched yet?

Baby Duck 2: Oh, bother! it’s taking so long to hatch! We want to go swimming! *(others agree)*

Father Duck: Look! At last! The last egg must have hatched! Your mother is here with your lovely new brother! *(Enter mother duck and ugly duckling)*

Baby Duck 3: Oh! Why does he look so different? His feathers are dull and brown!

Baby Duck 4: Oh! His feet are so big! And his beak is black!

Mother Duck: Never mind! He’s just different, that’s all!

Baby Ducks: (together, harshly) : Different? Yeah! Man, he’s UGLY!

Narrator 2: The other birds in the farmyard were curious and they gathered round to see the new arrival.

(Enter farmyard creatures including a cockerel, goose and turkey)

Goose: *What a strange child! What is it? A cuckoo? An ostrich? A vulture? (All laugh) Hey, everybody! Come and look! This is a sight to see!*

CD Track 1 *** Song: Come and Look *******

(Song is led by Goose. N.B. Mother Duck, Father Duck and Baby ducks do not join in this song)

*Oh, come and look! This is a sight to see!
Oh, come and look! Come and see this strange new mystery!
Oh come and look! This is a sight to see!
You've never seen a creature like this! We can guarantee!
Scruffy feathers! Long dark beak! See him waddle on his great big feet!
Scruffy feathers! Long dark beak! See him waddle on his great big feet!
He's so ugly! He's so ugly!*

Cockerel: (inspecting the ugly duckling) Hmmm! I've never seen a duck like you! **(to Mother Duck)** What a strange creature, indeed! Do you think your eggs got mixed up somehow?

Mother Duck: Why do you say that?

Cockerel: Because your baby is definitely NOT a duck! I think he's a turkey!

Turkey (insulted) How dare you! My chicks aren't ugly and stupid like him!

Goose (to ugly duckling) You don't belong here! You don't fit in! Man, you're so different.

Mother Duck: Leave him alone! He's perfect! He's strong! He's healthy! I don't care if he's different. I love him. To me, he's beautiful!

Cockerel: He's gangly and straggly. His feet are too big! His beak is too long! He's NOT beautiful.

Baby Duck 1: (defensively) Yes he is! He's my brother!

Baby Duck 2: (defensively) Leave him alone! He didn't ask to be born ugly!

Father Duck: He's beautiful! He's my wonderful new son! I'm proud of him. He's a miracle!

Goose: You'd be more proud of him if he were as good-looking as me!

Turkey: He doesn't belong here! You should send him away! He's not one of us!

Mother Duck: (to ugly duckling who is cowering) Don't listen to those spiteful birds! Close your ears! Don't believe it when they tell you you're not beautiful!

Father duck: (to audience) Everyone is different! Everyone is special! Don't believe it when they say that you're not cool! Everybody turn to the person next to you and say "You're a miracle!"

CD Track 2 *** SONG: Don't believe It *****
(Song is performed by Mother Duck, Father Duck and Baby Ducks)**

*Don't believe it when they tell you you're not beautiful.
Don't believe it when they tell you you're not cool.
Don't believe it when they tell you you're not wonderful.
You are a miracle! You are a miracle!
Don't believe it when they tell you you're not talented!
Don't believe it when they say you won't go far!
Don't believe it when they tell you you're not talented!
You are, you are! You are!
You are a shining star!
Beauty isn't always visible.
Beauty isn't always physical.
The truest form of beauty is your personality, and that's incredible.*

End of Preview