

What can stories teach us?

- 1a** Look at the pictures. What do you think happens in this story? Number the pictures.



- 1b** Read the story adapted from Hans Christian Andersen's *The Ugly Duckling*. Discuss the question with a partner.

- Is the ugly duckling a real duck?



The Ugly Duckling

Once upon a time, there was a mother duck. She had six little ducklings. Five of the ducklings were small and yellow, but the last duckling was big and grey. "He doesn't look like us! What an ugly duckling!" the other ducklings said. "That's not nice!" said Mother Duck. "He's still a duck like us!"

At the river, the ugly duckling swam well, just like all the other ducklings. But the other ducklings still laughed at him and told him to go away. It made the poor duckling very sad, so he decided to search for a new home. He met many other birds, but all of them thought that he was ugly too. They did not want him to live with them.

One day, the duckling met a cat and a hen. "May I stay with you?" he asked hopefully. But the two animals said no. They did not like him because he could not purr or lay eggs!

Some days later, the ugly duckling came to a lake. There, he saw three beautiful swans with long necks and white feathers. "I wish I looked like you!" he cried. "My friend, you do look like us! Look in the water!" one of the swans said. The duckling looked down, and to his surprise, he saw that he was a beautiful white swan too!

1c Read again and answer the questions.

1. How was the ugly duckling different from the other ducklings in size and colour? How was he similar to them?
2. What did the ugly duckling search for? Why?
3. What did the swans look like? Were they friendly to the ugly duckling?
4. What do you think the story teaches us?

1d Match the characters with their opinions. Can you give these characters any advice? Share your ideas.

A. The ugly duckling B. The five ducklings C. The other birds D. The cat and the hen

We only like animals with special skills. You are welcome here only if you can purr or lay eggs.

1. _____

You're big and grey, but we're small and yellow. You're very ugly because you don't look like us.

2. _____

We want you to go away. You cannot live with us because you're too ugly!

3. _____

I'm not happy here. Is there a right place for me out there?

4. _____

2a Read the beginning of the story. Write an ending for it. Use the questions to help you.

Once upon a time, a fisherman caught a bottle in his fishing net. When he opened it, a great cloud came out and became a genie!

"Prepare to die!" shouted the genie. "A long time ago, I made a promise. If someone set me free, I would make them rich and powerful. But no one ever came. After years and years of waiting, I became very angry. If anyone set me free, I would kill them instead of giving them anything. So, you must die!"

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- What would the fisherman say to the genie?
- Would the genie kill the fisherman? If so, how?
- Would the fisherman succeed in saving himself? If so, how?
- What would happen in the end?

2b Exchange your drafts and share your ideas with your group members.