

ON STAGE AT THE CENTER

Teacher's Guide *Ugly Duckling*



ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE

Meet the most unusual duckling the pond has ever seen! In their nest at the edge of a pond, the baby ducklings wait impatiently for Mommy's enormous egg to hatch. But their new brother doesn't look like everyone else. He doesn't even quack like a proper duckling! Teased and called Ugly by his siblings, our hero goes on an adventure in search of a place to fit in. As the seasons change the woodland trees from dark weathered branches to silver sticks of frost, the lost and lonely fledgling meets a menagerie of mischievous animals.... But where does he really belong? tutti frutti brings to life Hans Christian Andersen's well known tale with inventive physicality, and live music and songs that quack and trill. This charming production plays with the importance of identity, and self-worth, and takes us on a journey to discover inner beauty.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

tutti frutti has been creating imaginative, visual and meaningful story-based theater for children for over 25 years. They specialize in bringing fantastic, distinctive and carefully crafted shows to children aged 3+ and their families and teachers across the UK and the world. They commission award-winning writers like Mike Kenny, Evan Placey, and Emma Reeves to write new plays for children and adaptations of traditional stories. Over the years they have delivered high quality touring productions and built an excellent reputation for inventive, creative and highly physical productions for children and their families.

BEFORE THE PERFORMANCE

Questions to Ask:

- What does it mean to be different? Is it a good thing?
- Have you ever felt like you were different? How did that make you feel?
- Throughout the play, the duckling looks for a place where he belongs. What does it mean to belong somewhere? Where do you feel like you belong? Why?

THEATER ETIQUETTE

Please share these tips on how to be a respectful audience member.

1. Be an engaged and polite listener. The show requires your full attention!
2. Refrain from talking to your neighbor. Students enjoy the performance more if they can hear and pay attention uninterrupted.
3. Applaud if you like something. Normally, the audience applauds at the end of an act or scene. However, great audiences applaud when they are impressed with a scene or laugh when something is funny.
4. Entering and exiting the performance space in an organized and calm manner is important for your safety and the safety of the performing artists.



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AFTER THE PERFORMANCE

1. The show talked a lot about accepting ourselves and others around us for all their unique qualities and differences. What was so different about Ugly? What were some of his unique qualities? How about the other characters we met along the way?
2. How did only three actors manage to perform a show with so many different characters? What were some of the things they did to make each character look and act differently?
3. How did Ugly feel when the other ducklings did not accept him for who he was? Have you ever felt that way?
4. Even though Ugly's brother, Fluffy, made him feel like he did not belong, his mother always did her best to make him feel loved and wanted. What are some things we can do to make others feel like they belong?

FOLLOW UP ACTIVITIES

My Beautiful "Ugly" Friend

Throughout the story the duckling met different animals who were all unique in their own way. Ask your students to come up with and draw their own unique, quirky, "ugly" characters. Next, invite them to think about what they love about their character, despite and maybe even thanks to their "ugliness." Then, ask them to present the character to the class, expressing what they love about them and encouraging the character to love themselves.

Uniqueness Puzzle

Every single character in the story has different qualities that make the show more fun and colorful. Let's make a puzzle for our classroom that portrays how all our differences put together make for a more beautiful, creative environment! Print out big puzzle pieces, and ask each student to design their own piece based on what they think makes them unique. Post all the pieces together on a wall or a bulletin board.

Celebrating Our Differences

Ask your students to stand in a circle, and invite them to think of one word accompanied by a movement that can describe what makes them different. The word could be an adjective, an activity they're particularly fond of, or a topic they're passionate about. The first student starts by saying their word accompanied by a movement, and all the other students must repeat the word and movement. The student to their left now needs to repeat the first student's actions, and then add their own word and movement. After every student's turn, everyone in the circle must repeat the growing chain of unique qualities and movements.

Duckling Salad

A duckling twist on the classic fruit salad! After acknowledging all our unique differences, it is important to also remind ourselves that we are not so different after all. Ask the students to sit in a circle, and invite a volunteer to stand in the center. The student in the center must call: "All ducklings who..." and name a trait that applies to them. Some examples might include items of clothing, hobbies, likes, dislikes, etc. If the statement applies to a student, they must get up and find a new chair/spot. The student that was in the center must also find an open chair/spot to sit in, allowing a new duckling to find themselves at the center.

Walking and Emoting

The three actors in the show managed to portray various different characters using their body language and facial expressions. Invite the students to start walking around the room. Then start calling out different emotions or situations for the students to embody with their walk and expressions. You might invite them to act sad, happy, scared, in a hurry, or imagine they are walking on the moon, or in a beautiful flower garden; the possibilities are endless!

