



HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSON

1805-1875



EARLY LIFE

Hans Christian Andersen was born in Odense, Denmark, in 1805. His family didn't have much money, but his parents always made sure to encourage his interest and curiosity. At home, he played all the different parts he had seen on the stage at the theatre, where his mother worked. It was clear he had a bright and unique imagination. Sadly, Hans' father died when he was 11 and so he had to leave school and go to work to earn money for the family. Despite his family's difficulties, he became determined to make it as a star in the theatre.

LATER LIFE

When he was 14, Hans moved to Copenhagen (Denmark's capital city) by hiding on a mail wagon. There, he took lessons in performing at university, but found his true love was writing. After some years struggling to get noticed, he published his first collection of fairy tales, and something magical started to happen. When people read Hans' stories, they felt like they were hearing them out loud round the fireplace. They were new and familiar, funny and sad, and were about things both ordinary and fantastic. Hans was able to travel around Europe and met many famous writers such as Victor Hugo and Charles Dickens.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Hans Christian Anderson's most famous works are his fairy tales and stories written between 1835 and 1872. Some of his most famous stories are 'The Ugly Duckling', 'The Little Mermaid' and 'The Princess and the Pea', which all became beloved by children and adults alike. Hans knew that the best children's stories didn't talk down to their readers. Just like his parents used to encourage him, he used fairy tales to explore ideas that children may be unfamiliar with, but always from a point of view they could relate to. To Hans, fairy tales were 'universal poetry' - anyone could love them, no matter their background. He was right! His stories have been translated into 125 languages, and inspired countless plays and films. Today, he finds new fans with every generation, proving that while every tale has to end, imagination lasts forever.

When he died in 1875, a statue to commemorate him was built by the harbour in Copenhagen.

FIND OUT MORE

[HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=MXZVMEPNPPS](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MXZVMEPNPPS)



EXAMPLE QUESTIONS:

1. Where and when was Hans Christian Anderson born?
2. Why did Hans have to leave school and go to work when he was 11?
3. What did Hans want to be before he became a writer?
4. How did Hans get to Copenhagen when he was 14?
5. Name two of Hans Christian Anderson's most famous stories.