



# The Ugly Duckling

Based on a Tale by Hans Christian Andersen

*What do baby ducks look like? How do they act? How are they different from grown-up ducks?*

Mother Duck sat on her eggs. She waited and waited. Suddenly, something moved. The eggs were beginning to hatch!

One by one, the ducklings pushed out of their fragile shells. One by one, the ducklings looked at their mother for the first time.

Mother Duck looked at them, too. Most of the ducklings were small, yellow, and fuzzy. But one duckling looked different. That duckling was bigger than the others. His feathers were gray, and his neck was long.

"I have never seen a duckling like you, my dear," Mother Duck said. "You are certainly different, but I love you just the same."

## Interactive Read Aloud



### ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

**Use Illustrations** Help children to use the illustration to talk about the ducklings. Ask: *How are the ducklings the same? How is the gray duckling different? How many ducklings are yellow? Is the mother duck bigger or smaller than the ducklings?* Guide children to respond in complete sentences.





## Unit SS Week 1

"Follow me, sweet ducklings," Mother Duck said. Then she hopped in the pond, and the ducklings followed.

Mr. and Mrs. Frog saw the ducks swim by. The two frogs were the proud parents of new baby tadpoles. "Mother Duck's new ducklings are as cute as our tadpoles, except for that last one," said Mrs. Frog.

"You're right," said Mr. Frog. "That is an ugly duckling!"

Mother Duck led the ducklings away. She did not want the ducklings to hear what the frogs said. But it was too late. The gray duckling had heard the frogs.

"Is it true, Mother? Am I an ugly duckling?" he asked.

"You are beautiful," Mother Duck said. "You are big and strong, and you will surely do well. I am proud of all my ducklings. Don't listen to those silly frogs!"

The gray duckling wanted to believe Mother Duck. But it was hard. Everywhere he went, the animals reminded him that he was strange.

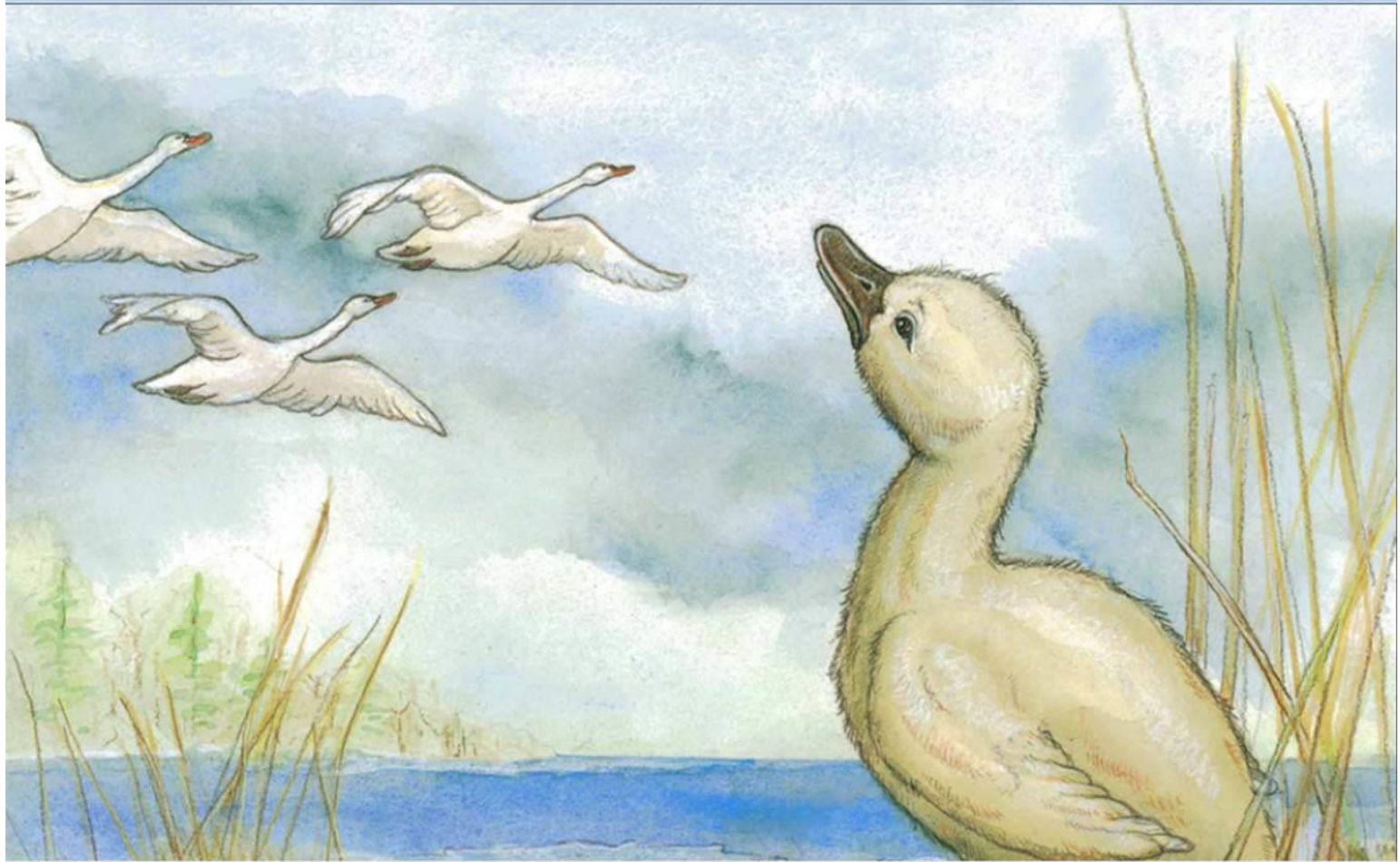
"What an odd duck!" they said.

## Interactive Read Aloud



### ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

**Discuss** Say: *The other animals said the gray duckling was an odd duck. What do you think odd means? Point out that in the sentence before, the duckling is called strange. Ask: Which of these things is odd: a purple swan or a white swan? A duck barking or a duck quacking?*



## Unit SS Week 1

The gray duckling was sad. The other ducklings never invited him to play with them. He was alone.

"There must be something wrong with me," thought the gray duckling. "I do not belong."

That night, while the duck family was sleeping, the gray duckling quietly wandered away. He floated down a stream. He saw many new places. He gathered information about other animals and the world around him. But this did not help him. He still felt alone.

Then one day, he saw a group of beautiful white swans with long necks flying in the sky.

"What beautiful birds!" thought the gray duckling. "If only I could fly away, maybe I could find a home where I belong."

The air grew chilly as fall came. Then it was winter. The ponds and streams froze. The gray duckling was often hungry and cold.

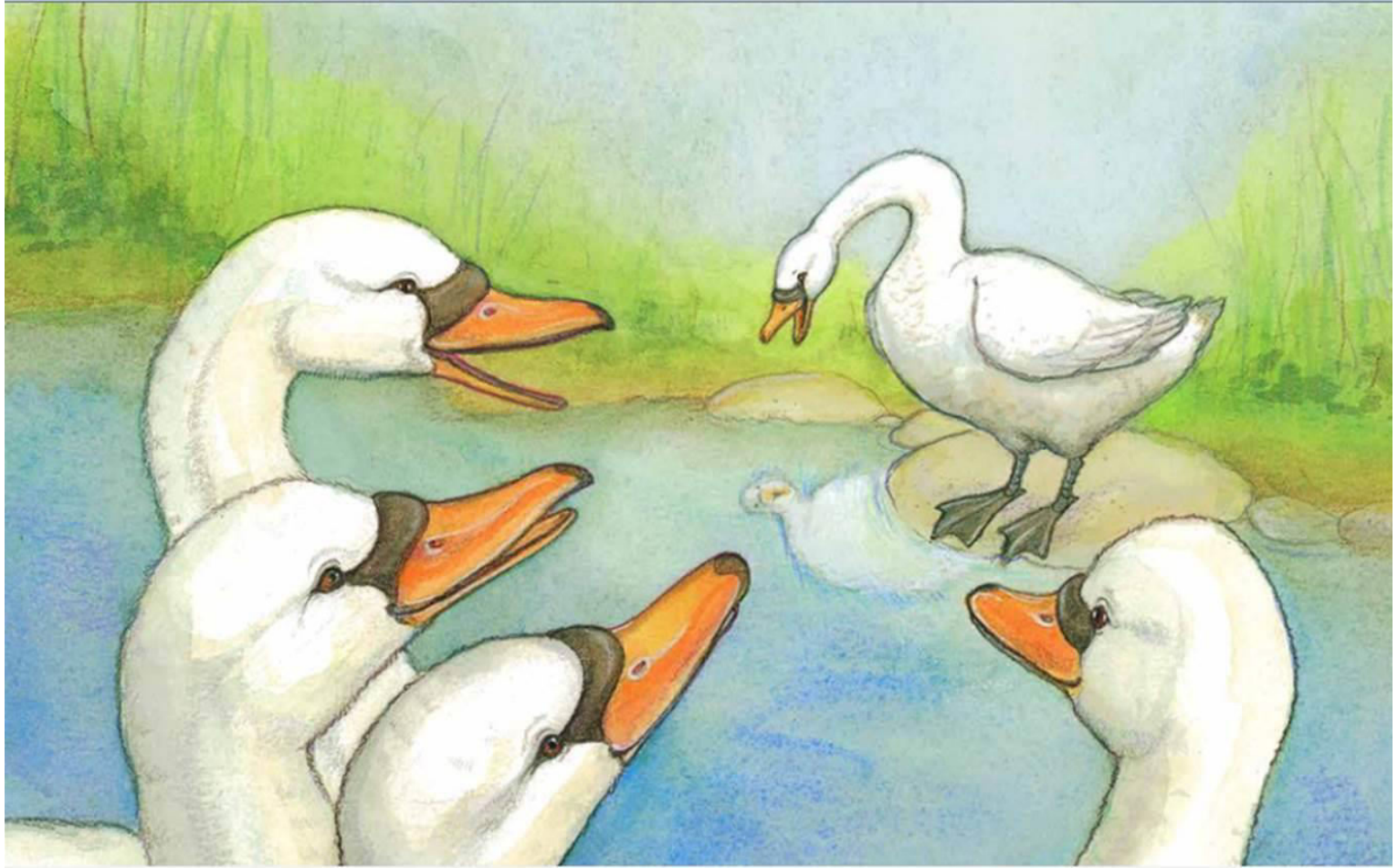
## Interactive Read Aloud



### ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

**Ask Questions** Say: *The gray duckling is sad because he is lonely. What does the gray duckling want after he sees the swans? How do you think he will solve his problem?* Encourage children to ask questions, too.





## Unit SS Week 1

At last, winter became spring. One day, the duckling saw several beautiful white swans splashing in a distant pond. They were the same birds with long necks he had seen flying months before!

"I want to swim and play, too," he thought. "I don't want to be alone anymore!"

The duckling stretched his wings. He felt stronger and bigger than before. Without even trying, he flew into the air. It felt wonderful to fly!

The duckling flew to the pond, and the white swans gathered around him.

"I know I am ugly and different. . ." started the duckling.

"You are *not* ugly," said one of the swans. "You are beautiful! We are here to welcome you!"

The duckling looked at his reflection in the water, and for the first time he saw that they were right. He was a beautiful white swan, just like them. At last, he had found the place where he belonged.

## Interactive Read Aloud

### Retell

Help children use the pictures to retell the story.

**Card 1:** How is the gray duckling different from Mother Duck's other ducklings?

**Card 2:** Mother Duck tells the gray duckling that he is beautiful. Why is it hard for the gray duckling to believe her?

**Card 3:** Why does the gray duckling leave the duck family? Where does he go?

**Card 4:** What does the gray duckling become at the end of the story? Is he happy at last? How do you know?