The Ugly Duckling
Adapted by Catherine Gray from the story by Hans Christian Andersen
*Especially for Grades K-6

By the Barter Players, Touring January – March 2011
Barter Stage II – April, 2011

(NOTE: Standards listed below include those for reading the story The Ugly Duckling, seeing a performance of the play, and completing the study guide.)

Virginia SOLs
English – K.1, K.5, K.8, K.9, K.12, 1.1, 1.5, 1.8, 1.9, 1.13, 2.6, 2.7, 2.8, 2.12, 3.4, 3.5, 3.9, 3.11, 4.1, 4.2, 4.4, 4.5, 4.7, 4.9, 5.1, 5.2, 5.4, 5.5, 5.7, 5.9

Tennessee /North Carolina Common Core State Standards
English/Language Arts - Reading Literacy: K.1, K.3, K.5, K.7, K.9, 1.1, 1.2, 1.7, 1.9, 1.10, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.10, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.9, 3.10, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.7, 4.9, 4.10, 5.1, 5.3, 5.4, 5.9, 5.10
English Language Arts – Writing: K.1, K.5, K.7, K.8, 1.1, 1.3, 1.5, 1.8, 2.1, 2.3, 2.5, 2.8, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.7, 3.8, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.7, 4.8, 4.9, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.7, 5.8, 5.9

Tennessee Fine Arts Curriculum Standards
Theatre – K.1, K.3, K.4, K.5, K.6, 1.1, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 2.1, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 3.1, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 4.1, 4.3, 4.6, 4.7, 5.1, 5.3, 5.6, 5.7

North Carolina Essential Standards
Theatre Arts – K.A.1, K.AE.1, 1.A.1, 1.AE.1, 1.CU.2, 2.C.2, 2.A.1, 2.AE.1, 3.C.1, 3.C.2, 3.A.1, 3.CU.1, 3.CU.2, 4.C.1, 4.A.1, 4.AE.1, 5.C.1, 5.A.1, 5.AE.1, 5.CU.2

Setting
The countryside in and around a great lake…
Characters

*Storyteller* – the narrator
*Mama Duck* – a mother duck sitting on her nest
*Ugly* – a swan raised as a duck, doesn’t quite fit in
*Fox* – an egg-loving thief, the bane of the barnyard
*Elder Duck* – the biggest quack in the barnyard
*Fluffy Duck* – a duckling belonging to Elder Duck
*Fuzzy Duck* – a duckling belonging to Elder Duck
*Frizzy Duck* – a duckling belonging to Elder Duck
*Turkey Poult* – a young turkey Ugly meets
*Turkey Hen* – Turkey Poult’s mother
*Goose* – a goose Ugly meets on his journey
*Gander* – Goose’s mate
*Bird Dog* – a hunting dog chasing the geese
*Old Woman* – lives in a house in the woods, blind
*Hen* – Old Woman’s pet chicken
*Cat* – Old Woman’s pet cat
*Farmer* – rescues Ugly from a frozen pond
*Farmer’s Wife* – his wife
*Boy* – Farmer’s son
*Girl* – Farmer’s daughter
*Nannie Goat* – Farmer’s goat
*Kid* – Nannie Goat’s baby
*Swans* – beautiful swans that swim on the lake

Note: Cast Size and Doubling of Actors

In this production of *The Ugly Duckling*, we will be using only six actors. Some actors will be required to play more than one role. Doubling of actors requires distinction between characters. In this production, characters will be distinguished by costume, voice and other physical character traits.
Synopsis
When the Fox eats Mama Duck’s eggs, she is left to hatch the only egg left – a large one the Fox left behind, stolen from an unknown nest. The egg eventually hatches and Ugly appears. Ugly is the ugliest duckling in the barnyard and all the other animals make fun of him, especially Fluffy, Fuzzy and Frizzy, the ducklings belonging to Elder Duck. They tell Ugly that he is ruining Mama Duck’s chances of being “special”, so Ugly runs away, determined to discover the place where he fits in. Along the way he meets a variety of characters: the Turkey, the Goose and Gander, the Birddog, the Hen and the Cat, the Farmer, the Nanny Goat and Her Kid – but Ugly soon realizes that he doesn’t belong with any of them. He does learn, however, to love himself for whatever he is. Returning home to Mama Duck, Ugly is unaware that he has matured into a beautiful swan. Mama Duck doesn’t recognize him at first; when she realizes that this graceful bird is her long-lost Ugly, she pulls him over to the lake and shows him his reflection. Ugly is gorgeous! But he has learned that it doesn’t matter what you are on the outside – it’s what you are on the inside that counts. Once you learn to love that, you’ll discover who you really are – and all you can be.

Biography of the Author
Hans Christian Andersen was born in Odense, Denmark on April 2, 1805. His mother was a washerwoman and his father was a shoemaker. The family was very poor but Andersen’s father took him often to the local playhouse and nurtured his creative side by making him his own toys. After the death of his father in 1816, Andersen moved to Copenhagen where he pursued an acting career at the Royal Theatre. He soon abandoned acting and turned to writing instead, churning out poems, plays and stories. His first poem The Dying Child published in 1827. Andersen went on to write some of the most beloved children’s fairy tales of all. They include The Princess and the Pea, Thumbelina, The Emperor’s New Clothes, The Little Mermaid, The Little Match Girl and The Ugly Duckling. He died August 4, 1875 and is buried in Copenhagen.
Biography of the Playwright

Catherine Gray is an actress and playwright living in California. She has written several plays for the Barter Players including *The Littlest Angel*, *Abe*, *The Velveteen Rabbit*, *The Frog Prince* and *Pinocchio*. She and her husband, Will Bigham, were resident company members at the Barter for over five years, performing in such shows as *Idols of the King*, *She Loves Me*, *To Kill A Mockingbird* and *Miracle on 34th Street*, just to name a few. She currently lives in Los Angeles where she continues to act and write, as well as produce and develop new ideas for film and television.

Vocabulary Words

- waddle
- sly
- burdock
- hatch
- brood
- downy
- predator
- munch
- magnificent
- clutch
- tremble
- barnyard
- respect
- clumsy

- snuggle
- cruel
- horizon
- autumn
- harvest
- shuck
- frost
- forage
- scent
- exhausted
- nervous
- poult
- gander
- disgusting

- impressive
- extraordinary
- deranged
- demented
- shelter
- brutal
- perched
- perished
- cygnet
- alfalfa
- anxious
- patient
- scurried
- splendid
A Brief History

Barter Theatre was founded during the Great Depression by Robert Porterfield, an enterprising young actor. He and his fellow actors found themselves out of work and hungry in New York City. Porterfield contrasted that to the abundance of food, but lack of live theatre, around his home region in Southwest Virginia. He returned to Washington County with an extraordinary proposition: bartering produce from the farms and gardens of the area to gain admission to see a play.

Barter Theatre opened its doors on June 10, 1933 proclaiming, “With vegetables you cannot sell, you can buy a good laugh.” The price of admission was 40 cents or the equivalent in produce, the concept of trading “ham for Hamlet” caught on quickly. At the end of the first season, the Barter Company cleared $4.35 in cash, two barrels of jelly and enjoyed a collective weight gain of over 300 pounds.

Playwrights including Noel Coward, Tennessee Williams and Thornton Wilder accepted Virginia ham as payment for royalties. An exception was George Bernard Shaw, a vegetarian, who bartered the rights to his plays for spinach.

Today, Barter Theatre has a reputation as a theatre where many actors performed before going on to achieve fame and fortune. The most recognized of these alumni include Gregory Peck, Patricia Neal, Ernest Borgnine, Hume Cronyn, Ned Beatty, Gary Collins, Larry Linville and Frances Fisher. The list also included James Burrows, creator of Cheers, Barry Corbin, and the late Jim Varney.

Robert Porterfield passed away in 1971. His successor, Rex Partington, had been at Barter in the 1950s as an actor and in the 1970s as stage manager. Rex returned as chief administrator from 1972 until his retirement in 1992. In March 2006, he passed away.

Richard Rose was named the producing artistic director in October 1992. In that time, attendance has grown from 42,000 annual patrons to more than 163,000 annual patrons. Significant capital improvements have also been made. Including maintenance to both theatres, and in 2006, the addition of The Barter Café at Stage II and dramatic improvements to Porterfield Square.

Barter represents three distinct venues of live theatre: Barter Theatre Main Stage, Barter Theatre Stage II and The Barter Players. Barter Theatre, with over 500 seats, features traditional theatre in a luxurious setting. Barter Stage II, across the street from Barter Main Stage and beyond Porterfield Square, offers seating for 167 around a thrust stage in an intimate setting and is perfect for more adventurous productions. The Barter Players is a talented ensemble of actors, producing plays for young audiences throughout the year.

History is always in the making at Barter Theatre, building on legends of the past; Barter looks forward to the challenge of growth in the future.
Questions/Activities

1. Why do Fluffy, Fuzzy and Frizzy tease Ugly so much? What makes Ugly “different” from the other ducklings? Is “different” a bad thing? Define the words “unique” and “individual”. How do these words apply to Ugly? Make a list of all the things about you that make you unique. What would the world be like if we were all the same? Discuss.

2. As a class, make a mural of a barnyard scene. Remember to include the lake. Use all the animals in the story, and any other additions you would like to make.


4. The changing seasons play an important role in play The Ugly Duckling. Research and compare the four seasons, including how they affect animals, plant life and the weather.

5. The swans and geese in this play fly south for the winter. Look on a map with the class and trace a possible route from a cold climate to a warmer one. Discuss why birds make this journey every year.

6. In this play, various types of water birds are mentioned: ducks, geese and swans. Research the differences between these three types of birds. Is there a difference between the ducks and geese you find on a farm and those you find in the wild? Are there different types of swans? Why is the swan considered graceful and beautiful? How are swans represented elsewhere in literature? In the arts? Cite some examples.
Questions/Activities (cont.)

7. When Ugly sees the swans, he feels a “pull” – as if he belongs with them. Do you feel the same pull with your family? Is a sense of belonging important? **Discuss.**

8. Hans Christian Anderson was born in Denmark. Research the people of Denmark and their culture. What language do they speak? What foods do they eat? What is their climate? The population of the country? What sort of government does it have? **Present your findings to the class.**

9. What makes a story a fairy tale? Is using a fairy tale a good way to teach a lesson about how one should act toward others? What is your favorite fairy tale? Why is it your favorite? If you were going to write a fairy tale, what would it be about? Where would you set it, and why? **Discuss.**

10. Read these other stories by Hans Christian Andersen: *The Little Mermaid, The Princess and the Pea,* and *The Emperor’s New Clothes.* Now compare them to *The Ugly Duckling.* What themes do these stories have in common? How are they different? What are these stories trying to tell us? **Discuss.**
Questions/Activities (cont.)

11. This play, The Ugly Duckling, is adapted from a well known children’s story. Pick another favorite childhood story: Goldilocks and the Three Bears, Little Red Riding Hood, etc. Divide the class into groups and assign each group a scene from the story. **Have each group adapt their scene into the scene for a play.** Try to avoid using a narrator. Instead, tell the story through action and dialogue (conversation between two or more people). Now **have each group present their scene in chronological order.** Is the story told? How different is your play from the fairy tale? How difficult is it to take a piece of literature and turn it into a theatrical event?

12. The playwright made sure that each type of animal spoke in a distinct dialect. Pick a monologue – perhaps a famous speech or poem – that you will present to the class. Now rewrite that monologue using the dialect, vocabulary, etc. that your favorite animal might use. See if your classmates can guess what type of animal you are from your presentation.

13. **Define the vocabulary words** found on Pg. 4 then write sentences using them. Remember: anyone reading your sentence should be able to understand the word from the context in which it is used.

13. **Write a letter** to your favorite actors from this production. Tell them what you liked about the play, their performance, etc. Mail your letters to:

The Barter Players  
c/o Barter Theatre  
P.O. Box 867  
Abingdon, VA  24212-0867  
ATTN: The Ugly Duckling
WORD SEARCH

Find the following words below: The Ugly Duckling, Fluffy, barnyard, swan, Gander, swimming, Mama Duck, pond scum, quack, honk, special, clutch, Nannie Goat, brood, eggs, fox, turkey, Goose, cygnet, fairy tale, Fuzzy, Frizzy, graceful
Color the picture!
True and False

Write T if the statement is True and F if the statement is False.

1. ____ The Ugly Duckling is a story written by the Brother’s Grimm.
2. ____ Swans don’t swim very well.
3. ____ Hans Christian Andersen was Swedish.
4. ____ The other ducklings made fun of Ugly for being different.
5. ____ The Fox ate Mama Duck’s eggs.
6. ____ Nannie Goat taught Ugly to what he was on the inside.
7. ____ The Old Woman had 20/20 vision.
8. ____ Bird Dog tried to eat Ugly.
9. ____ Ugly froze in the middle of a pond.
10. ____ When Ugly looked at his reflection in the lake he saw a turkey buzzard.
11. ____ Any duck wearing the red scarf would be eaten for Easter dinner.
12. ____ A cygnet is a young goat.
13. ____ Goats like to eat alfalfa.
14. ____ Swans are meant to live in a barn.
15. ____ Swans can’t fly.

Matching

Draw a line connecting the person/place in the first column with its corresponding description.

1. Ugly a. Ugly’s mother
2. Old Woman b. a young swan raised by a duck
3. the barnyard c. the most graceful swimmers in the lake
4. Mama Duck d. where the ducks and swans go swimming
5. The Fox e. keeps a cat and a hen as pets
6. Swans f. loves to eat eggs
7. The lake g. home to the ducks
Suggested Further Reading/Links

Other stories by Hans Christian Anderson:

The Little Match Girl
The Princess and the Pea
The Emperor’s New Clothes
The Little Mermaid
Thumbelina

To find out more about Hans Christian Andersen, his life and his work, go to this link:

http://www.andersenfairytales.com/en/main