

Family Paideia Seminar Plan

Text: The Ugly Duckling by Hans Christian Andersen

Ideas, Values: Beauty, Belonging, Community, Family, Happiness

Pre-Seminar Content

Big Ideas Chat:

A day or two before the seminar, discuss as a group the following questions: How many different kinds of families can you think of? How are they alike and how are they different? Is it important to belong to a family that accepts you?

1st Read:

Have a volunteer read the story aloud while family and friends listen. Check for any words that are unknown, to talk about them after you finish reading the story.

For those who would like to see an illustrated version of this classic Hans Christian Andersen story, you can hear and see the story at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hKoAZTK6dt0> .

Vocabulary:

Discuss the unfamiliar words in the story. Explain what they mean, figure them out from the context, or look them up in a dictionary.

2nd Read:

Use the following online translation of the story from the Hans Christian Andersen Center: ([https://andersen.sdu.dk//vaerk/hersholt/TheUglyDuckling\_e.html](https://andersen.sdu.dk/vaerk/hersholt/TheUglyDuckling_e.html) )

(If need be, clarify that this is the full version of the original story by Andersen and is longer and more complicated than the shorter version we often see.) Have a second volunteer read the story aloud a second time AND/OR let everyone read it to themselves on their own devices. Talk about when you were most anxious or afraid for the Ugly Duckling.

Pre-Seminar Process:

* Share why you are having the discussion.

(Sample script from our classroom Paideia Seminars: Modify to fit your household.)

*“A Paideia seminar is a collaborative, intellectual dialogue about a text, facilitated with open ended questions.”*

*“The main purpose of seminar is to arrive at a fuller understanding of the textual ideas and values, of ourselves, and of each other.”*

* Describe what you want to accomplish.
* Set a Family Goal.
* To balance the talk time
* To refer to the text
* To ask a question
* To speak out of uncertainty
* To build on others’ comments

Seminar Questions:

* Opening (Identify main ideas from the text):
  + What one scene in this story is the most memorable to you? Have younger kids share first if they feel comfortable and advance by age. (Don’t share why until after everyone has had a chance to answer.)
* What does that scene stand out in your memory? (anyone can share)

Click or tap here to enter text.

* Core (Analyze textual details):
* The Ugly Duckling’s mother originally thinks him quite handsome; what changes her mind?
* Why doesn’t the Ugly Duckling find a home in the Old Woman’s hut?
* When the Ugly Duckling first sees a flock of swans, how does he react? Why doesn’t he try to join them?
* In the end, why is the Ugly Duckling “glad that he had come through so much trouble and misfortune”?
* What does the Ugly Duckling learn from all of his adventure in search of a home?
* Closing (Personalize and apply the ideas):
* How is your family like and different from other families you know about? What makes your family special?

Post-Seminar Process:

*“Ask each person what they liked most about the discussion.”*

* Have the family do a quick check of the discussion goal.

Post Seminar Content:

* Transition to Writing:

Discuss as a group, how each of you fits into your own unique family. How do you know that you belong?

* Writing:

After reading and discussing *“*The Ugly Duckling” by Hans Christian Andersen, write a description of your family that explains how each member has a role to play and how your particular family is unique—and therefore very special.

Before beginning to write, discuss what role everybody in the family thinks they play in relation to everyone else. Encourage each member of the family to think of the positive and creative things they do that make your family special.

Have everyone write their introductions to your family and then, during an evening conversation, read them aloud. Then collect all the descriptions into a family scrapbook.

This Paideia Lesson Plan was created by:

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\*Text is attached if open sourced.

\*Text is cited if it needs to be procured.

[https://andersen.sdu.dk//vaerk/hersholt/TheUglyDuckling\_e.html](https://andersen.sdu.dk/vaerk/hersholt/TheUglyDuckling_e.html)