The Ugly Duckling

By Hans Christian Andersen
Retold by: Fantastic Student
Once upon a time in a grassy area near a pond, there was a mother duck with six little ducklings waiting to hatch. Then crack, crack, crack, five of the six ducklings hatched and were running around. The ducklings were all eager to go swimming but the mother duck still had one egg left. Then suddenly a big and strange looking duck arose from the egg.
The other ducklings made fun of the ugly duckling and only his mother supported him. As the ducks got older it was time to fly south for winter. One day the ducks decided to fly in different directions so the ugly duckling would get confused and lost, and not fly with them for winter.
Now the ugly duckling was alone on his way through the cold winter storm when he ran into a rabbit.

“Hi I’m Runabout! What are you doing out in this cold storm?” asked Runabout.

“I got left alone to travel south for winter.” said the ugly duckling.

“Well you can come and stay with me.” said Runabout.
Runabout brought the duckling inside his home. The other rabbits saw the duckling and scolded him.

“He cannot stay here, this is only for rabbits!” one of the rabbits yelled.

“Thank you for being my friend and inviting me to your house Runabout.” said the ugly duckling.
Again he was out on his own in the cold. He wandered for a while until he ran into two alligators.

“Why are you alone out here in the cold? Why don’t you come to our den and you can have dinner with us tonight.” said one of the alligators.
“Are you sure? I can be your friend?” asked the ugly duckling.

“Yes, yes. You will be our friend.” said the alligators.

The duckling wandered to the two alligators den and found himself on a platter in a dinner for two.
“No! You can’t eat me!” yelled the duckling.
“Oh but we can.” said one of the alligators.
Then Runabout swooped out of nowhere, grabbed the duckling and saved him!
“Oh thank you so much! You sure are a true friend, Runabout!” said the ugly duckling.
Once again the duckling was on his own. Now spring had begun and all the snow was gone. The duckling wandered over to a pond and stared at himself in the reflection. He thought to himself who is the shockingly beautiful swan in the reflection? Then he realized it was himself!
Two other swans near by even came over because he was so handsome.

“Wow you are a good looking swan. How would you like to be the leader of our flock?” asked one of the swans.

“I would love to!” said the now beautiful swan.

In the end the Duckling was proud to say he wasn’t a ugly duck but a beautiful swan with friends and a place to live.
Citation

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