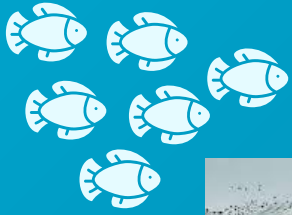


The background features a stylized underwater scene with a light blue background and a darker blue wavy shape representing water. Inside this shape, there are white silhouettes of a fish on the left, a dolphin leaping on the right, coral on the bottom left, and a turtle on the bottom right. Several white circles of varying sizes represent bubbles.

# The Little Mermaid

STUDY GUIDE

By Nouwen Craft



# TIMELINE



1989  
Disney turns his  
story into a cartoon  
film



1836  
Hans Christian Andersen  
writes this classic fairy  
tale

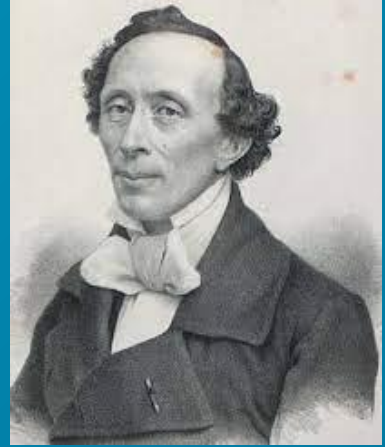


2008  
The Broadway stage  
production opens



## About the Author

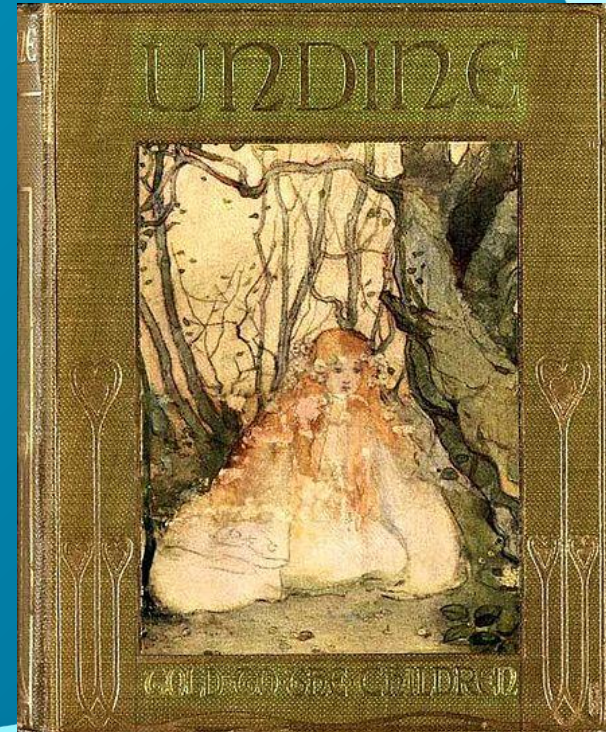
Hans Christian Andersen is a Danish author born in 1805 who is best known for his fairy tales. He has written well known stories such as The Little Mermaid, The Emperor's New Clothes, The Princess and the Pea, The Snow Queen, The Ugly Duckling, The Little Match Girl, Thumbelina, and many more.



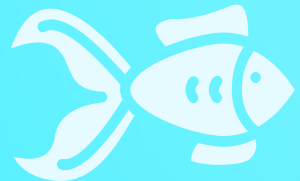


## The Writing of “The Little Mermaid”

While The Little Mermaid was completely Anderson’s creation, he based this particular story off of De la Motte Fouqué’s “Undine”, a story about a water spirit who gains an immortal soul by marrying a human.



[The Little Mermaid](#), by  
[Hans Christian Andersen](#),  
translated by M. R.  
[James](#)



## Disney Movie

- 
- 
- - Ariel = a rebellious rule breaker
- 
- She rises to the surface without permission
- Ursula takes Ariel's voice by magic
- Eric and Ariel fall in love and get married

VS

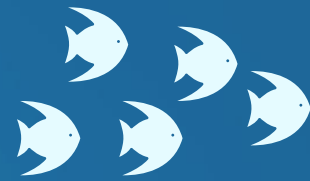
## Short Story

- "Strange, quiet, and thoughtful"
- She goes when she is of age
- The sea witch cuts out her tongue
- The Prince marries someone else and the little mermaid throws herself into the sea



## THE SETTING

Anderson begins his tale by painting us a vivid picture of the underwater world where the little mermaid resides.



“(The Castle) walls are built of coral, and the long, gothic windows are of the clearest amber. The roof is formed of shells that open and close as the water flows over them. Their appearance is very beautiful, for in each lies a glittering pearl, which would be fit for the diadem of a queen.”

“Outside the castle there was a beautiful garden, in which grew bright red and dark blue flowers, and blossoms like flames of fire; the fruit glittered like gold and the leaves and stems waved to and fro continually. The earth itself was the finest sand, but blue as the flame of burning sulphur.”

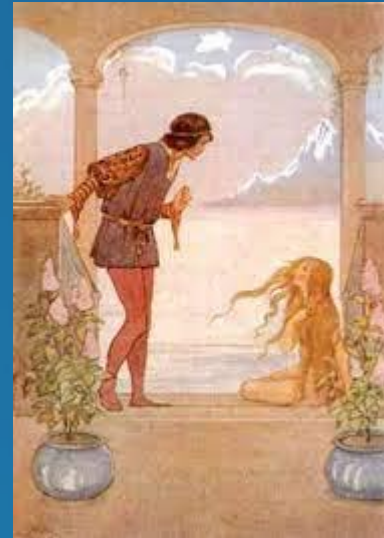
## THE WORLD ABOVE

The little mermaid hears stories of the world above from her grandmother. Her sisters also report back their favorite part of going to the surface as the little mermaid waits patiently for her turn.



“Fishes that sing among  
the trees”

“On the banks she saw  
green hills covered with  
beautiful vines; palaces and  
castles peeped out from  
amid proud trees”





# THEMES

Unconditional Love

Alienation

Self-Sacrifice

Chasing The Unknown

Curiosity

Voice vs Muteness

Good Things Come to Those Who Wait

Follow Your Heart

Breaking Social Norms/Rule Breaking

Taking The Risk

Feminism

Light vs Darkness

Legacy/Tradition





# List of Characters



**Ariel**



**Prince Eric**



**Ursula**



**Sebastian**



**Flounder**



**Scuttle**



**Chef Louis**



**Grimsby**



**King Triton**



**Flotsam/Jetsam**

# PRODUCTION HISTORY

Pre-Broadway  
tryout:  
Denver Center  
for the  
Performing Arts'  
Ellie Caulkins  
Opera House



July 26, 2007 -  
September 9,  
2007



November 3,  
2007 -  
January 10,  
2008

Broadway  
Previews:  
Lunt-Fontanne  
Theatre

Broadway

January 10,  
2008 -  
August 30th,  
2009



# USA PRODUCTION HISTORY



**US Tour (2011)** - The First National US Tour of the musical was scheduled to start in the fall of 2010. However it was later announced that the tour would start in 2011. Disney is hopeful to have it tour America.

**Ivins, Utah (2011)** - Due to the success of the regional premiere of *Tarzan* at the Tuacahn Amphitheatre in Ivins, Utah, Disney Theatrical gave the rights for a regional premiere of *The Little Mermaid* to the Tuacahn Center for the Arts. The production is scheduled for the Tuacahn's 2011 season.[2]

**St. Louis (2011)** - A regional production will take place at the Muny Theatre, St. Louis, Missouri, during its 2011 season, running from July 6 to July 14, 2011.

**Wichita (2011)** - A regional production will take place at Music Theatre of Wichita in Wichita, KS in August 2011.

**Sacramento (2012)** - The revised production from Europe made its American debut at the Sacramento Music Circus.

**Milburn, New Jersey (2013)** - The new production went on to debut at the Paper Mill Playhouse before transferring to Pittsburgh CLO and the Kansas City Starlight Theatre.

**Ivins, Utah (2014 Return Engagement)** - By popular demand, the newly revised production will premiere as a return engagement at the Tuacahn Amphitheatre as part the 2014 season.

# INTERNATIONAL PRODUCTION HISTORY



**Israel (2010-2011)** - An Israeli production of the musical run across Israel starring Rinat Gabai as Ariel and Guy Zu-Aretz as Prince Arik.

**Philippines (2011)** - Philippine-based Atlantis Productions has secured the rights to the musical and will stage it in Manila from November 18 to December 11, 2011. The best female singer in the Philippines named Rachele Ann Go will star as Ariel and Erik Santos will appear as Prince Eric.

**Brazil (2011)** - T4F, the largest company responsible for bringing Broadway musicals to Brazil is building another theatre and *The Little Mermaid* will be the opening show. The auditions may occur by the end of 2011 and the idea is to bring new names to the Brazilian musical theatre.

**Netherlands (2012-2013)** - The Joop van den Ende division of Stage Entertainment will host a new production of the show. It will be directed by Glenn Casal with costumes by Bob Crowley and open May 12, 2012 at Martini Plaza in Groningen. Pop star Tessa Sunniva van Tol will star as Ariel with Tommie Christiaan as Prince Eric, Marjolijn Touw as Ursula, Roberto de Groot as King Triton, and Juan Wells as Sebastian. Ursula's song "I Want the Good Times Back" has been replaced with new song written for the character called "Daddy's Little Angel". Unlike the Broadway production, the International productions include brand new costumes and flying stunts for Ariel, her family, Flounder, and Scuttle.

**Russia (2012-2014)** - The Dutch production will transfer to Moscow Russia and open on October 6, 2012. The production will star Natalia Bystrova as Ariel.

**Japan (2013-2017)** - A replica of the European production will open in Tokyo, Japan on April 7, 2013 as part of Disney's partnership with the Shiki Theatre Company.

The title "ACU CAST" is centered at the top in a large, bold, white sans-serif font. It is surrounded by several white circles of varying sizes, some solid and some semi-transparent, arranged in a pattern that suggests bubbles or stars.

# ACU CAST

**Ariel**

Emilie Reed

**Prince Eric**

Will Thompson

**Ursula**

Rose Lee-Alliston

**Sebastian**

Caleb Evans

**Flounder**

Anna Grygier

**Skuttle**

Jack Bledsoe

**Triton**

Marco Perez

**Chef Louis**

Morgan Whitley

**Flotsam/Jetsam Trio**

Karis Cox/Riley  
Dodd/Kaycee Humphrey

**Grimsby**

Ryan Shupe

**Mersisters**

Hannah Galambos/Layla  
Rorem/Zola Feasel/Patti  
Maisano/Ella Root/Lauren  
MacLeod

# Underwater Animal Movement



## Fish

Fish's muscles contract from side to side and front to back. The fish's tail moves from side to side to propel the fish forward, while the fins help fine-tune swimming.



## Octopus

Octopuses swim using a form of jet propulsion. Water is forced out of a special structure called a funnel, and the octopus is propelled in the opposite direction. When they want to "walk" the brain picks which arm moves when, and from there the arms have a mind of their own



## Eel

The eel swims with its entire body causing it to go in figure eight like movements. They also open their mouths to breath, bearing their sharp teeth and making it seem as though they are about to attack.



## Crab

While crabs can move slowly forward, they prefer to skuttle sideways, as they can move faster this way. The front claws are strictly used for pinching and grabbing, while the remaining legs are used for transportation.



## GLOSSARY

### **Windward**

“The side or direction in which the wind is blowing”

### **Ebb and Flow**

“A rhythmic coming and going”

### **Angling**

“To try to get or ask for something in an indirect way”

### **Starboard**

“The side of a ship that is on the right when one is facing forward”

### **Benevolent**

“Well meaning and kindly”

### **Brine**

“Highly concentrated salt water”



## GLOSSARY

### **Serpentine**

“Of or like a serpent or snake”

### **Femme**

“Female; Feminine”

### **Tot**

“A very young child”

### **Gizmos**

“A general term for a gadget”

### **Errant**

“Traveling in search of adventure”

### **Roustabout**

“An unskilled or casual laborer”





## GLOSSARY

### **Prerequisite**

“A thing that is required as a prior condition for something else to happen or exist”

### **Egads**

“expressing surprise, anger, or affirmation”

### **Crinoline**

“A stiffened or hooped petticoat worn to make a long skirt stand out”

### **Batten**

“Strengthen or fasten”

### **Rigging**

“The system of ropes, cables, or chains employed to support a ship's masts to control or set the yards and sails”

### **Hatches**

“An opening in the deck of a boat or ship leading to the cabin or a lower level, especially a hold”



## GLOSSARY

### **Sprat**

“A small marine fish of the herring family”

### **Smelt**

“Any small anadromous fish of the family osmeridae”

### **Plaice**

“A North Atlantic flatfish”

### **Beguine**

“A popular dance of West Indian origin, similar to the foxtrot”

### **Totem**

“A natural object or animal that is believed by a particular society to have spiritual significance and that is adopted by it as an emblem”

### **Kelp**

“A large brown seaweed”



## GLOSSARY

### **Ce Soir**

“Tonight”

### **Escargot**

“An edible snail”

### **Maintenant**

“Now!”

### **Les Poisons**

“The fish”

### **Zut alors**

“Dang it; shucks”

### **Meerschaum**

“A fine light white clayey mineral that is a hydrous magnesium silicate found chiefly in Asia Minor and is used especially for tobacco pipes”



# Discussion Questions:

Was there ever a time where you felt out of place?

To what end would you go to be with those you love?

If you weren't able to use your words, how would you let those around you know that you love them?


When should you put family first, and when do you need to follow your heart?

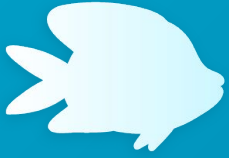
What is the thing you love most about yourself? Would you ever be willing to give that up?

How can we help those around us who might feel alienated at times?

At what point is it ok to disobey authority?

When should you try to guide someone and at what point do you need to let them figure it out on their own?





**“The more one knows  
fairy tales the less  
fantastical they appear;  
they can be vehicles of  
the grimmest realism,  
expressing hope  
against all the odds  
with gritted teeth.”**

-Marina Warner





## Works Cited

“The Little Mermaid.” *The Little Mermaid, by Hans Christian Andersen, Translated by M. R. James*, <https://gutenberg.ca/ebooks/andersen-mermaid/andersen-mermaid-00-h.html>.

New Zealand Ministry for Culture and Heritage Te Manatu Taonga. “Octopus Movement.” *Te Ara Encyclopedia of New Zealand – Te Ara Encyclopedia of New Zealand*, Ministry for Culture and Heritage Te Manatu Taonga, 16 Jan. 2015, [teara.govt.nz/en/video/7906/octopus-movement](http://teara.govt.nz/en/video/7906/octopus-movement).

*How Fish Swim - Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission*. [www.fishandboat.com/LearningCenter/PennsylvaniaLeagueofAnglingYouthPLAY/PLAY2002/Documents/fishswim.pdf](http://www.fishandboat.com/LearningCenter/PennsylvaniaLeagueofAnglingYouthPLAY/PLAY2002/Documents/fishswim.pdf).





“The Little Mermaid (Musical).” *Disney Wiki*,  
[disney.fandom.com/wiki/The\\_Little\\_Mermaid\\_\(musical\)#Productions](https://disney.fandom.com/wiki/The_Little_Mermaid_(musical)#Productions).

Ronca, Debra. “Why Are Eels Slippery?” *HowStuffWorks*,  
HowStuffWorks, 2 Mar. 2009,  
[animals.howstuffworks.com/marine-life/eels-slippery.htm](https://animals.howstuffworks.com/marine-life/eels-slippery.htm).

“Take Online Courses. Earn College Credit. Research  
Schools, Degrees & Careers.” *Study.com | Take Online  
Courses. Earn College Credit. Research Schools, Degrees  
& Careers*,  
[study.com/academy/topic/studying-the-little-mermaid.html](https://study.com/academy/topic/studying-the-little-mermaid.html)

