

The Ugly Duckling - literacy activities

Activity sheet

- **Target group:** 6+years old
- **Duration:** 30–45 minutes
- **Material needed:**
 - The book “The Ugly Duckling,”
 - picture cards for sequencing the story,
 - puppets or images of the characters from the story,
 - communication board with pictogram (PECS),
 - question-and-answer cards.
- **Key competence:** literacy

GENERAL OBJECTIVES

This activity encourages **language development, storytelling skills, and social interaction** through a familiar and engaging folk tale. By incorporating AAC tools such as communication boards with pictures and visual support, the activity becomes inclusive and allows children to express themselves and actively participate. Stories like *The Ugly Duckling* offer emotional depth and opportunities to develop empathy and self-confidence.



IMPLEMENTATION

Story Reading and Introduction

Read *the Ugly Duckling* aloud. For children using AAC, present symbols representing the characters, settings, and emotions from the story.

Story Sequencing

After reading, distribute picture cards that show the main events. Children, either independently or in small groups, arrange the images in the correct order. Use communication boards and verbal prompts to support understanding.

Role Play with Puppets

Introduce puppets or character figures from the story. Invite children to act out scenes or invent their own version of the story. Children using AAC can select sentences and expressions using communication boards.

Story Questions and Discussion

Use question cards to encourage discussion. Sample questions: “How did the duckling feel?”, “What happened first?”, “What would you have done if you were the duckling?” AAC tools help children respond and express their opinions more easily.

POTENTIALS FOR AAC SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

This activity encourages communication. Children who use AAC learn to use their communication boards, select symbols to express emotions, retell parts of the story, and participate in dialogue. The combination of visual support and



interactive storytelling contributes to the development of vocabulary, sentence structure, and narrative skills, all key components of language development.

TO GO FURTHER

This activity can be expanded into a broader thematic unit on emotions, identity, and inclusion. It can include artistic expression (e.g., making their own duckling puppet), music (singing songs), and learning about nature (the life cycle of a duck). Such cross-curricular connections enable deeper understanding and a holistic approach to learning, while continuing to develop communication skills in various contexts.



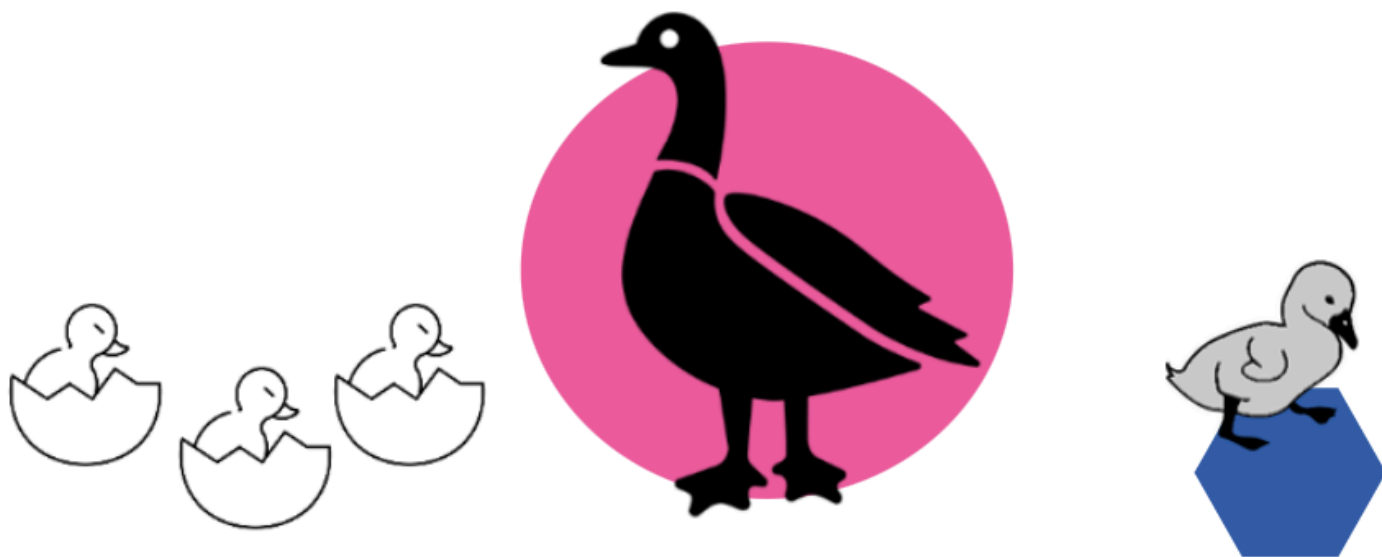
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Exchange and mobility

**Plural
Words**

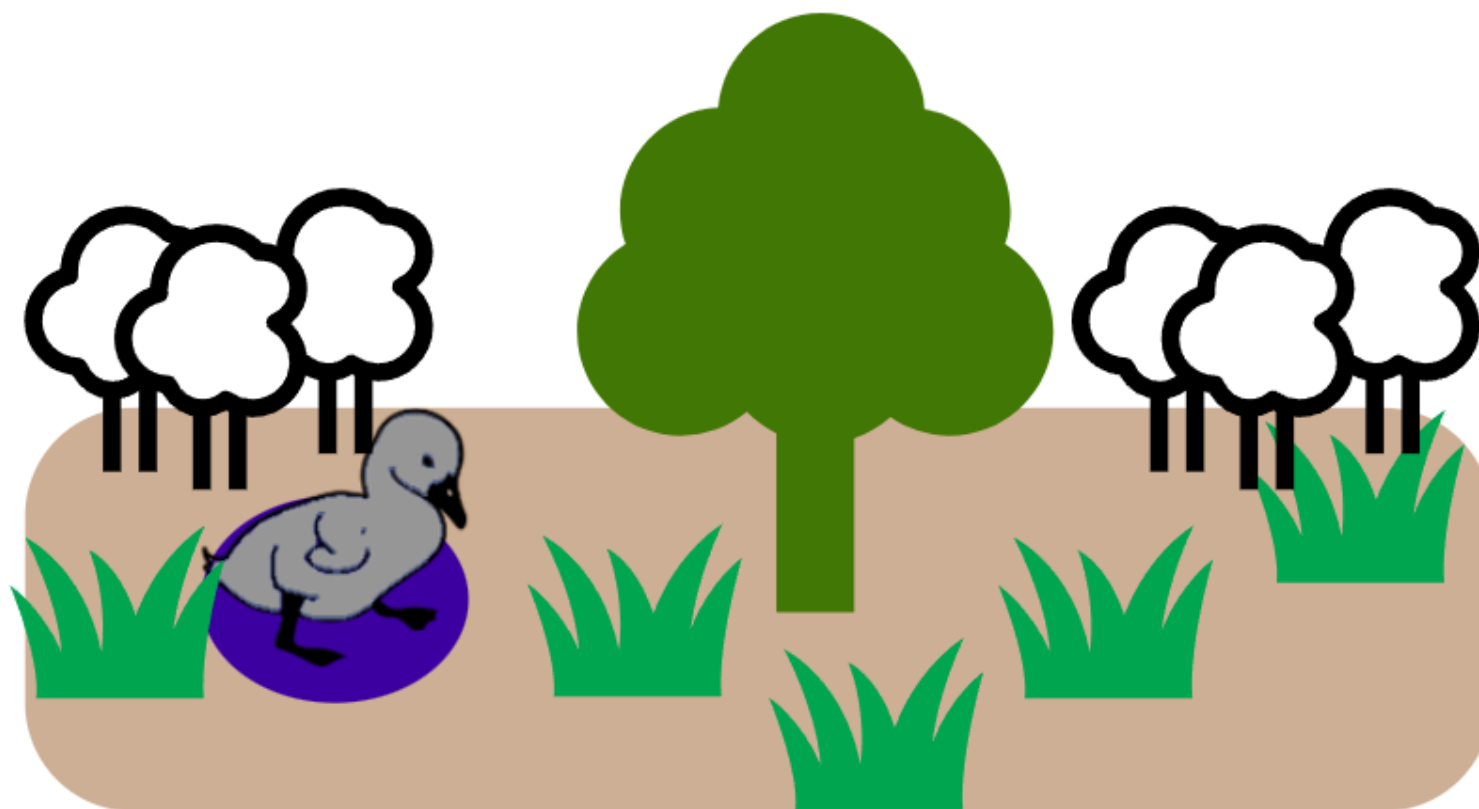
Picture cards for sequencing the story

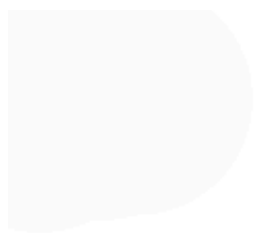




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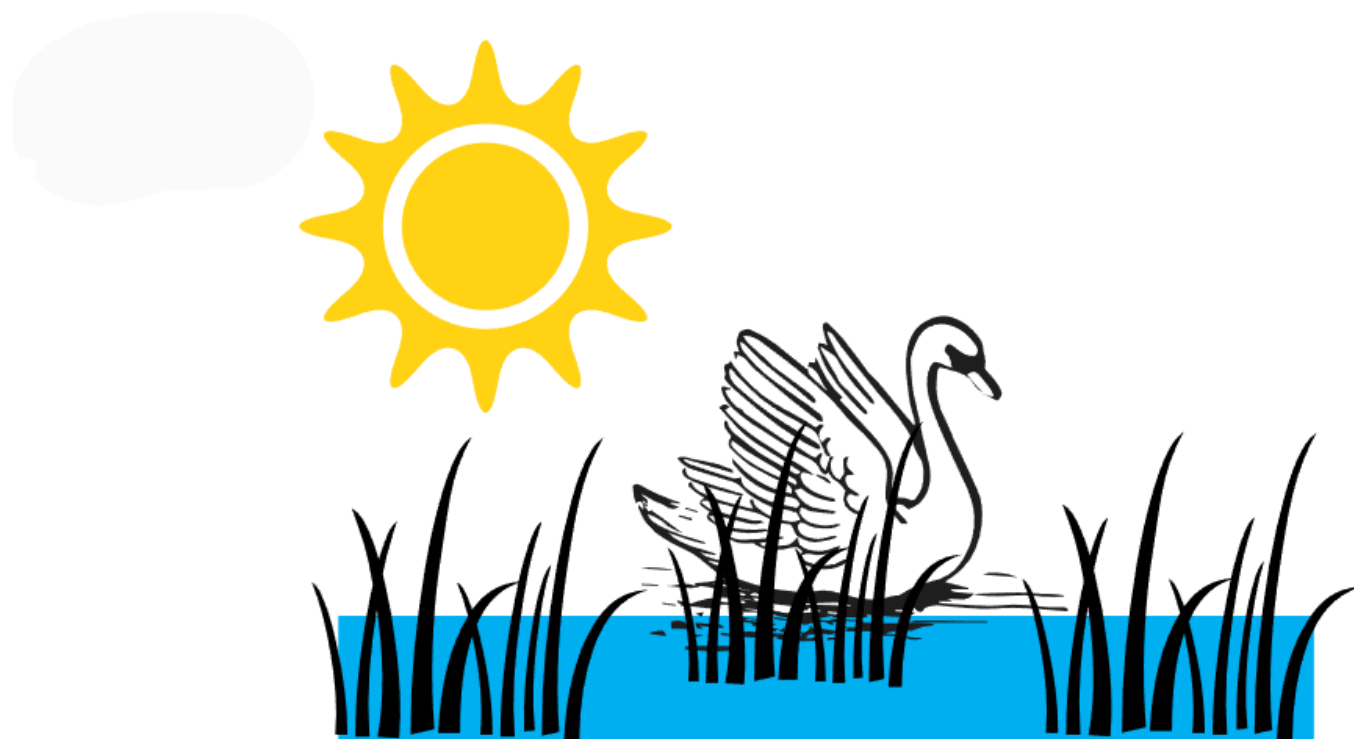




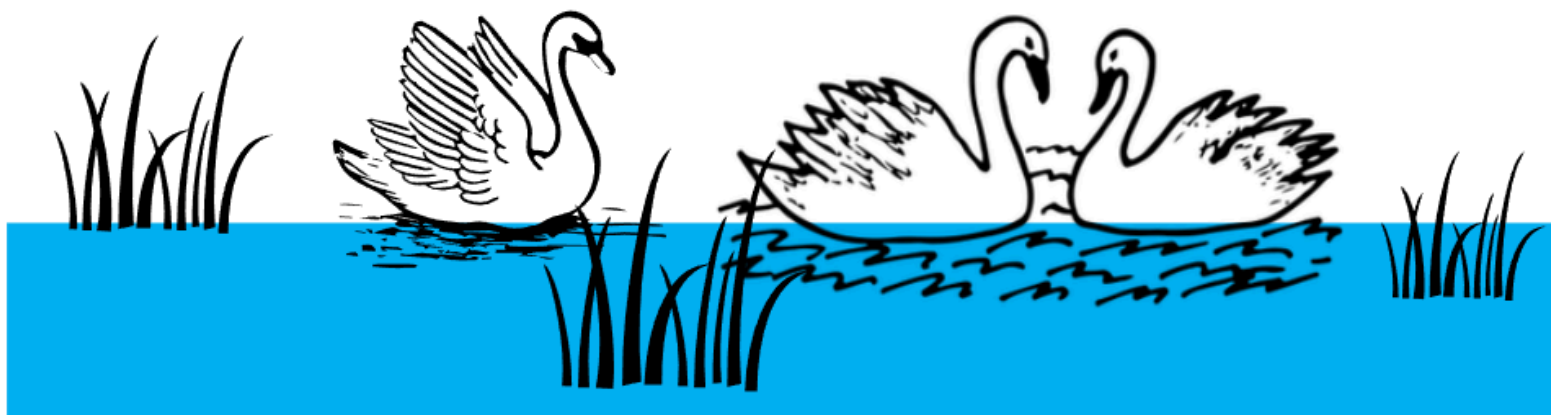






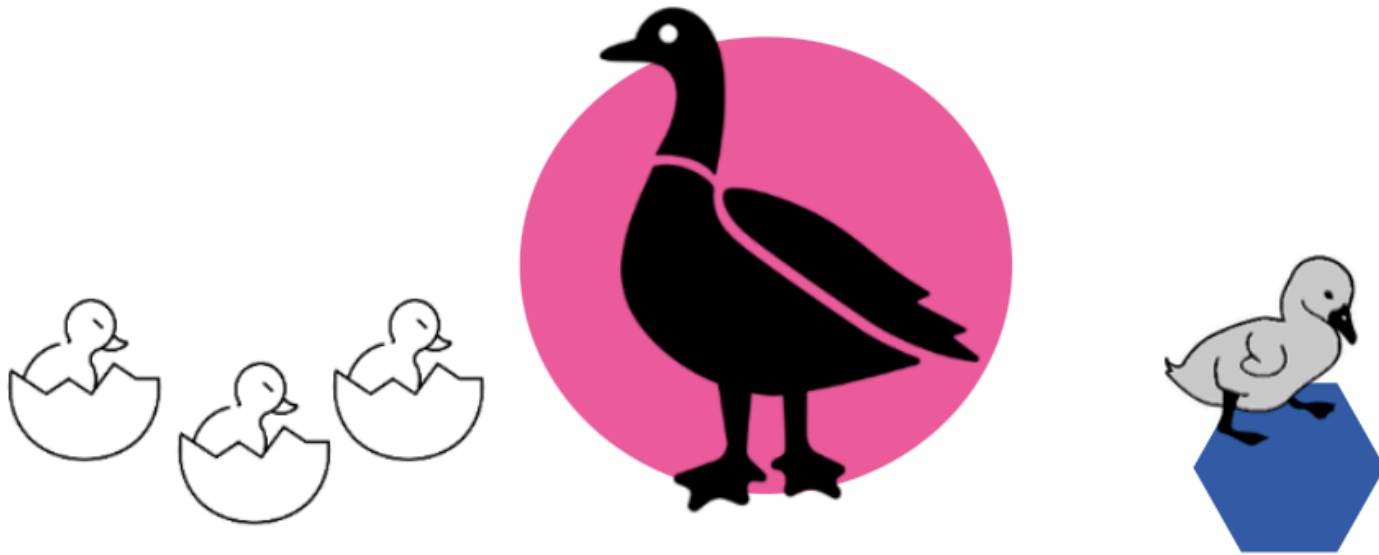


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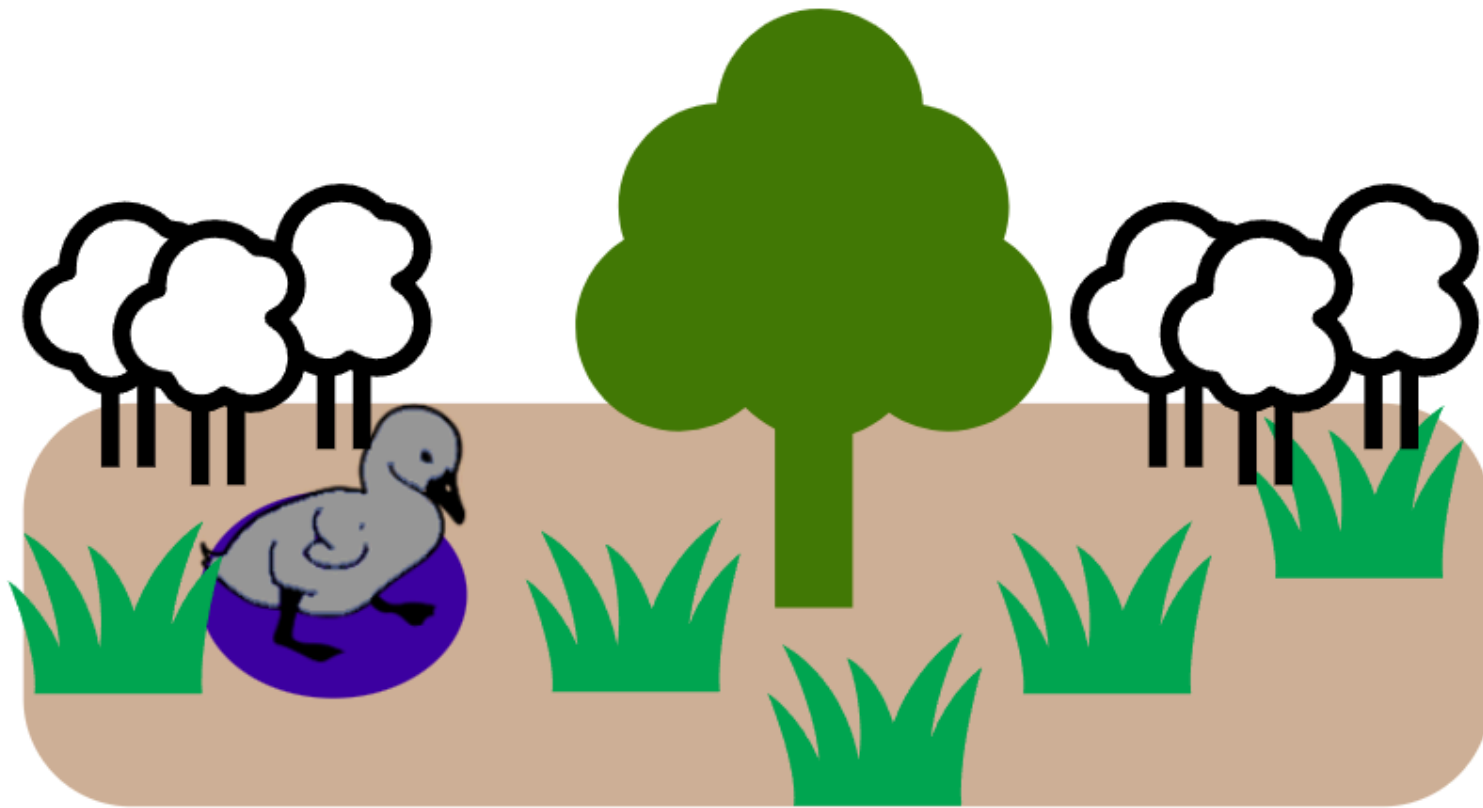
PICTURE CARDS



HOW DID THE UGLY DUCKLING FEEL?



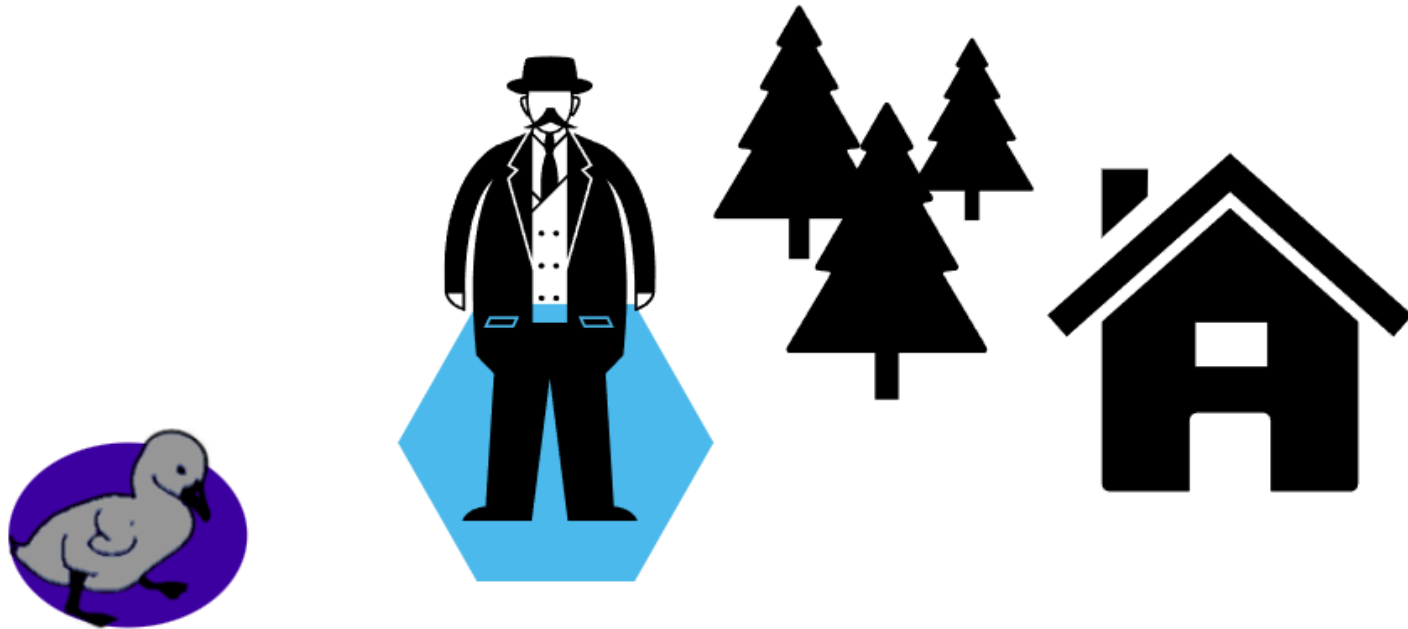
**WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOU WERE AN UGLY
DUCKLING?**



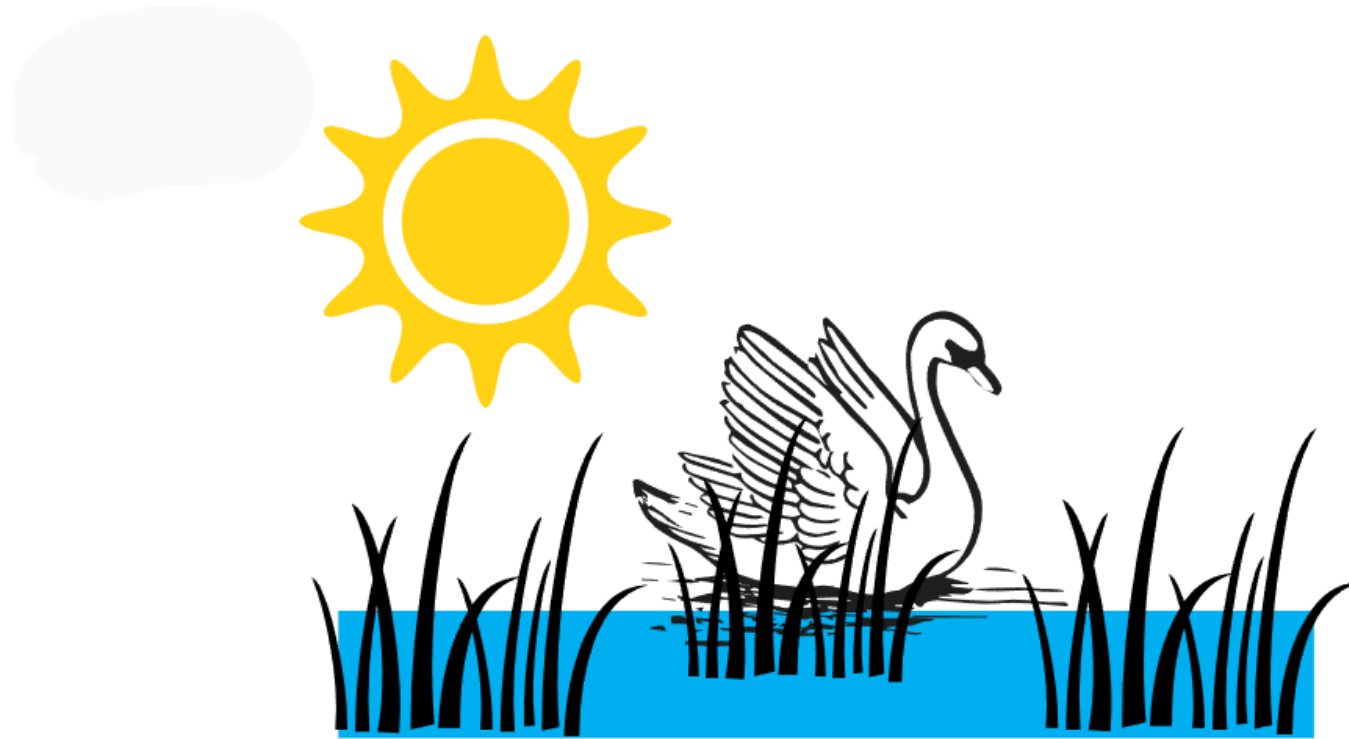
HOW WOULD YOU FEEL ALONE IN THE FOREST?



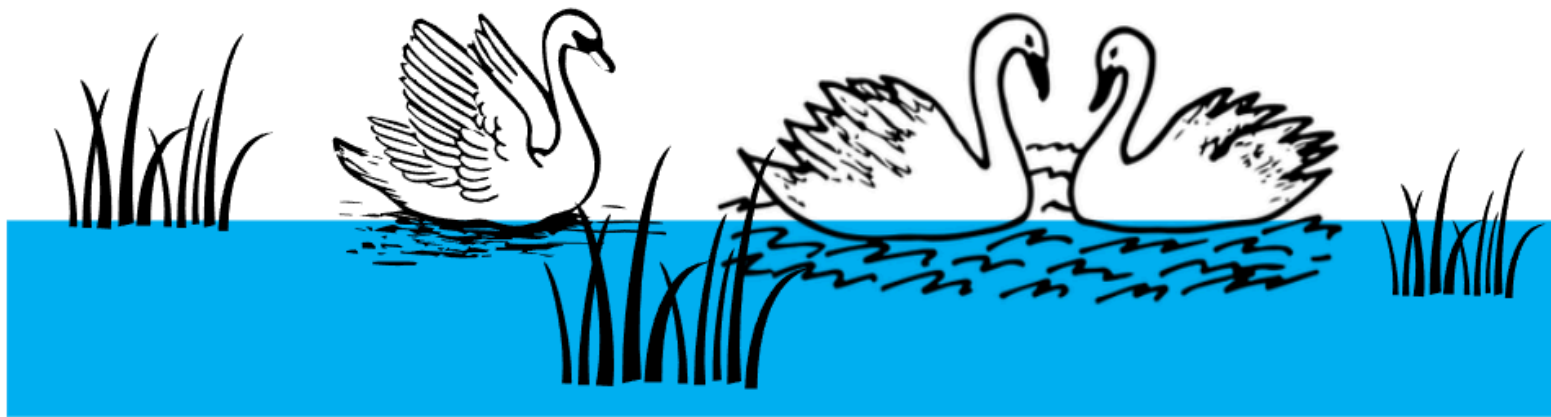
WHAT SEASON IS IT IN THE PICTURE?



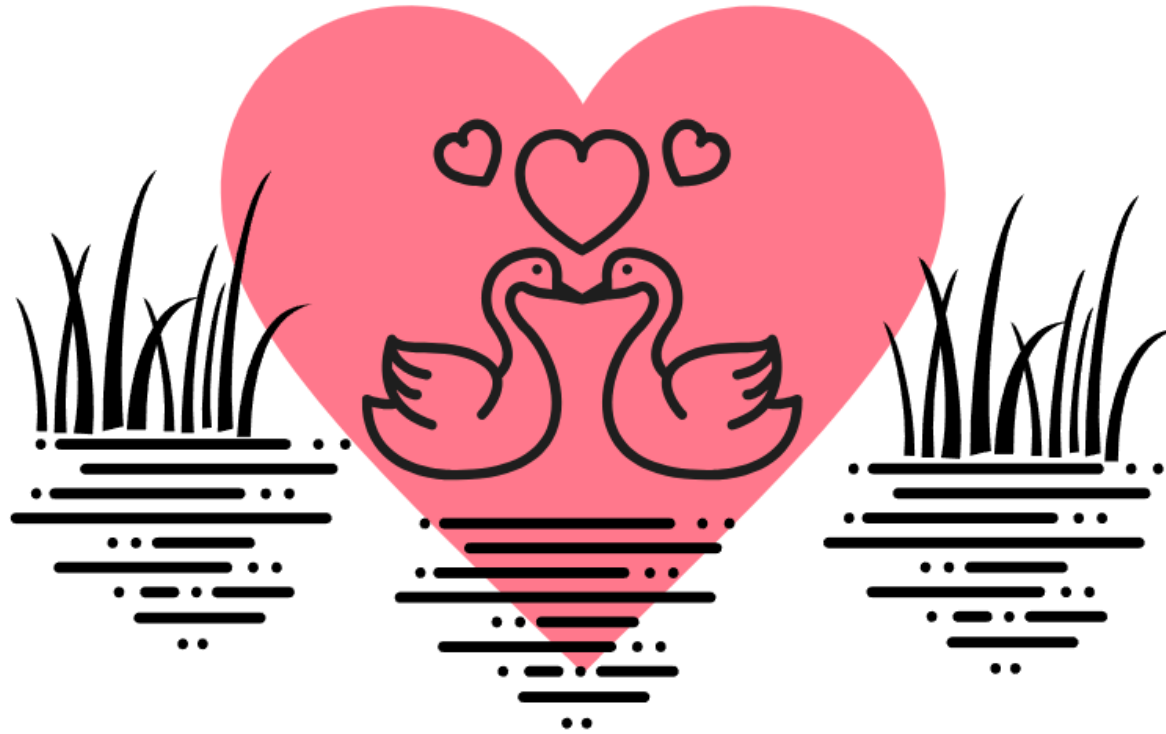
WHO HELPED THE UGLY DUCKLING?



WHAT DID THE UGLY DUCKLING TURN INTO?



HOW DID THE UGLY DUCKLING FEEL AT THE END?



HOW DO YOU FEEL AT THE END OF THIS STORY?