

# Hans Christian Andersen



## Key Facts & Information

### EARLY AND PERSONAL LIFE

- Hans Christian Andersen was born on **2 April 1805** in Odense, Denmark. He died on 4 August 1875 and was 70 years old. His father, also called Hans, died in 1816 and his mother, Anne Marie, remarried in 1818.
- Until he was 14, Andersen attended a school for poor children and was taught weaving and tailoring. He left the school aged 14 to become an actor in Copenhagen, but a close friend told him to focus on his poetry and stories instead. He suffered from dyslexia, meaning he had trouble reading and writing.

### LITERARY CAREER

- Andersen's first story was published in 1822 and was called The Ghost at Palnatoke's Grave. His first book of fairy tales was published between 1835 and 1837.
- The book contained 9 fairytales: The Tinderbox, Little Claus and Big Claus, The Princess and the Pea, Little Ida's Flowers, Thumbelina, The Naughty Boy, The Travelling Companion, The Little Mermaid, and The Emperor's New Clothes.
- Most of his fairy tales had unhappy endings. They have been translated into more than 125 different languages around the world and have been made into countless films, TV shows, ballets, and plays.

- In Denmark, Andersen's fairy tales are called 'Eventyr'. He continued to publish fairy tales in short volumes until 1872. Also, he published many famous poems during this time. The Disney films The Little Mermaid, Fantasia 2000, and Frozen are all based on Andersen's fairy tales.
- He was friends with [Charles Dickens](#) and used to visit him in England. However, their friendship ended when Andersen spent too many weeks as a guest in Dickens' house. Dickens' family were not impressed that he had overstayed his welcome and he was sent home, never to be heard from again. He never got married or had children.

Some of his works include:

- The Angel (1843)
- The Bell
- The Emperor's New Clothes (1837)
- The Fir-Tree (1844)
- The Galoshes of Fortune (1838)
- The Happy Family
- The Ice-Maiden (1863)
- It's Quite True!
- Later Tales, published during 1867 & 1868 (1869)
- The Little Match Girl (1845)
- The Little Mermaid (1837)
- Little Tuck
- The Most Incredible Thing (1870)
- The Nightingale (1843)
- The Old House
- The Philosopher's Stone (1859)
- The Princess and the Pea (1835)
- The Red Shoes (1845)
- Sandman (1841)
- The Shadow (1847)
- The Shepherdess and the Chimney Sweep (1845)
- The Snow Queen (1844)
- The Steadfast Tin Soldier (1838)
- The Story of a Mother (1847)
- The Swineherd (1841)
- Thumbelina (1835)
- The Tinderbox (1835)
- The Ugly Duckling (1843)
- The Wild Swans (1838)