The Little Mermaid

a Wheelock Family Theatre Study Guide
prepared by Thecla Ree

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Wheelock Family Theatre
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In this letter of February 1837, Hans Christian Andersen glows with optimism about his tale, *The Little Mermaid*. Andersen had already found some success as a novelist, but the publication of this “third instalment”—a booklet of his fairy tales—was about to make him even more successful in the next chapter of what he called “The Fairy Tale of My Life.”

As in many fairy tales, a mysterious someone—often, a fairy or witch—makes a brief but influential appearance. Such was the case in Andersen’s fairy tale life. When Hans Christian was a small boy, a fortune teller told his mother that the citizens of their home city would one day honor her only son, and Andersen lived to see this prediction come true. At the age of 62, he looked down from where he stood in city hall and gazed upon the throngs who waited outside for him on a winter night.

*But the world was not always so kind. In fact, once upon a time . . .*

In the city of Odense, Denmark, in the middle of the night (actually, 1:00 in the morning) of April 2, 1805, a baby boy was welcomed into the Andersen family. Son of an illiterate washerwoman and her shoemaker husband, little Hans Christian endured poverty yet also was firmly grounded in the belief that his performing talents would one day bring him fame and fortune.

Like many the hero or heroine of a nursery tale who leaves home after the death of a parent and remarriage of the surviving parent, Andersen left Odense when he was just 14 to fulfill what he felt sure was his destiny. The theatres of Copenhagen beckoned to the aspiring singer, actor, dancer, poet, and playwright. Andersen’s story did not take a Cinderella turn, however. Doors, though knocked on frequently, did not quite open wide for this odd-looking, ungainly youth with poor grammar and little education. Although he attended the Royal Theatre’s Ballet School for a time, he was later thrown out. Frequently, well-intentioned advisors told this Ugly Duckling to just return home to Odense and learn a trade, something useful; the stage was not for him.

Yet Andersen yearned to be accepted in Copenhagen, and he would not back down. Eventually he found a patron who provided him with a formal education and the building blocks to pursue his aspirations, and he worked hard to learn, to improve himself, and to *prove* himself. All this time, even when a cruel school teacher had forbade him, he never stopped writing poetry, plays, and novels. Luckily, Andersen broke at least one school rule, which is why, today, we
have *The Emperor’s New Clothes, Thumbelina, The Princess and the Pea*— and the list goes on. In *The Little Mermaid*, one reads Andersen’s own story, the story of someone who was not acceptable as he was and willingly changed himself to live in a society he longed to be part of.

*And he lived happily ever after . . .*

*The Little Mermaid* does not end as we think it will or perhaps sentimentally remember it. A royal wedding takes place, certainly, but . . . it’s not the little mermaid’s. Instead, the little mermaid throws herself into the ocean and essentially evaporates. But the story of Andersen’s own life, as we now know, ends on a much more uplifting tone.

Though sadly, his mother, the washerwoman, did not live to see the success that rained down on her son—not just in Odense but from all over the world—we are the lucky recipients of Andersen’s endurance against considerable odds and of his growling hunger for acceptance.

Today, in the harbor waters of Copenhagen, a statue of a maiden with a fishtail is perched atop a large stone; it is recognized all over the world, an honor to and a symbol of Andersen’s literary achievement. “You will like it,” Andersen had said about *The Little Mermaid*, and indeed the world did.

*And they lived happily ever after?*

In Wheelock Family Theatre’s production of *The Little Mermaid*, the princess and her prince do live happily ever after. But James Byrne, its director and set designer, makes clear this play is “not all peaches and cream.” Instead, Linda Daugherty’s script explores loss, regret, and leaving behind one’s old life in order to forge ahead as an adult in a new world. This journey of the little mermaid is “not an easy ride, but full of pitfalls and obstacles,” he says.

Still, Byrne looks upon *The Little Mermaid* as a classic fairy tale: “By that, I mean a tale that tells of moral choices and perils that can befall a young woman as she reaches for adulthood.” Working with these themes, and with an eye on Bruno Bettelheim’s psychoanalytical view of fairy tales, the director recognizes there is much pain in this story. “These characters are definitely experiencing pain. But,” he says, “it is by their own choice, so as to gain knowledge and maturity.”

*Yes, they did.*

Just as the statue of the little mermaid welcomes travelers from around the world to Copenhagen, Wheelock Family Theatre invites you to step into the world of *The Little Mermaid*. It’s a world where the sea meets the land and where characters discover that their deepest desires come at a price. But courage prevails—and those who follow their hearts do live happily ever after.

bringing fairy tales to the page . . . and to the stage

**Cast (kast)**

* v. tr. To throw (something, especially something light): *The angler cast the line.*
To choose actors for (a play, for example). *Nautical.* To turn (a ship).

* n. The actors in a theatrical presentation.

*American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language (Third Edition)*

When casting for a fish or human (or something in between), director James Byrne looks for these qualities in an actor: creativity, openness, the ability to be part of a group and to work individually, the ability to focus and to follow simple directions. This holds true for adult and child actors alike.

“I enjoy the creativity of my young cast members and their willingness to be and do anything,” he says. To be successful in their roles in *The Little Mermaid*, Byrne says all actors “whether [they’re portraying] an animal or a person, must find something in the character that he or she can identify with.”

### activity suggestions

**Name That Tuna!**

- Have music on hand to run for 30 seconds at a time (try nautical music or soundtracks from musicals with nautical themes, such as *South Pacific, Anything Goes, H.M.S. Pinafore*).
- Ask students to call out characters from the play. Write each on a slip of paper.
- Have students choose a slip and then move and talk like the character for 30 seconds (until the music stops) or until someone guesses the character.
- Turn this into a team game: Form two groups, choose a timekeeper and a scorekeeper, and award one point for each correct guess.

**Alphabet Body Charades**

Wheelock Family Theatre’s presentation of The Little Mermaid draws upon nearly every letter of the alphabet.

Pick a letter, any letter, out of a hat. Use your arm to draw that letter in the air, then have students shape another student’s body into the words that begin with the chosen letter. Have the rest of the class name the word.

- Anemone, arms, applause
- bride, bridegroom, box office
- castle, Coral, costume, curtain, clap, crab
When he was growing up, Hans Christian Andersen strived to become a singer, dancer, or actor—anything so that he could be on stage. (Playing a role in *The Little Mermaid* most likely would have delighted the young Andersen.) A YouTube clip of his performances doesn’t exist, but flashes of Andersen can be found in the stories he left behind.

**Reading Suggestions**
Read a biography* of Andersen, and try to recognize him in his stories:
- *The Goblin at the Grocer*
- *The Little Match Girl*
- *The Little Mermaid*
- *The Nightingale*
- *The Snow Queen*
- *The Ugly Duckling*
- *The Wild Swans*

*Suggested biographies:
- *Hans Christian Andersen*, by Andrew Langley
- *Hans Christian Andersen: His Fairy Tale Life*, by Hjørdis Varmer and Lilian Brøgger
- *The Young Hans Christian Andersen*, by Karen Hesse
andersen’s other fairy tales

Four years before writing *The Little Mermaid* and inspired by a Danish ballad, Andersen wrote *Agnete and the Merman*, a poem about a maiden who falls in love with a merman. Although the idea of merpeople and humans falling in love was not unique, Andersen’s fairy tales were very much so. (Before Andersen, fairy tales often ended with a moral, and characters lived happily ever after.) Andersen’s critics did not know what to make of his plain, conversational language and the novelty of everyday, inanimate objects thinking and talking.

Reading and Writing Suggestions

Read an Andersen fairy tale in which inanimate objects are the main characters:
- *The Fir Tree*
- *Five Peas from the Same Pod*
- *The Shepherdess and the Chimney Sweep*
- *The Steadfast Tin Soldier*
- *The Top and the Ball*

And then try one of these:

- Choose an inanimate object and write a fairy tale about it in the style of Hans Christian Andersen:
  - Give this object the ability to think and speak.
  - Use everyday language (how people in real life speak, rather than how kings and queens often talk in many fairy tales and legends).
  - Feel free to include a moral—or not.
- Take a song or poem, and use it as the basis for a new fairy tale.
- Take an event from your life and work it into a story.
- Write a fairy tale in which you appear as a character.
- Arrive at a definition of a moral by having students given examples from familiar stories (for example, slow and steady wins the race).

mermaids

In March 1837, Hans Christian Andersen was writing to a friend about his new fairy tale and added this message for a young student:

My love to little Bertha [the student], and tell her mermaids can’t be called Bertha, otherwise I would have given the little mermaid that name.

(Wullschlager, p. 172)
Students who read *The Little Mermaid* will notice that the little mermaid does not actually have a name.

**Discussion Suggestions**
- What do you think is a good name for a mermaid or a merman? Why?
- Why do you think the playwright named the mermaid “Pearl”?
- What do the names of all the mermaids (Pearl, Luna, Coral, Anemone) have in common?
- What did Hans Christian Andersen mean when he said a mermaid couldn’t be called Bertha?

**adaptation**

Compare and contrast the book and the play.
- What is the little mermaid’s name in the book?
- Do you like the book or the play better? Why?
- *The Little Mermaid* (the book) was originally titled *Daughters of the Air*. Why was the book called *Daughters of the Air*? Why does this title work for the story? Can you think of other titles that work?
- How many sisters does the little mermaid have in the play and in the story?
- How old are the mermaids when they’re allowed to go to the surface in the book and in the play? Why do you think the age is different?
- Which characters have bigger “parts” in the play than they do in the book? Which have smaller parts?
- How do you think the book and the play (and the movie version if you’ve seen it) are different? Why?

Put on a play or puppet show based on *The Little Mermaid*.
- Use the program from *The Little Mermaid* to learn about the different jobs and responsibilities on stage (actors) and behind the scenes (costume designer, set designer).
- Create a program.
  - Have the cast and crew write a few lines about themselves.
  - Design ads for real or make-believe businesses.
- Design a poster or Web site to advertise your play.
- Make tickets, and sell them.
- Make snacks for the intermission.
  - Scoop goldfish crackers (recipe below) from fishbowls.
  - Make paper cones to serve the snacks in: Cut large triangles from parchment paper (or construction paper) and roll them into cone shapes; tape the edges. Step-by-step directions and diagrams can be found at www.fantes.com/parchment-triangles.html. (Follow steps 1 – 5, only.)
Seasoned Goldfish Crackers

18 ounces cheddar cheese goldfish crackers  
1 ounce ranch dressing mix  
3 teaspoons dill weed  
1/2 teaspoon garlic powder  
1/2 teaspoon lemon-pepper seasoning  
1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper  
2/3 cup vegetable oil

Directions
Place crackers in a large bowl.
Combine the remaining ingredients.
Drizzle over crackers and toss to coat evenly.
Transfer to a large baking pan.
Bake at 250 degrees for about 15–20 minutes, stirring occasionally.
Cool completely and store in an airtight container.

from www.recipezaar.com

changing, learning, & adapting

Some people are said to have two left feet, but Pearl wakes up one day and has two new feet. If you:

Woke up one morning on the shore of an unknown land, and discovered that you had legs (instead of a fishtail) and had lost your voice, demonstrate how you would use your face and body to:
- Show humans you are actually a mermaid or merman.
- Ask for clothes and shoes.
- Ask to learn how to dance.
- Show people how old you are.
- Eat a large bowl of slippery spaghetti with tomato sauce for the very first time. How about two scoops of ice cream on a cone on a summer day?

If you woke up one morning on the seabed of an unknown ocean, with fins and a fishtail but no voice, demonstrate how you would use your face and body to:
- Show merpeople you are actually a human.
- Try to swim.
- Ask for directions back home.
- Find fish and plants for food.
- Use a computer.
- Put on a life jacket.

If Pearl (or another character from the play) came to visit your home for one day:
- What would you like to show Pearl on that one day?
What do you think a mermaid, who has never lived on land, would like to experience for the first time?
As Pearl, write a letter (or draw postcards) to your family under the sea. Be sure to include all the new things you’ve experienced and how they make you feel:
- the food you’re tasting,
- the strange clothes you have on,
- the bed you’re sleeping in,
- your school, and/or
- the weather (you could pick a hot, humid day in July or a blizzard in January).

Pantomime events in *The Little Mermaid* that do not actually take place on stage:
- Pearl realizes she may never see her family and friends again, and she says goodbye to them and to her old life under the sea.
- Pearl’s family wakes up and realizes she has left home to live above the sea.
- Pearl’s sisters beg the Sea Witch for the return of their sister.
- The father of the Great Mother and the Sea Witch tells his daughters that—tomorrow—he must separate them with a golden knife. They are so unhappy that he promises they can someday be joined again.

**Discussion Suggestions**
- Have you ever lost your voice? What was that like?
- What is difficult about not being able to speak?
- Do you think it is easy or hard to act on stage without speaking?

**The Little Mermaid Speaks for Herself**
Now, let’s hear from Andrea Ross, who plays Pearl (and is also the same age, 18):

> It is very difficult to portray how Pearl feels after her transformation when she can’t speak. Therefore, I have to act out how weird she feels with legs, and how much pain she is in. I try to look at it like riding a bike for the first time—you have to find your balance, and you might fall down or wobble at first. After practicing over and over again, it does not feel as strange as it did.

> In the show, Pearl struggles to get used to the pain and how funny walking feels . . . but she gets the hang of it. Everything has to be more exaggerated when she is trying to communicate, so I have to make sure that I use my body and eyes to show how I'm feeling.

- Do Andrea’s words change your opinion about how to act without speaking?
- Try some of the exercises again and, this time, think about what Andrea said (look at it like learning how to ride a bike; exaggerate your movements; use your eyes). How does it feel this time?
- Watch others do the exercises again. Are their performances different now? What did you notice this time?
a bargain is a bargain (giving up something)

Sea Witch: There is always a price to pay – a risk in going where you don’t belong.

Discussion Suggestions

- Can you name the characters who sacrificed something? What did they give up?
  - Pearl (voice and tail for two legs)
  - Luna, Coral, Anemone (their long hair for Pearl to speak one last time)
  - Great Mother (her life for Pearl’s life)
- What was the risk in each bargain?
- Do you think the characters should have made these bargains? Is there something they should have given up instead?
- Do you think these are fair bargains? Why or why not?
- What would you have done if you were these characters?
- Is there something you really want or have wanted? What would you give up to get what you wanted? What would the Sea Witch want from you?
- Have you ever given something up? What did you give up, and why? How did you feel after?

Activity Suggestion

What if Prince Stefan decided to give up his legs to live in the ocean with Pearl? Show how he would move if the Sea Witch gave him the legs of a:

- crab
- dolphin
- penguin
- seal
- shark
- snake
- stingray

negotiation/giving up gifts

The Great Mother tells Pearl, “You have many gifts for happiness ... your heart, your mind, your beauty... your laughing voice.” Pearl also has a loving family, a home under the sea, and the friendship of fish. Yet the Sea Witch alone has the power to give Pearl what she really wants.

- Think about what a gift means. What are your gifts? Are they a talent (like reading or drawing well, or jumping high, or making friends) or a situation (like having a neighbor who bakes cookies and shares them with you)? Perhaps you and Pearl have some of the same gifts. Think of three gifts.
- Think about something you really want. Maybe instead of legs and arms, you want wings to fly anywhere you want? Maybe you want every day to be Saturday?
- Draw—or cut from a magazine—three pictures that represent your gifts and one picture that represents what you really want. Paste each picture on a separate sheet of paper (four sheets total)

**Phase 1: You and the Sea Witch make a bargain**
- Divide into pairs, and take turns playing the Sea Witch.
- Give the “Sea Witch” the picture of what you really want. She now holds in her hands the ability to grant you your deepest desire. If you’re the Sea Witch, look carefully at your partner’s gifts. Decide what you will take in return.
- Now, think hard and decide. Is it worth giving up one or more of your gifts? Are there risks? What are the pros?

**Phase 2: The Sisters and the Sea Witch make a bargain**
- Divide into pairs, and take turns playing the Sea Witch.
- Have each Sister offer to give up one gift in exchange for the return of Pearl’s gift. Students playing the role of the Sea Witch should drive a hard bargain! Wishes don’t come cheaply in *The Little Mermaid*.

**Phase 3: Have partners show their bargaining to the rest of the class, then discuss.**
- Was it worth giving up something to get you what you really wanted?
- Would you do it again?

**Reading Suggestions**
*The Nightingale*, by Hans Christian Andersen  
*The Pied Piper of Hamelin*, by Grimm Brothers  
*Rapunzel*, by Grimm Brothers  
*Rumpelstiltskin*, by Grimm Brothers  
*The Six Swans*, by Grimm Brothers  
*The Wild Swans*, by Hans Christian Andersen

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**growing up & having adventures**

Pearl’s older sisters all prefer the safety and familiarity of staying close to home. Though they warn their little sister of the risks that may await her, Pearl longs for the day when she turns 18 and can swim to the surface. Meanwhile, back on dry land, Prince Stefan yearns for an adventure on the high seas, knowing that a “life full of dull appointments” and an “arranged, boring marriage” await him.
Make a Compass for Prince Stefan and Princess Pearl

To help Prince Stefan and Pearl find their way home, make a compass for them.

Materials:
- a small bowl
- a cork
- a magnet
- masking tape
- a long metal needle
- markers

Procedure:
- Use the magnet to magnetize the head of the needle by striking it against the magnet 30 to 40 times, always striking in the same direction. Put a piece of tape on the end of the needle that is not magnetized.
- Demonstrate that a magnet will always face north by tying a string to the center of the needle. Which way does the magnetized head face?
- Write N (for north), S, W, and E on pieces of tape. Affix these to the bowl, pointing out that east is to the right of north; south is behind north; and west is to the left of north.
- Add water to the bowl. Stick the needle through the cork and float it in the bowl.
- Outside, use the compass to find which way is north. Then follow a set of directions using the compass. (“Go three paces north. Now go two paces east.”) Organize a treasure hunt, using the compass to follow directions.

(Source: www2.scholastic.com)

Nautical Terms

(Prince Stefan takes a compass from his pocket, checks the ship’s heading.)

Prince Stefan: Forty degrees south. One hundred and eighty degrees east! ...
Wind, seven knots! ... Temperature, perfect. Sunset ... magnificent!

Yorick: (Bowing and pointing to the map) Forgive me, Your Grace ... but I must point out ... we are off course...these are uncharted waters.

Research Suggestions

- What are degrees (latitude and longitude)?
- What are knots?
- If Prince Stefan’s ship is 40 degrees south and 180 degrees east, where is the ship?
- What is the latitude and longitude of Boston?
- What is the latitude and longitude of Copenhagen (where the statue of the Little Mermaid sits, and where there’s a boulevard named after Andersen)?
- What is the latitude and longitude of your home?
- What is the crow’s nest? How did it get its name?
- What is a log line?
- What are the nautical terms for the left, right, front, and back of a boat?
**Reading Suggestions: Sailing & Boats**
*Sarah’s Boat*, by Douglas Alvord
*Sailing for Kids*, by Gary Kibble and Steve Kibble
*First Sail*, by Richard Henderson (ill. Jennifer Heyd Wharton)

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**growing & changing**

Read a book about growing up or having an adventure, and then discuss:
- What did you dream of doing when you were ___ years old?
- Have you done those things?
- Were they just as you imagined?
- Was it better than you imagined or was it disappointing?
- Prince Stefan says his life is full of “dull appointments.” What do you think his dull appointments are?
- Do you have “dull appointments”? What are they?
- When you are ___ years old, will you still have these dull appointments?

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**Reading Suggestions: Adventures**
*Around the World in 80 Days*, by Jules Verne
*Charlie and the Great Glass Elevator*, by Roald Dahl
*Stuart Little*, by E. B. White (ill. Garth Williams)
*The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*, by C.S. Lewis

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**Reading Suggestions: Growing Up**
*Coming of Age*, by Lisa Sita
*Bar Mitzvah, Bat Mitzvah: The Ceremony, the Party, and How the Day Came to Be*, by Bert Metter (ill. Joan Reilly)
*Eleven*, by Lauren Myracle
*Tadpole’s Promise*, by Jeanne Willis

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**the great mother & the sea witch**

Anemone: When Great Mother learns the Sea Witch is the cause of your unhappiness, she will fight evil with her goodness.

**Discussion Suggestions**
- Why do you think one sister grew to be evil and selfish, and one became giving and helpful?
- Do you feel that most characters are all bad or all good?
- Is there a part of the Sea Witch that remained “good”?
- Why do you think the Sea Witch wants Pearl’s voice and the sisters’ long hair? What do you think she would do with them?
Were you surprised to learn the Sea Witch and the Great Mother are twin sisters?
The Sea Witch seems to know a lot about love and danger. Do you think the Sea Witch was once in love with a human?
Do you think the Sea Witch regretted how things turned out?
Do you think the Sea Witch missed her sister during all those years apart?
Do you think the sisters still love each other, even though one became so evil and one remained good?

Words of Wisdom from the Great Mother
Jane Staab, who plays the Great Mother, shared her thoughts on the relationship between the two sisters who were once so close:

As Great Mother I choose to believe that my sister still holds some love for me, or I would never have been able to trick her into touching my finger. But that kernel [of love] is pretty teeny at this point . . . perhaps sparked by seeing her sister again after a long time.

Although Staab can’t know for sure why one sister changed as much as she did, and ultimately grew to be the destroyer of dreams, she does think the Sea Witch “became so angry with her father for separating us that she chose to do whatever she could to destroy his reputation, and then was corrupted by her own greed for power.”

Activity Suggestion: “Matching Opposites” Memory Game
Look for (or draw) pictures of opposites. Try these opposites from The Little Mermaid, or make up your own pairs:
- wet and dry
- ocean and land
- cool and warm
- long hair and short hair
- having a voice and being silent
- goodness and evil
- Great Mother and Sea Witch
- weep and laugh
- sad and happy
Paste each picture on an index card.
Shuffle the cards, and then lay them face down on a desk or floor.
Try to find a pair of opposites (pick up two cards, one at a time).
Each time you find a match, remove the two cards from the desk or floor.
Continue playing until you’ve found all the pairs of opposites.

“Opposites” Guessing Game with a Partner
Use the deck you’ve created, and pair up the opposites.
Hold up one card at a time; your partner will guess what the picture on the other card will be.
**Reading Suggestions**
*The Twin Princes*, by Ted Arnold
*The Snow Queen*, by Hans Christian Andersen
*Wicked Poems*, edited by Roger McGough, and illustrated by Neal Layton

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salt: water, fish, & tears

It’s not just the ocean that’s salty in *The Little Mermaid*. Saltwater in the form of tears falls often and is often spoken of. The Sea King had pointed out earlier, “No tears fall from the eyes of a Mermaid,” and so when Pearl cries for the first time as a human, the tears surprise her.

**Research Suggestions**
- Are humans the only creatures who produce tears?
- What does it mean to produce crocodile tears? Can crocodiles actually produce tears?
- Why does slicing onions make you cry?
- Can humans survive by drinking saltwater? Which creatures can survive by drinking saltwater?
- Which fish are saltwater fish and which are freshwater fish?
  - anchovy
  - barracuda
  - bluefish
  - boldfish
  - catfish
  - dolphin
  - eel
  - guppy
  - herring
  - mackerel
  - piranha
  - pufferfish
  - sea bass
  - snapper
  - swordfish
  - tuna

**Activity Suggestion: Saltwater Chalk Drawings**
Mix ¼ cup of water and 1 teaspoon of salt in a small bowl. Stick the chalk in the salt water for a short time (30 to 60 seconds). Using the wet chalk on paper will give you a distinctly different effect.

(Source: *Unplugged Play*, by Bobbi Conner)

**Reading Suggestions**
*Discovering Saltwater Fish*, by Alwyne Wheeler
*Freshwater Fish*, by Trevor Housby
*Animals Called Fish*, by Kristina Lundblad and Bobbie Kalman
*How Fish Swim*, by Jill Bailey
puzzles & games

Check out our website for more puzzles and games—crosswords, a word search, word scrambles, and add-a-letter!  www.wheelockfamilytheatre.org

what's my line?

Who said these lines in The Little Mermaid?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dialogue:</th>
<th>Character:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. I dream of the day when I can go above.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Stay close to home – inside the reef and below the surface. There’s trouble near and I will not have one of my darlings lost to those who do not share our vision.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Stay together and all will be well. I go now to my mother for her counsel.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. If I swam to the surface, I could just push my hand through and then I would feel ... air! The world where humans lives...How can I wait? Everything I want to see, to know, lives in the world above me.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. I remember one long, happy summer when I spent every moment above the surface....Why do the young think they are the only ones with secrets? One lovely dawn, two hundred or more summers ago, when the sun first appeared in the sky, I broke through the surface and came upon a little boat.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Soon I will be home, my life full of dull appointments and, if my father has his way, an arranged, boring marriage. Let me have my adventure, faithful Yorick.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>7. I must make my father understand. The one I love is not a prince but can we be so different? His heart beats as mine.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>8. Maybe I can help you. But what you ask is very difficult. It drains me of my strength so I must ask something of you in return, and I will grant you your wish.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. See our hair. We gave our beautiful hair to the Sea Witch.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. A bargain is a bargain.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Is your heart so cruel? How can it be that we were joined at birth, you and I?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Solution on page 18.)
### Who said this? About whom?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dialogue:</th>
<th>Character:</th>
<th>About:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. She is darkness, little Mermaid, and loneliness. She is the one who claims to answer all prayers but only destroys all dreams. A long time ago, she chose a different path. And we must again be rid of her.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. They are more beautiful than any octopus. Their faces and hands, hair, eyes, mouth, just like our own. Half of us mirrors [them].</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. So handsome. So pale. A heart beating as mine beats. As mine ... Are we so different from humans?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. First I thought [she] was a great fish left by the tide. And then I saw that lovely face. Covered [she] was from neck to toe in seaweed.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Forgive me sir, but she’s to be your wife, our future queen. You must greet her immediately.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. My advisors did not deceive me. They reported you had a kind heart.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. She refused to help, but in return for the gift of our long hair, she agreed to let you speak to us one last night.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. When [she] learns the Sea Witch is the cause of your unhappiness, she will fight evil with her goodness. I will search for her in the warm currents from the south where the dolphins play.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*(Solution on page 18.)*
Draw a picture of (or just think about) these creatures and their surroundings:

A. HUMANS  B. MERPEOPLE  C. FISH  D. BIRDS

Look at your pictures. Read the characteristics below. Who owns which characteristics? Write the letters (A, B, C, and/or D) in each appropriate square.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>Eyes</th>
<th>Legs</th>
<th>Arms</th>
<th>Fins</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tails</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tentacles</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wings</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faces</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hands</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hair</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beating Heart</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mouth</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can swim</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can fly</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can sing</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Can walk</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breathes water</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breathes air</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lives in a castle</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weeps salt tears</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lives on land</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lives in water</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Has kings and queens</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Has dances (balls)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
solution: what’s my line?

1. Pearl
2. Sea King
3. Sea King
4. Pearl
5. Great Mother
6. Prince Stefan
7. The Maiden
8. Sea Witch
9. Coral (one of Pearl’s sisters)
10. Pearl, Sea Witch
11. Great Mother

solution: buzzing ears

1. Sea King about Sea Witch
2. Great Mother about humans
3. Pearl about Prince Stefan
4. Yorick about Pearl
5. Yorick about Princess Marianna
6. Princess Marianna about Prince Stefan
7. Coral about Sea Witch
8. Anemone about Great Mother