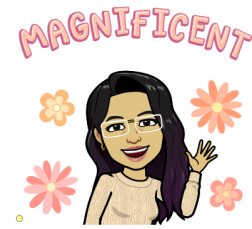


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Shawn McCowan

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Hans Christian Andersen and Fairy Tales

Hans Christian Anderson's tiny family, which was extremely poor, lived in Odense, Denmark. The people of the village had many ideas for Anderson's writing. He wrote many fairy tales and used his imagination to bring them to life because of the European fairy tales that his grandma told him.

At the young age of 14 Anderson relocated to the large city of Copenhagen. He wrote about his childhood from his hometown where he grew up. His since his father died which forced his mother to become a washerwoman for her family. Family and people from his hometown helped Anderson to become a famous writer.

Hans Christian Anderson's childhood experiences often affected his writing. His father owned a few important books, including a Bible and Arabian Nights, which Hans enjoyed very much. Hans' favorite belonging was his small puppet show in his living room because it brought him much glee. His family greatly encouraged his creativity. When he was a little boy, there was a group of boys who aggressively picked on him. This is how he came up with the **fairy tale** of the Ugly Duckling.