

4



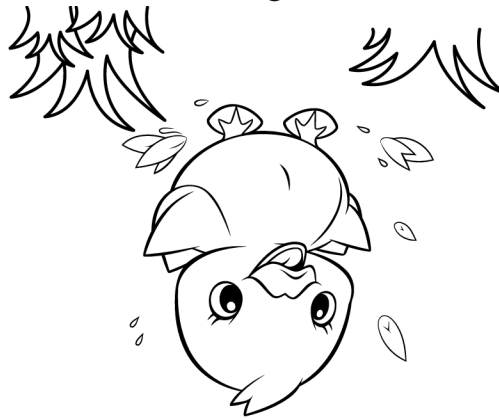
There, it saw the most beautiful birds! Oh! The duckling couldn't take its eyes off the stunning, long, graceful necks – they were swans.

3



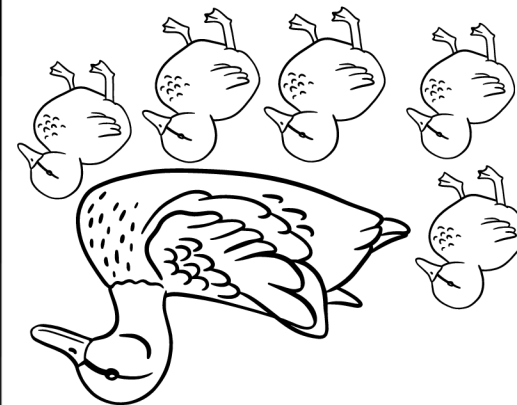
But no one wanted to be friends with him. He felt very sad and lonely. One day, the poor duckling couldn't take it anymore and flew over the fence, finding himself in a big swamp, and then he came upon a new lake.

2



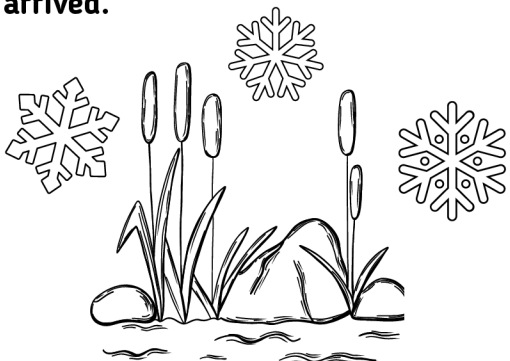
"Don't say that!" said Mother Duck. "He may not be pretty, but he has a good heart, and he swims beautifully. Maybe even better than the rest. I believe he will grow better with time and find his own way!"

1



Mother Duck had six ducklings hatch. But one duckling looked different from the others. The ducklings and the other birds in the yard began to mock him, saying he was ugly.

Days passed. The leaves on the trees turned golden, then brown, and eventually fell to the ground. Winter came, covering the world with a white blanket of snow. Many troubles befell the duckling that winter. But then the sun shone warmly again. Spring had arrived.

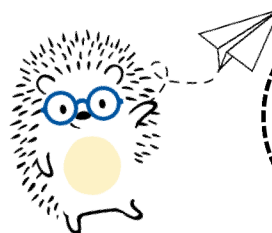


5

One day, beautiful white swans appeared on the lake again. The ugly duckling remembered those birds. And suddenly, it noticed in the water's reflection that it had become very similar to those birds. "I feel so strong," thought the bird. Its wings fluttered, its flexible neck rose, and it joyfully cried out: "I understand! I'm not a duckling, I'm a swan! That's why I never looked like anyone on the birdyard! And who is the ugly duckling now? Definitely not me!"



6

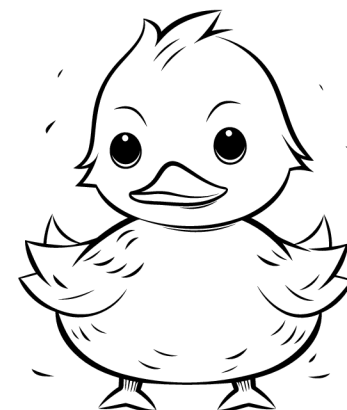


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THE UGLY DUCKLING