

The Sissy Duckling

by Harvey Fierstein

Learning to accept our special qualities and understand our differences is made easier with traditional artistry and a serious, but tender, story. Based on the award-winning animated special, *The Sissy Duckling* teaches that we are all unique and precious.



Read

Before:

Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow that with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *How would a duck act if they had to go to school?* Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an "I wonder" statement based on the cover illustration.

- I wonder why the other ducks look so mad?

During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and predict what will happen next in the story. Children gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end. Point out "rare words" (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in every day conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

Rare Words in *The Sissy Duckling*

- unfortunately: used to express regret
- forts: a building or group of buildings with strong defenses
- plunking: to drop down
- streaked: to move at great speed, to dash or rush
- umpire: official who supervises play and enforces the rules
- waddled: to walk with short steps causing the body to tilt from one side to the other
- hollow: having an empty space inside
- shattering: smash into pieces
- astonishment: great amazement, often eliciting shock
- wounded: injury to the body
- honking: cry of a goose
- bravery: courage in the face of danger
- loyalty: a feeling of devotion duty or attachment to somebody or something
- ingenuity: inventiveness or originality

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- What kind of animal is Elmer?
- What kind of things does Elmer like to do?
- Why did the other ducks make fun of him?
- Why was his dad so mad?
- What happened to Elmer when he ran away?
- What happened when all the ducks tried to fly south for the winter?
- What kind of things did Elmer and his father do during the winter?
- How did the other ducks react when they realized that Elmer and his dad were alive?

Do

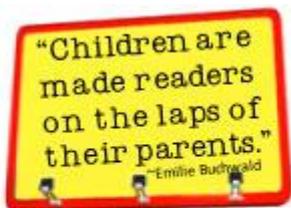
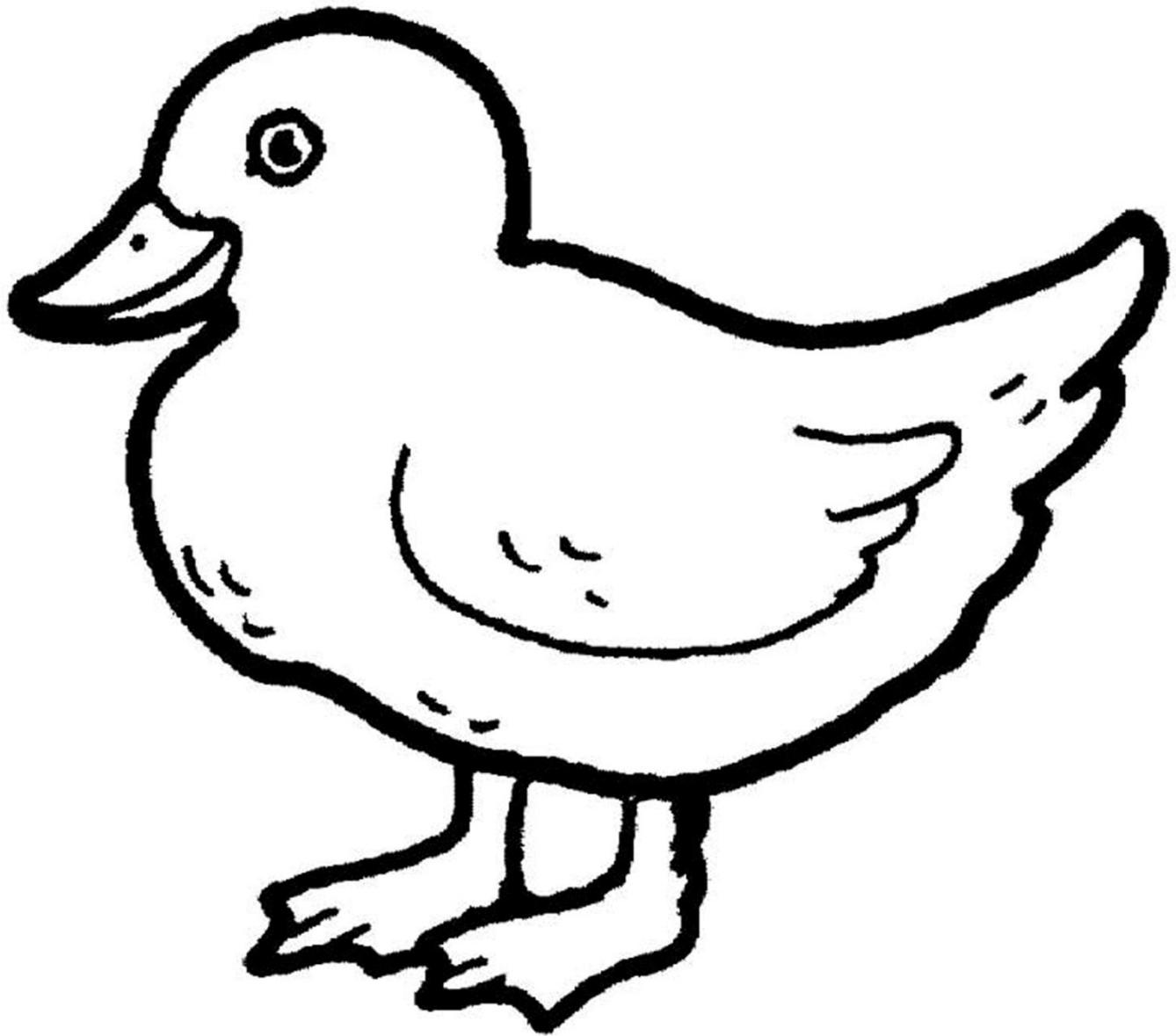
Duckling Puppets

You will need: copies of the “Duckling Puppets” sheet, tape or hot glue, colors/markers, scissors, glitter, pencils/crafts stick/straws, construction paper and (if available) craft feathers and eyes.

Give each child a copy of the “Duckling Puppets” sheet and allow them enough time to cut, color and decorate the ducklings. Attach the cutouts to a pencil, craft stick or straw with tape or hot glue.

My Name: _____

“The Sissy Duckling” Puppet



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