

Dorcas the Yellow Duck

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Dorcas the Yellow Duck

Once upon a time down on an old _____ Noun, lived a duck family, and Mother Duck had been _____ Adjective on a clutch of new _____ Noun. One _____ Adjective morning, the eggs hatched and out popped six _____ Adjective ducklings. But one egg was bigger than the rest, and it didn't hatch. Mother Duck couldn't recall laying that seventh egg. How did it get there? TOCK! TOCK! The little _____ Noun was pecking inside his shell.

"Did I count the eggs _____ Adjective?" Mother Duck _____ Verb - Past Tense. But before she had time to think about it, the last egg finally hatched. A _____ Adjective looking duckling with _____ Adjective feathers that should have been _____ Adjective gazed at a _____ Adjective mother. The ducklings grew quickly, but Mother Duck had a secret worry.

"I can't understand how this ugly duckling can be one of mine!" she said to herself, _____ Verb - Base Form her head as she looked at her last born. Well, the gray duckling certainly wasn't _____ Adjective, and since he ate far more than his brothers, he was outgrowing them. As the days went by, the _____ Adjective ugly duckling became more and more _____ Adjective. His brothers didn't want to _____ Verb - Base Form with him, he was so _____ Adjective, and all the farmyard folks simply _____ Verb - Past Tense at him. He felt sad and _____ Adverb, while Mother Duck did her best to console him.

"Poor little ugly duckling!" she would say. "Why are you so different from the others?" And the ugly duckling felt worse than ever. He secretly _____ Adverb _____ at night. He felt nobody wanted him.

"Nobody loves me, they all _____ Verb - Base Form _____ me! Why am I different from my brothers?"

Then one day, at sunrise, he ran away from the farmyard. He stopped at a pond and began to question all the other birds. "Do you know of any ducklings with _____ Adjective _____ feathers like mine?" But everyone shook their _____ Noun _____ in scorn.

"We don't know anyone as ugly as you." The ugly duckling did not lose heart, however, and kept on making _____ Noun _____. He went to another pond, where a pair of large geese gave him the same answer to his question.

What's more, they warned him: "Don't stay here! Go away! It's dangerous. There are men with guns around here!" The duckling was _____ Adverb _____ he had ever left the farmyard.

Then _____ Adjective _____ day, his travels took him near an old _____ Noun _____ cottage. Thinking he was a stray goose, she caught him.

"I'll put this in a hutch. I hope it's a female and lays plenty of eggs!" said the old woman, whose eyesight was poor. But the ugly duckling laid not a single egg. The hen kept _____ Verb - Present ends in ING _____ him.

"Just wait! If you don't lay eggs, the old woman will wring your neck and _____ Verb - Base Form you into the pot!" And the _____ Noun chipped in: "Hee! Hee! I hope the woman cooks you, then I can _____ Verb - Base Form at your bones!" The poor ugly duckling was so scared that he lost his appetite, though the old woman kept stuffing him with food and _____ Verb - Present ends in ING: "If you won't lay eggs, at least hurry up and get plump!"

"Oh, dear me!" moaned the now _____ Adjective duckling. "I'll die of fright first! And I did so hope someone would love me!"

Then one night, finding the hutch door ajar, he escaped. Once again he was all alone. He fled as far away as he could, and at dawn, he found himself in a _____ Adjective bed of reeds. "If nobody wants me, I'll _____ Noun here forever." There was plenty a food, and the duckling began to feel a little happier, though he was _____ Adverb. One day at sunrise, he saw a flight of beautiful birds wing overhead. White, with long slender necks, yellow beaks and large wings, they were _____ Verb - Present ends in ING south.

"If only I could look like them, just for a day!" said the duckling, admiringly. Winter came and the water in the reed bed froze. The poor duckling left home to _____ Verb - Base Form food in the snow. He dropped exhausted to the ground, but a farmer found him and put him in his big jacket pocket.

"I'll take him home to my children. They'll look after him. Poor thing, he's frozen!" The duckling was showered with _____ Adverb _____ care at the farmer's house. In this way, the ugly duckling was able to survive the bitterly cold winter.

However, by springtime, he had grown so big that the farmer decided: "I'll set him free by the pond!" That was when the duckling saw himself mirrored in the water.

"Goodness! How I've changed! I hardly recognize myself!" The flight of swans winged north again and glided on to the pond. When the duckling saw them, he _____ Verb - Past Tense _____ he was one of their kind, and soon made friends.

"We're swans like you!" they said, _____ Adverb _____. "Where have you been hiding?"

"It's a long story," replied the young swan, still astounded. Now, he swam _____ Adverb _____ with his fellow swans. One day, he heard children on the river bank exclaim: "Look at that young swan! He's the _____ Adjective - _____ of them all!"

And he almost _____ Adjective _____ with happiness.

