**Hans Christian Andersen**

Hans Christian Andersen was born in 1805 in Odense. He is one of the most famous Danish writers and poets, primarily renowned for his fairy tales.

Andersen was born as the son of a shoemaker, Hans Andersen, and an illiterate washerwoman, Anne Marie. His father died early, and his mother succumbed to alcoholism, so Hans was often cared for by his paternal grandmother. She worked in the garden next to a hospital for the sick and would often take her grandson with her. The boy enjoyed visiting the poorest part of the hospital, where spinners worked, as he could listen to various stories there. Some of the stories he heard there were later woven into his books. This might be the answer to the popular question: why did Hans Christian Andersen start writing fairy tales for children? Primarily, he wanted to instill in the youngest the principles by which life is guided.

Young Hans Andersen moved to Copenhagen in September 1819 with the intention of becoming an actor. In the years 1820–1821, he attended ballet school. He also tried his hand at acting in the theater. He began his career as a singer with a high soprano, but lost it after his voice changed. Andersen also wrote a lot of plays, but they were not always successful. Due to his lack of education, his texts were full of spelling, punctuation, and stylistic errors, which critics immediately rejected.

As a writer, Andersen made his debut in 1822 with a collection of works titled "Juvenile Attempts," published under the pseudonym William Christian Walter. He published several volumes of poetry, many stories, sketches, novels, as well as plays and a journal of his life. However, he is best known for his timeless fairy tales.

Between 1840 and 1857, he traveled throughout Europe, Asia Minor, and Africa, recording his impressions and adventures in travel books. He wrote his memoirs in his autobiography "The Fairy Tale of My Life," published in 1855. Additionally, from 1825 to 1875, he wrote journals, published in Poland by Media Rodzina.

Andersen died on August 4, 1875, at his country estate Rolighed near Copenhagen.

**What Did Hans Christian Andersen Write?**

Hans Christian Andersen wrote fairy tales from a young age. He also organized puppet theaters. He became known to a wider audience in 1835 with the publication of "The Improvisatore." This autobiographical novel set in the Italian landscape achieved international success. During the author's lifetime, it became one of his most widely read works.

**Which Fairy Tales Did Andersen Write?**

The most important part of Andersen's work, of course, consists of fairy tales, which were created between 1835 and 1872. In the early collections, Andersen returned to stories he had heard during his childhood. However, he gradually began to add texts that came from his own pen. The third volume of fairy tales (published in 1837) included, among others, "The Little Mermaid" and "The Emperor's New Clothes."

**Hans Christian Andersen – Fairy Tales**

Thanks to fairy tales such as "The Little Mermaid," "The Tinderbox," "The Princess and the Pea," "The Snow Queen," "The Nightingale," and "The Steadfast Tin Soldier," which were inspired on one hand by the great tradition of "One Thousand and One Nights" and on the other by "Fairy Tales for Children and for Home," Andersen became known as the father of the modern fairy tale. His original fairy tales combine romantic and realistic tendencies and hide a refined moral beneath a layer of colloquial language. Many of them have an autobiographical character, characterized by a keen sense of observation, which he skillfully used to sketch human characters. Undoubtedly, this is what led to his fairy tales being translated into over 80 languages.

**How Many Fairy Tales Did Andersen Write?**

This is a question that interests not only children but also adults. We hasten to answer: Andersen wrote a total of 156 fairy tales. Interestingly, only 12 of them are based on folk culture.

**Andersen's First Fairy Tale**

We already know how many fairy tales Andersen wrote, but which one was the first? The answer to this question was found only recently. An unknown, earliest written tale by Andersen was found in his hometown of Odense. It is a tale about a tallow candle, which was written in the early 1820s, before Andersen's official debut. The text is titled "The Tallow Candle" and tells the story of a soiled and abandoned candle, mistreated by the world, not understanding its true value and beauty.

Hans Christian Andersen – Short Stories

Hans Christian Andersen also wrote short stories. He is the author of several novels, including "Only a Fiddler" (1837) and "Lucky Peter" (1870).