



- Hans Christian Andersen was born in Denmark on 2nd April 1805.
- Andersen came from a poor family. He did not have any brothers or sisters.
- His father was a shoemaker and his mother a washerwoman who worked for rich people.
- His parents made him toys that would help develop his imagination.
- He left home when he was fourteen to become an actor and a singer but was not successful.
- He then went to university in Copenhagen where he started to write.
- Hans Christian Andersen published his first book of fairy tales in 1835 and it was such a success that he wrote many other children's tales up until his death.
- He most famous books include *The Little Mermaid*, *The Emperor's New Clothes* and *The Ugly Duckling*.
- His stories tell of suffering but there is always a happy ending.
- In total he wrote over 150 fairy tales which have now been translated into over 150 languages.
- He did not marry or have any children.
- He died on 2nd Aug 1875.
- International Children's Book Day is held on or near his birthday every year.

