

# Thumbelina

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## Virginia SOLs

*Thumbelina* is presented in support of the following Virginia Standards of Learning:

English: K.1, K.2, K.5, K.6, K.8, K.11, 1.1, 1.2, 1.5, 1.7, 1.9, 1.10, 1.12, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7, 2.8, 2.11, 3.1, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.8, 3.9, 3.10, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.7, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6, 5.7, 5.8  
Math: K.10, K.19, 1.12, 1.19, 1.20, 2.12, 2.21, 3.14, 3.21, 3.22

*Activities in this guide support curriculum in grades K-5.*

## Special Thanks...

Theatre IV would like to thank its major supports:

- The National Endowment for the Arts
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- Ohio Arts Council

## Theatre IV...

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*Based on the classic tale by Hans Christian Andersen  
Book, lyrics and music by Bruce Miller*

The tale of *Thumbelina*, written by the famous author Hans Christian Andersen is a story of a young maiden no larger than a person's thumb. The story's characters are mostly animals, and include a frog, a bird, a mouse, and a mole. *Thumbelina* lives inside of a beautiful flower, but is



soon stolen away to become the wife of a frog. After escaping, *Thumbelina* meets a mouse who gives her a place to live until a neighbor, a mole, wants to marry *Thumbelina*. Again she escapes, this time on the back of a bird. The story's setting changes when *Thumbelina* and the bird fly to

a land that stays warm all year around. The bird later returns to Denmark, where the story begins. This play is one of many adaptations of the *Thumbelina* story. At your local library, you can find many versions of *Thumbelina*, all with different authors and illustrators. We hope you enjoy this tale as it is told by Theatre IV.

## Matching



**Use context clues to match the definition with the word.**

- |                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| <b>illustrator</b> • | The people or animals in the story.       |
| <b>author</b> •      | A person who writes a book.               |
| <b>setting</b> •     | A person who creates pictures for a book. |
| <b>characters</b> •  | Another version or telling of a story.    |
| <b>adaptation</b> •  | The time and place that the story occurs. |



## Branch Out!

Hans Christian Andersen (1805 - 1875) was a Danish author best known for writing over 150 children's stories.

Check out the following fairy tales, also by Hans Christian Andersen:

- The Emperor's New Clothes
- The Princess and the Pea
- The Steadfast Tin Soldier
- The Fir Tree
- The Little Mermaid
- The Nightingale
- The Little Match Girl

Look in the J398 section of your local library for more fairy tales.

### Challenge Questions

1. List three stories you think are fairy tales.
2. How does Thumbelina live "happily ever after?"
3. What kinds of magical things happen in *Thumbelina*?

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# How Do You Measure Up?

## Measuring in "thumbs"



✂ Cut out this 1-inch picture of Thumbelina to measure objects in your classroom or at home. Classify objects as "Longer Than" or "Shorter Than" Thumbelina.

Longer Than

Shorter Than

### Keep measuring...



With a friend's help, measure how many "Thumbelinas" tall you are. Circle the number closest to your height.

I am

40 45 50 55 60 65

"Thumbelinas" tall.



# Sizing Things Up

Thumbelina's size gets in her way, but brings her happiness in the end. There are certain things Thumbelina can do because of her size - like ride on the back of a bird. There are also certain things Thumbelina cannot do because of her size - like escape from the lily pad.

 **Make a list of things that you can do because of your size and things that you cannot do because of your size.**

Can Do	Cannot Do



## Do You Know?

Fairy tales are types of folk tales. They usually begin with "Once upon a time..." and end with "...happily ever after." Also, fairy tales usually have events happening in threes, and involve magic.

Folk tales...

- are short, with a simple plot;
- have characters representing a characteristic like good or bad;
- feature events that are repeated, especially in threes; and
- are based in fantasy.




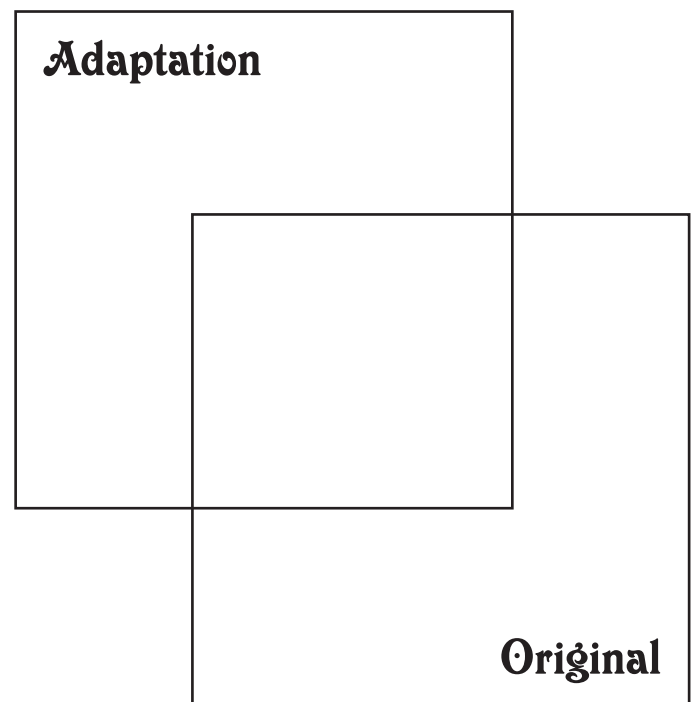
# Silly Adaptations

First, read one of these silly fairy tale adaptations:

- *Kate and the Beanstalk* by Mary Osborne
- *The Runaway Tortilla* by Eric A. Kimmel
- *The Horned Toad Prince* by Jackie M. Hopkins

Then, read the original story.

 **Now diagram what was the same and what was different using the diagram illustrated at right.**



**adapt:** to change to fit a new use or situation

## Extend The Experience!

### Language Arts

If you enjoyed *Thumbelina*, you may enjoy reading the biography, *Hans Christian Andersen: Prince of Storytellers* by Carol Greene, published by Children's Press.

### Social Studies

Locate Denmark on a world map. Research the land and people of Denmark.

Thumbelina left Denmark for a warmer climate. Research how climate affects life in Denmark.



### Log On!

For lots of fun Thumbelina-related activities, log on to:  
[www.treegatepublications.com/thumbelina.html](http://www.treegatepublications.com/thumbelina.html)

To read Thumbelina online, log on to:  
<http://home.in.tum.de/~kirsch/maerchen/englisch/storyofthumbelina.htm>

To find out more about Hans Christian Andersen's stories, log on to:  
<http://hca.gilead.org.il/>



Use the frame below to start writing your very own fairy tale.

## Write Your Own Fairy Tale

Once upon a time, there was a

\_\_\_\_\_ who lived in a

\_\_\_\_\_ But there was a mean

\_\_\_\_\_ who always \_\_\_\_\_.

So one day the

\_\_\_\_\_ decided to \_\_\_\_\_.

There was a magic \_\_\_\_\_ that \_\_\_\_\_! After that,

\_\_\_\_\_ Then, the \_\_\_\_\_ never \_\_\_\_\_.

And they lived happily ever after.

## The End