

To start book week,  
we are going to look  
at the life of an  
amazing author who  
wrote 156 fairy  
tales...





Little Hans was born in a small town in the Kingdom of Denmark. His family was very poor and could barely afford a roof over their heads. But they had one precious jewel that they kept carefully in the cupboard: a book.

Flying carpets, Arabian princesses, genies coming out of lamps... Every night, Hans would listen to his father's readings, and once he fell asleep, all he dreamt of was being the hero of these wonderful fairytales.



He was eager to learn how to read and went to school for some time. But when his father passed away, Hans had to quit and take a job as a weaver's apprentice. It was not the exciting life he had imagined...





Still, one of his favourite hobbies was getting lost in the streets looking for puppeteers. Watching them was his greatest joy!



He would memorise each word and gesture, and repeat it later for his only audience: his mum.



Blah  
Blah Blah Blah  
Blah



Willing to make a living as an artist, Hans jumped on a carriage to Copenhagen – the big city – where he joined the Royal Danish Theatre



Hans tried everything: acting, singing, dancing... but all he got was a role as a troll

Locked in his tiny room, waiting for someone to offer him another role, Hans spent his free time writing. One day, he showed one of his stories to the theatre director. It was full of misspellings, but he found it just delightful.



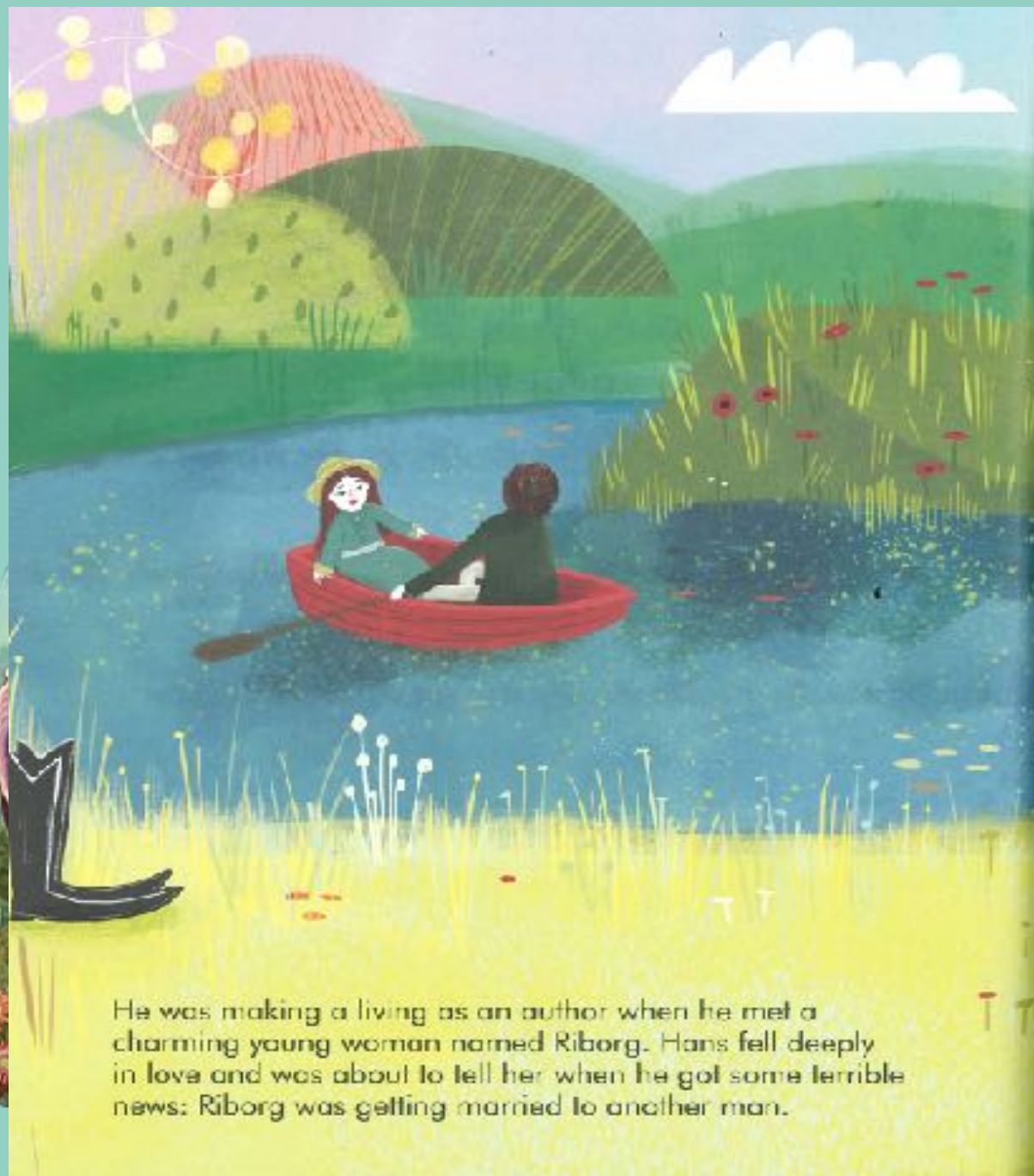
Hans didn't earn any money from that first story, but something better: a chance to go back to school and learn to write Danish properly. He was the oldest student in his class, but he knew it's never too late if you really want to learn.







After graduating, Hans felt confident enough to write whatever came into his mind: from a sad poem about a candle that no-one loved, to the fantastic travelogues of a man who even met talking cats.



He was making a living as an author when he met a charming young woman named Riborg. Hans fell deeply in love and was about to tell her when he got some terrible news: Riborg was getting married to another man.





Instead of hiding his feelings, Hans decided to put them down on paper and wrote some of the most beautiful fairy tales. There were stories of mermaids falling in love with princes, and ducklings dreaming of becoming swans.

His tales became so popular that, every night, kids all over Europe read them. But they were not just the children's favourites, grown-ups loved them, too! And they all kept Hans's books like treasures, just like he used to do.



The stories lived forever, not only in books but in plays, ballets and movies. But Hans's highest honour was that every second of April – the day of his birthday – kids all over the world now celebrate Children's Book Day.



By never hiding his feelings and letting his imagination fly, little Hans got what he had longed for: being loved. Not just by one single person, but by entire generations of children who know there is a swan inside each of us.



Do you think it was tricky being older than the other children in your class?

Do you think Hans' life would have been different if he didn't go back to school?





## School Reflection

This is our school,  
Let peace dwell here,  
Let the rooms be full of contentment.

Let love abide here,  
Love of one another,  
Love of mankind,  
Love of life itself.

Let us remember

That as many hands build a house,  
So many hearts make a school

Help us to learn, play and share together.

We hope our school will be a place of great discovery, adventure and creativity.

May it be a place where we love to learn and where we learn to love,

A place where everyone is respected, and all are deeply valued.