

STORY GUIDE

The Emperor's New Clothes

Original story by: Hans Christian Andersen
Read by: Harry Shearer



morals and themes

Honesty, Responsibility

general comprehension questions

- Where does the story take place?
- Who are the characters?
- Who is your favorite character and why?
- Which character don't you like and why?
- What are the problems the characters face?
- How do they solve these problems?
- How does the story end?
- What lesson does this story teach you?

discussion questions

- What did the emperor spend all of his money on?
- What did the tricksters say was so special about the clothes that they make?
- What did all of the emperor's advisors say about his new clothes? Why did they say this?
- What convinced the people that they should speak out about the emperor's clothes?
- Why do you think the author chose to have a child be the first person to tell the truth about the clothes?
- Why did the emperor continue to walk even after he became convinced he was wearing nothing?

extension questions

- What other stories does this remind you of?
- How does this story relate to your own life?
- Write an alternate ending for the story.
- Write your own version of what happens next.

research activity

- Use the internet or library to research emperors
- Find an interesting emperor, king, president or ruler.
 - What did he or she do well?
 - What did he or she do poorly?

notes on this adaptation

This version is nearly identical to Hans Christian Andersen's original Danish story from 1837. Though other adaptations show the emperor reacting angrily at the realization that he had been swindled, Andersen chose to leave his emperor struggling for dignity until the end, and appearances are so important to him that he chooses to continue the procession rather than admit that he had been fooled.