

# MOTHER'S DAY ASSEMBLY 1A: WHAT A MOTHER GIVES UP (Story Version)

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- THEMES: Mother's Day, the story of The Ugly Duckling
- AIM: To appreciate that mothers give up a lot for the sake of their children
- STRUCTURE: This assembly is designed to be delivered by an adult. It consists of an introduction, a story, a summary and prayer. A scripted version which can be performed by children is included below.
- TEXT KEY: Normal text = notes and ideas. *Italic text = text that can be read straight out.*
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SONG 1: Supermum

INTRO: *Have you ever had to give something up? Most adults have had to give something up at some point in their lives. For some it's giving up smoking so they can live a healthier life. For some adults it's giving up fatty, sugary foods so they can lose weight.*

*When you're a child there aren't many things that you've probably had to give up, except perhaps for a baby toy or special comforting blanket that you grew attached to when you were very young. Or possibly when you were a baby you had a dummy (pacifier) in your mouth all the time. You don't now, so at some point you gave it up? And when you did, I bet you cried a lot! Giving up things can be hard.*

*Did you know that when a woman becomes a mother, there are lots of things that she gives up as well? She gives up having many peaceful nights of sleep as her baby can cry in the night. She willingly gives up part of her home to allow the baby to have a room of its own. She gives up her time as the baby demands all her attention. She gives up her money, as having a baby and raising that child till it's old enough to move out and live on its own, costs an enormous amount of money!*

*Mums give up lots, but in our story today, we're going to find out about a special mother who had to give up a lot more than most mothers ever have to.*

STORY: *The Story of the Ugly Duckling's True Mother*

*Once upon a time there lived a beautiful swan named Serena. Serena the swan lived on the clear, crystal waters of a wide moat which surrounded a huge, old castle.*

*There were many other animals which shared the moat with Serena, hopping frogs, leaping toads, quacking ducks and the many multicoloured fish which swam beneath her giving the water a glorious, rainbow like quality.*

*One sizzling summer day as Serena was swimming near the drawbridge of the castle, she saw the King. Although the castle where Serena lived was grand, majestic, and incredibly wonderful in so many ways, the King was not. He was widely known for his meanness, rudeness and arrogance. Usually Serena stayed well away from him, but today Serena couldn't help noticing that there was something different about the King. He seemed to be taking a very keen interest in Serena and was staring at her with wide eyes and a greedy grin on his face. Standing next to the King was his head cook. The cook, dressed in white also had a curious, mischievous smile on his face. Serena gently swam to within earshot of them to try and overhear what they were saying.*

*"So, are you sure the swan won't do for a special banquet?" asked the King.*

*"No sire," replied the cook, "the swan is indeed beautiful, and she would feed many mouths, but her meat will be tough, chewy and hard to digest."*

*"Shame," muttered the King, "She looks good enough to eat right now! And never mind 'many mouths', I think I could eat her all for myself!"*

*"I know what you mean!" said the cook greedily, "But sire, there is a better alternative. If the swan were to lay an egg which would hatch into a fine baby swan, well I promise your majesty that I would be able to cook for the King the finest meal ever. The trick is to wait till the baby swan, also known as a signet, starts to turn from grey to white."*

*"Grey to white? What does that mean?" asked the King curiously.*

*"When a young swan hatches from its egg," explained the cook, "it isn't white. Instead its feathers are a dirty grey brown colour. I'm afraid it's sometimes as much as a year before the feathers turn white and the signet becomes a swan."*

*"A YEAR!!!" replied the King furiously. "I don't want to wait a year!"*

*"B... b... but your highness," said the cook grovelling, "I promise that if you can be patient, and we wait till the baby swan is perhaps just six to nine months old, well my special recipe for baby swan pie will enable me to give your majesty the most amazingly scrumptious and delicious dish imaginable."*

*"Yummy, yummy, yum, yum, yum," murmured the King in evil delight, "Fair enough. Cook, make it so! But it had better be the best dish you've ever cooked, or it will be your neck for the chop instead of the swan."*

*"Oh dear, dear me!" thought Serena the swan as she swam away as fast as she could. If she laid an egg what on earth would she do? The cook would surely be watching her closely from now on.*

*And by an amazing coincidence the very next day, at the crack of dawn, Serena the swan laid an egg. It should have been the happiest day of her life. She was going to be a mother! But instead all she could do was cry bitterly and sing this sad song to her egg.*

*Oh, my beautiful lovely child to be,  
Whatever shall I do with thee,  
I fear I will never see thee grown,  
Please don't become food for an evil throne.*

*As Serena sobbed, she saw on the far side of the moat, mother duck fast asleep. Mother duck had a clutch of eggs which she had laid just a few days ago. She was proudly nesting on them with her eyes closed peacefully.*

*"Quack, quack, snore! Quack, quack, snore!" came the sound from mother duck's nest as Serena swam towards it with her egg tucked beneath her wing. Serena the swan had suddenly had a clever, cunning idea. She gently nudged her new egg underneath mother duck, carefully placing it amongst all the duck eggs. Then she swam back over the moat and turned around just in time to see mother duck starting to wake.*

*"Quack, quack, good morning world!" Serena heard mother duck say, "Quack, quack, good morning eggs. Now let me count you to make sure you're all still there. One, two, three, four, five... SIX! Six eggs? I went to sleep with five eggs and have woken with six! What a lucky mother duck I am. I must have laid another egg in my sleep!"*

#### WHAT'S IN THE REST OF THIS ASSEMBLY?

1. The remainder of this story (around another two pages)
2. It then continues with a summary and a prayer.
3. It suggests finally singing a further song: 'Amazing Mothers'