

Hans Christian Andersen

International Kindergarten College



A course at Nordfyns Højskole - Denmark





What can people around the world learn from Hans Christian Andersen?

Today, when e.g. Chinese people, no matter whether old or young, meet with Danes in China, they will naturally speak with one voice: "I know Denmark because I have heard about the world famous writer Hans Christian Andersen and I have read his stirring tales." The Chinese people have read Hans Christian's tales since the first book of Hans Christian Andersen's tales was translated into Chinese by Chen Jialin and Chen Jiadeng and published in Shanghai in 1918.



Why do hundreds of millions of people get inspired by Hans Christian Andersen? Why have his literary works won universal praise all over the world? As one Chinese professor noted: "Hans Christian Andersen showed sympathy for the people who encountered misfortunes and enriched the people's imagination."

Hans Christian Andersen's tales have influenced Chinese literature and minds in many ways:

1. To expose the evils in society and to sympathize with the lower social strata
2. To sing the praises of the true, the good, and the beautiful, to castigate the false, the ugly and the evil.
3. Hans Christian Andersen was the first to explore themes and material from the social reality and let the tales take roots in the soil of people's life.
4. He portrayed the fairy tale figures with their own characteristics and features
5. He combined the poetic concept with the poetic language
True feeling and rich imagination is the soul of a poem. Hans Christian Andersen's tales have both character, and at the same time Hans Christian Andersen was a good poet.
6. Combination of humor, artistic exaggeration, and satire. Hans Christian Andersen had a special command of humor, exaggeration and satire.



The magic and learning value of Hans Christian Andersen:

In this folk high school course we will build up a pedagogical learning practice based on Hans Christian Andersen's fairy tales. Based on the methods, theories and applied values from his fairy tales we will train students to implement it in their daily pedagogical work.

These are the main characteristics of the fairy tales:

Things are described lively and with human attribute.

Physical attributes are determining social-psychological characters.

The story is told from the perspective of the things

The story is taking place in the usual and every day environment of the imagination In the world of imagination we find the same social differences between high and low rank, poor and rich, fine and simple as we do in the human world

The fantasy being the main character meets fantasies that you will normally find in association the this thing, or the thing starts a tour and meet others in other environments

The drama and excitement in the story are often related to the big questions of life

The less important the thing is the more important when it feels itself, or when a lesser important thing is involved in a big emotional drama, the effect will often be a comic parody of irony

It often ends with a certain moral and learning recommendation

In short:

In Hans Christian Andersen's fairy tales there is a tremendous amount of learning and social, moral and philosophical pedagogical training in bringing up children and adults.





We will cover these aspects of pedagogical inspiration from Hans Christian Andersen:

- Drama and holistic learning in kindergarten
- Aesthetical learning processes and emotions, fantasy and curiosity
- The universe of playing, imagination and wondering
- Creative inclusion
- Selected fairy tales in drama with costumes and scenography
- Story telling
- The value of being a child and looking at the world from a childish angle

After completion of the course students will receive a special Hans Christian Andersen international certificate in kindergarten pedagogics.



Pedagogical guidelines for Hans Christian Andersen children pedagogics:

- **Solid identity:** Identity is more important than functioning – moral learning and training is more important than intellectual education. Tools for bringing up of children based on values of individual dignity and responsibility.
- **Direct communication:** Children must feel what they really mean and communicate it in a respectful way. Then fewer conflicts and misunderstandings will occur.
- **Responsibility for the community:** Children must learn to go first as well as open the door for others – then they are creating a good community with space for innovation and development.
- **Positive look at life:** Attitudes can be shown in a positive or negative way. Children are taught a positive attitude creating enthusiasm which can create energy in themselves and others.
- **Positive attitude towards changes:** Children are taking responsibility for their own development, being flexible and open for new ideas – being prepared for life long learning.
- **Good manners:** A good understanding of the specific situation and a good and solid understanding of the right way to behave in certain situations make children more sympathetic and they can adapt to different contexts more easily.
- **Satisfaction:** Children must learn to be satisfied in the present situation, thus they will gain surplus energy and give more to the community than they take from it.
- **Active listening:** The precondition for being heard is that children can listen. In this way children must be taught to be silent, show real interest and understanding of what other people are saying in between the lines.
- **Mutual influence:** Children must be taught to move aside in order to better make influence and move others.
- **The power to act:** Children must be learned to take initiative and see opportunities so that they will be able to act when they get challenges to solve problems.
- **Leadership:** Modern leadership comes both from the leader and from the person being lead. In this way children must learn good leadership skills for life.

(The heroes of the future are created today, Sune Loshe, Clockwise 2016)



Fragments of Danish research on kindergarten pedagogics:

*Children and institutions: How to make the best kindergarten
(Erik Sigsgaard, Tiderne Skifter 2001)*

1. How to unite the parted worlds of the child
2. Good friends
3. Open doors
4. To be entrusted
5. The good kindergarten



Methods:

During the course we use much the same methods as used by H C Andersen in his fairy tales: Story telling, playing and imagination, creative activities, seeing and travelling.

Programme:

Transfer of knowledge and learning from Denmark to China: We will make an implementation plan for the kindergartens of the students: How to change the Chinese style of kindergartens to Danish style of kindergarten? What is the risk? Opportunities for the future?

The programme takes place from 17.9 – 16.12 2017. It includes theory, lectures , Danish cultural lectures and Danish Education System, Danish history and civil society training, excursions around Denmark and parts of Europe.



Price:

Price is 35.000 DKK. It includes accommodation in double room, food, classes and all transport inside Denmark.

Excursions are planned to Berlin, Paris and Copenhagen, overnight in Amsterdam and Bruxelles can be included.

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