

The Emperor's New Clothes – Lesson Guide



Book List:

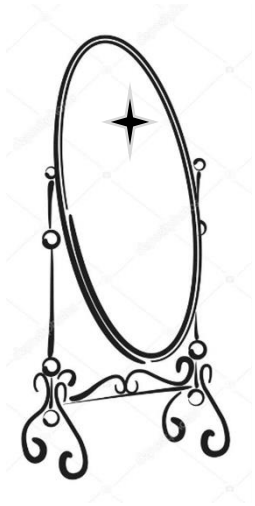
1. The Emperor's New Clothes; a Folk Tale Classic by, Hans Christian Anderson
2. The Emperor's New Clothes; a Story About Honesty by, Meredith Rusu
3. The Emperor's New Clothes; A Tale Set in China told by, Demi
4. The Little Mermaid by HC Anderson ("The Emperor's New Clothes" was first published with "The Little Mermaid" on 7 April 1837)

Videos:

1. Disney's, The Emperor's New Groove
2. Faerie Tale Theatre

Activities:

1. Color/ Trace worksheet
2. Design New Clothes for the Emperor worksheet
3. Play Dress Up/ Have a Fashion Show
4. Discuss Pride and Honesty



The Emperor's New Clothes

A retelling of the original Hans Christian Anderson tale

By, Kendra Bott



Once upon a time there was a far away land ruled by a prideful emperor. He wasn't a bad man, but instead of ruling his country properly, he just wanted to dress up in new clothing each day and parade around the city so the citizens could admire him in his finery. Each day he walked through town in a new outfit and he never wore the same thing twice. He loved the feel of velvet and silk and satin. He loved the bright colors and beautiful embroideries. He adored being marveled at by his officers and ministers and all the country folk.

One day two men came to have an audience with the emperor. They said they could weave a fine new fabric for him and design a new suit.

"A new fabric?" the emperor asked. He was intrigued.

"Yes, sir. This is a fabric that is light as spider webs, as beautiful as butterfly wings and can only be seen by those who are truly worthy."

Well, who was more worthy than an emperor? Maybe he could find out who else was worthy in this country as well. So, he told the men to set up their looms and get to work on this new fabric.

A few days went by and the men were still making the new fabric, so the emperor sent in his most trusted minister to check on their progress. The minister walked up to the men and their looms and could see nothing. The men were working the looms and making the motions of weaving, but the minister saw no fabric at all.

"I must not be worthy," he told himself. "I can't go to the emperor and tell him that."

The minister went back to the emperor and told him the fabric was coming along beautifully.

"It will be the most magnificent suit you've ever worn," he said.

A few more days passed and the emperor sent in his high council to check on the fabric. All three men walked up to the men working their looms and couldn't see a thing.

"What do you think, sirs?" one of the men said. "Isn't it turning out marvelously?"

The men of the high council didn't know what to say. They shared looks of confusion, but none were brave enough to say they couldn't see the fabric and admit they weren't worthy. They went back to the emperor.

"The fabric is wonderful," one said.

"Truly splendid," said another.

The third man was silent. The emperor smiled at him.



“And you? What did you think?” asked the emperor.

“I- uh, I thought it was- it was truly fitting for such an emperor as you,” he stuttered.

The next day the men were done weaving, they said, and came to take measurements for the suit.

“We will make you a suit with tails, a cloak with a long train and a beautiful scarf to wrap around your neck,” they told the emperor as they measured him.

The emperor was getting very anxious to see his new clothes.

A few days later, the two men came to the throne room to present the emperor with his new clothes. They held up their arms, acting like they were showing him something. But the emperor could see nothing.

“Here is the long train we told you about,” one man said turning his hand and smoothing the air, as if touching an actual cloak with a long train.

“And here is your new scarf,” said the other holding something up that the emperor could not see.

“What do you think of my new clothes?” the emperor asked his minister.

“They are magnificent,” he said.

“High council, what is your opinion?”

“Beautiful!”

“Splendid!”

“One of a kind.”

The emperor smiled. He did not want them all to think he could not see the suit. They would think him unworthy to rule.

“Let’s go to my chambers and help me put it on.”

They all went to the emperor’s chambers and the two men helped the emperor get into his new suit. They brought a stand-up mirror in front of him and asked what he thought. The emperor looked at his naked form in the ornate mirror. He turned to the right and he turned to the left.

He wondered why he could see nothing. He looked at his council and his minister. They were all smiles. He looked at the two men who made the suit and they were nodding encouragingly. “They can all see the suit. Certainly they are not more worthy than I am,” he wondered to himself. Not wanting to seem foolish, he smiled grandly.

“I love it!” the emperor declared. “There will be a parade this afternoon so my kingdom can see this wonderful creation.”



That afternoon the emperor walked through the streets of town. His minister shouted praise and the court musicians played a lively tune. The high council threw confetti and the crowd gathered to see the emperor’s new clothes.

The crowd gasped when they saw their emperor walking down into the main square naked. He thought they gasped because of how exquisite he looked.

One little boy said, “He’s not wearing anything!”

“Hush child,” said an old woman.

“You must not be worthy,” said the minister. “For only those who are truly worthy can see the emperor’s new clothes.”

“He’s an innocent child,” said the boy’s father. “How can he be unworthy?”

The emperor’s face grew red, for he knew the boy and his father spoke the truth. He was indeed naked. The two men had cheated him and tricked him.

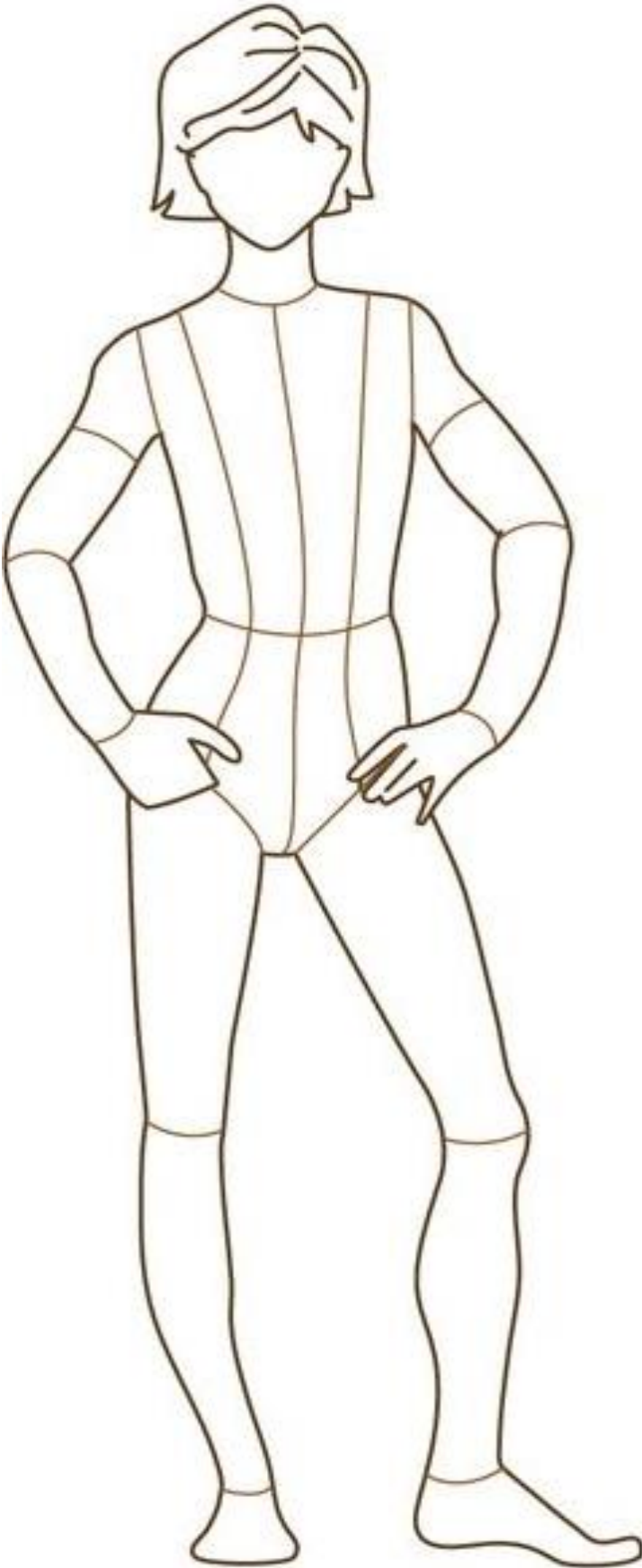
But he still didn’t want to look foolish in front of his people. So, the emperor held his head high and finished the parade.

The End



The Emperor's New Clothes

Use fabric scraps, construction paper, tissue paper, feathers, buttons, etc. or just crayons to design new clothes for the emperor.





Feature Stories and Fairy Tales – The Emperor’s New Clothes

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Kendra Bott