

The Mermaid Paragraph

Length: One complete paragraph (half page)

Format: Typed, double-spaced

Select one of the following topics and write a complete paragraph. Such a beast would include a topic sentence, detail sentences, a concluding sentence, transitions and citations from the text where applicable.

1. One of the messages of *The Mermaid* might be that “beauty is in the eye of the beholder.” Using ideas from the text, support or refute this statement. What is beauty? Why do we strive for it? Why do we shun things that are not beautiful? Is beauty only skin deep (or scale deep)? These are all questions that might help you address this topic.
2. Many claim that *The Mermaid*, much like *The Ugly Duckling*, is somewhat autobiographical (no, not that Andersen was a mermaid or a duck, but in another way). Using ideas from the biography, discuss how this might be the case.
3. Disney made some substantial changes to this text. Select one or two of the main differences and write a paragraph that identifies what these changes are and discuss why they were made. What is the impact of these changes on the message the text attempts to make?