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WALT DISNEY’S DIVINELY INEPT CHILDREN’S CLASSICS
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I am using Walt Disney’s *The Little Mermaid* to explore the ways in which we Americans have become uncomfortable with religious and moral questions. Through the years, Walt Disney has dominated the market of children’s entertainment, and in doing so he has become one of the greatest educators of this century. Due to this international fame, Disney’s animated classics are often scrutinized by contemporary standards; however, one very important issue is continually overlooked by the critics: religion. When comparing Disney’s reinterpretation of standard folk tales to the original story, the audience will discover that the original tale’s strong religious content has vanished in the newer version of the story, only to be replaced with sexual romance, comic relief, ridiculously distorted religious figures, and devilish villains. While these general story-line variations are found in almost all of Disney’s fairy tale reinterpretations, one excellent example is Disney’s *The Little Mermaid*. 