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## Study Guide

For

# Beauty and The Beast

## A Musical for Children

### Based on the Madame de Beaumont Tale

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Storybook Musical Theatre is a non-profit professional children's theater company operating under a Theater for Young Audiences Contract with Actors' Equity Association, the union for professional actors and stage managers in the USA. Member of the Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance.



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## Beauty and the Beast The Original Tale

Once upon a time in a land far away lived a handsome prince. To be his friend one had to be beautiful and rich. One day a tired old woman came to the prince's castle. Displeased with her ugly appearance the Prince ordered her to leave and never return. The old woman begged him for shelter from the dark night. When the prince refused her the old woman changed into a beautiful fairy. "Your beauty is false for there is no love in your heart. Until you can find it in your heart to love others for themselves and not their appearances you will be forever doomed to walk these lands as an ugly, fearsome beast. When a beautiful woman refuses all others to marry you in spite of your appearance, then the curse will be broken!" The prince realizing his error pleaded with the fairy for forgiveness, but it was too late. He was changed into a beast.

## Play Synopsis

### Act I

As the play begins, Jacques, a wealthy suitor, has come to ask Beauty to the grand cotillion. When she refuses, her sisters, Mimi and Fifi, are eager to go in her place. Soon Mr. Arneaux, their father, arrives with exciting news that his fortunes, thought lost at sea, are returning to dock. He asks each of his daughters for their wishes. Mimi and Fifi want expensive gifts, but Beauty will be pleased with a single rose, for she hasn't seen one in a long time. Mr. Arneaux and Jacques leave together for the trip. Soon they part company. When Mr. Arneaux arrives at the dock, he discovers that his ship has been sold to pay old debts. Having no money, he starts for home through the forest. As night approaches, he becomes weak from the cold. Soon he discovers a strange palace, but faints before reaching it. When he awakens he is greeted by a tremendous feast. He eats the meal and falls asleep. The next morning as he prepares to leave, he picks a single rose in the garden to give to Beauty. The Beast challenges him and tells him to send his daughter back to the palace or lose his life. Mr. Arneaux returns home to tell his daughters of his ordeal. Beauty agrees to return to the palace. At first, Beauty is frightened by the Beast's appearance, but she is not harmed and given everything she needs. End of Act I

### Act II

As the Act begins, after several months, Beauty wishes for the Beast's companionship. She teaches the Beast how to enjoy life more. Beauty decides she would like to return to see her family for one last time before returning to the palace forever. The beast gives her a magic mirror to allow

her to see whatever she wishes and a magic ring to return her home and back to the palace. Her family is happy for her return, but does not understand how she has come to care so for the Beast. Jacques, at the request of Mr. Arneaux arrives to ask for Beauty's hand in marriage, but she explains that she cares for the Beast. When the Beast falls ill, Beauty explains her feelings to her family and rushes back to be with him. When she proclaims her love for him and that she will marry no one else, the spell is broken and the Beast is transformed back to a handsome Prince. They all live happily ever after.

### **FOR TEACHERS and PARENTS**

The following common core aligned questions and ideas may help you in facilitating discussion, formulating creative reading and writing activities.

#### **Activities Before the Play**

1. Explain to your student(s) that a musical is the presentation of a story using the elements of music, singing, dancing, and theatrical production like sets, lighting, and costumes, all presented on stage in front of a live audience. Discuss why the author of the play might have chosen to present her story like this instead of in a book. (RI 2.6)
2. Tell your student(s) that dialogue is the talking that goes on between characters on stage. In a musical, much of the normal dialogue is replaced by songs that convey important information. How might an actor's tone of voice influence the meaning of the words? How might the way actors move express their feelings? How might the music and dance add to the words? (RL 2.5, RL 2.6)
3. At the beginning of the play, a pantomime is performed to support the narration explaining the spell of enchantment that was placed on a selfish, inconsiderate Prince. Explain that a pantomime is a technique that conveys events and feelings through gestures and without words. Let the student(s) explore this idea by "acting out" a part of a favorite story without words. (RL 2.2, SL 2.2)
4. Tell your student(s) that in the opening pantomime of the play, they will see and hear what happens to the Prince because he judges someone based only on how she looks. How does it feel when someone says something about the way you look? How does it make you feel? What would you do if someone judged you only on how you look or on what you are wearing? (SL 2.1, SL 2.2)
5. Have a discussion regarding theatre etiquette and how it differs from watching a movie at home. Because there will be others who also want to see and hear the performance, what can we do to make it an enjoyable experience for everyone? (SL 2.1) Let the children know that they will have the opportunity to meet and greet the actors after the show!

#### **Activities After the Show**

1. The setting is the time and place of a story. Ask your student(s) to identify the settings in the play. Would the play work in a different setting (today, in your school or town)? Why or why not? (RL 2.1, RL 2.7)
2. At the beginning of the story, the old woman turns the Prince into a Beast. Why does she do this? What is she trying to teach him? (RL 2.1, RL 2.1, RL 2.3)
3. Beauty's sisters asks for expensive gifts from their father, but Beauty asks only for a single rose. What does this reveal about Beauty and her sisters? Have you ever wanted something just because it was expensive? Have you ever chosen to ask for a simple gift instead? (RL 2.3, SL 2.1, SL 2.2)
4. Most story plots are made up of unexpected problems or disappointing complications for the characters. An example of this in the play is when Beauty's father discovers that his newly found fortune has been sold. What other problems do you find in Beauty and the Beast? How do the characters overcome their disappointments? (RL 2.1, RL 2.3, RL 2.7)
5. The theme is the central idea or meaning of the play. *Beauty and the Beast* poses the question of what is beauty. Is beauty only what a person looks like on the outside, or is beauty based more on how a person acts toward others? Does the Prince become more or less beautiful as the Beast? What does Beauty learn about beauty? (RL 2.2, RL 2.3)
6. Make a classroom story quilt. Hang a dark piece of bulletin board backing paper on the wall. Tell students that they will each get to create one square for the quilt. Give each student a 10" x 10" construction paper square. Some students may choose to draw their favorite character while others might depict the most exciting moment from the play. Cut the edges of the squares with pinking shears before gluing them onto the backing paper. A border of child-created roses might be a nice finishing touch. (RL 2.1, RL 2.2, RL 2.7)
7. Many fairy tales include the device of magical transformation. Discuss other stories that include transformations (*Cinderella*, *The Frog Prince*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Pinocchio*). Is the transformation accidental, a reward, earned? Let students, individually or in groups, create their own tales of transformation. Each should include a beginning, a middle, and an end. The tales could be shared in small groups to gain constructive feedback leading to revisions and refinements. Invite parents and special guests into the classroom so that the students can display/present their tales. (W 2.3, W 2.5, L 2.1, L 2.2, L 2.3, RL 2.9)

## Mimi & Fifi's Rhyming Words

Write a word that rhymes with each word in the list.  
There are many answers.

1. Beast \_\_\_\_\_

2. rose \_\_\_\_\_

3. ring \_\_\_\_\_

4. spell \_\_\_\_\_

5. love \_\_\_\_\_

6. looks \_\_\_\_\_

7. dock \_\_\_\_\_

8. ill \_\_\_\_\_

9. heart \_\_\_\_\_

10. chat \_\_\_\_\_

## The Beast's Word Search

E	D	P	E	T	R	Q	V	I	L	G
J	N	S	R	W	O	T	V	F	X	H
J	O	C	M	I	L	S	F	A	A	S
R	P	V	H	I	N	G	Z	T	F	B
R	L	U	P	A	R	C	R	H	M	D
B	E	A	S	T	N	R	E	E	A	D
D	E	Q	I	X	M	T	O	R	G	K
S	I	S	T	E	R	S	E	R	I	M
D	A	N	C	I	N	G	X	D	C	O
X	R	H	B	E	A	U	T	Y	A	N
P	A	L	A	C	E	H	J	C	L	E
M	R	U	V	H	B	I	C	X	G	Y

Find these hidden words:

BEAST

BEAUTY

DANCING

ENCHANTED

FATHER

MAGICAL

MIRROR

MONEY

PALACE

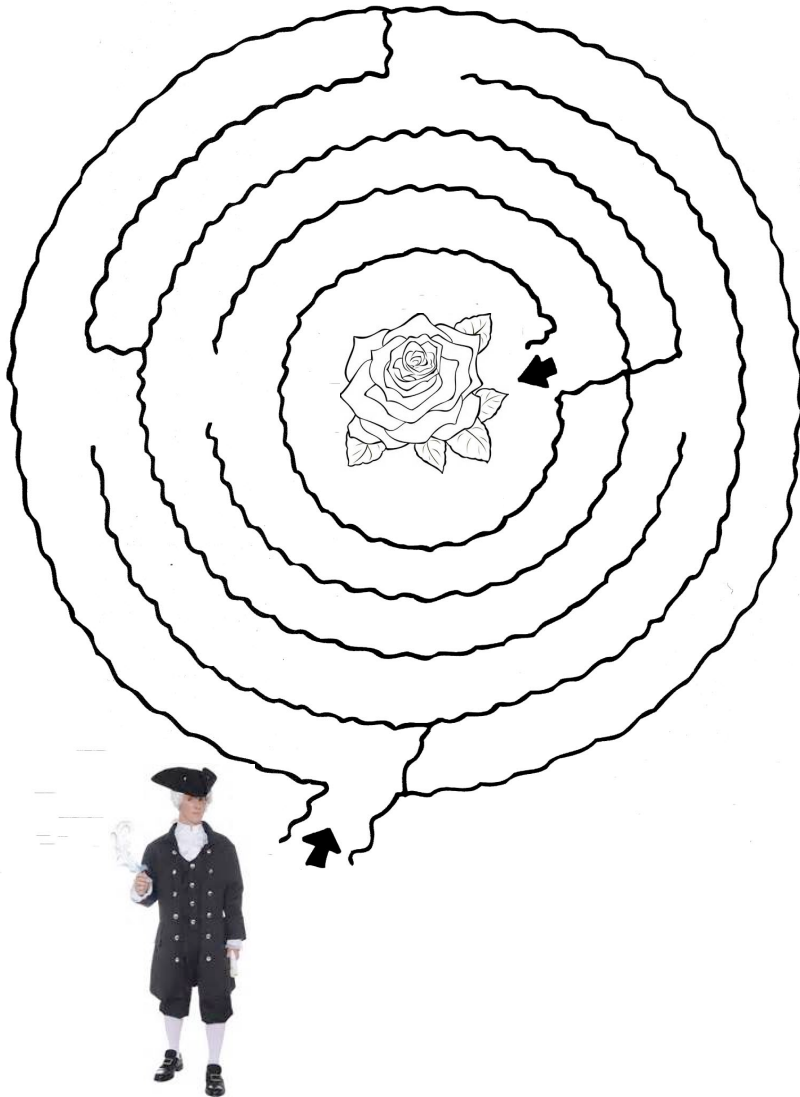
PRINCE

ROSE

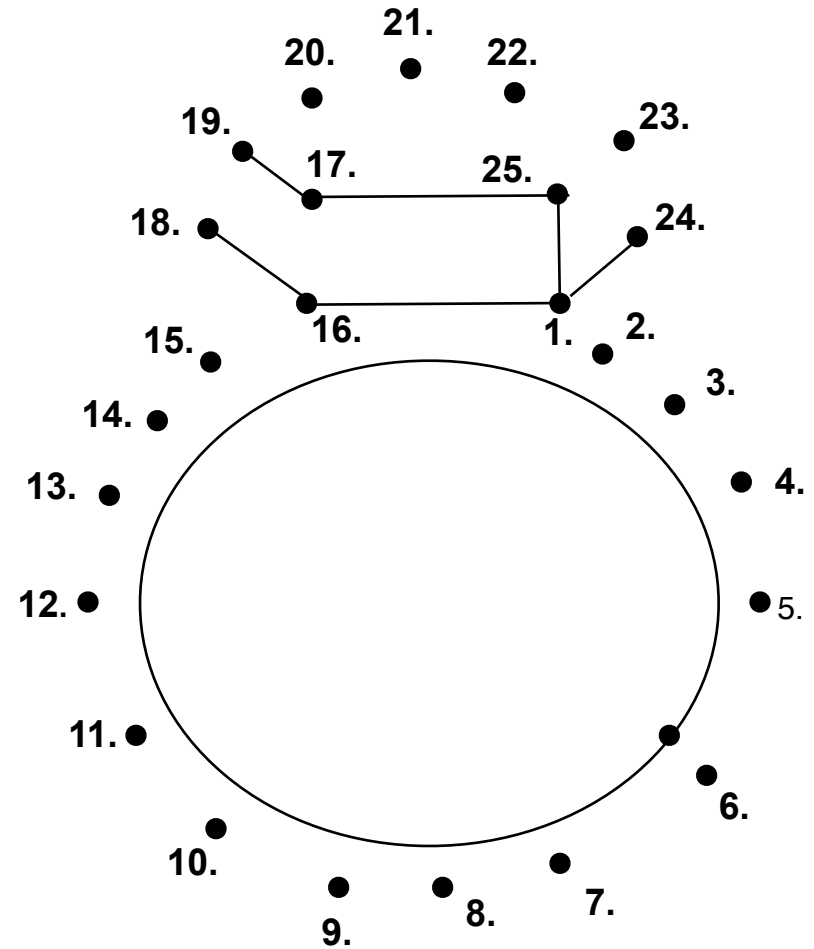
SISTERS

## Beauty's Rose Maze

Draw a line on the path that will take  
Beauty's Father to the rose



## Beauty's Dot to Dot



Connect the dots  
to find what the  
Beast gives to Beauty