



Beauty and the Beast Study Guide (Grades 4-8)

Hello! I am the Beast from *Beauty and the Beast*, and I am going to lead you through the activities in this guide. The book *Beauty* by Robin McKinley and the Disney musical *Beauty and the Beast* are both based on the same fairy tale, but they retell the story in different ways. Let us start with summaries for both the book *Beauty* and the Disney musical *Beauty and the Beast*.

Beauty by Robin McKinley

Beauty is the youngest of three daughters of a wealthy merchant, Roderick Huston. Her given name is Honour, but at five years old, she said that she'd rather be called "Beauty". The nickname stuck. As she grew older, she felt increasingly ill-named as her sisters, Grace and Hope, became lovelier and more socially adept and she stayed plain and bookish. Her two sisters were quickly engaged--Grace to one of her father's ship captains, Robert Tucker, and Hope to blacksmith Gervain Woodhouse. Robert was lost at sea only a few months after their engagement along with all the merchant's ships and with them, his fortune.

Destitute, the family relocated to Gervain's home town in the north to begin afresh. A few months later, one of Huston's ships limped back into port, and Huston returned to town to deal with the crew and selling the ship's cargo. He asked the three daughters if he could bring them any gifts; Grace and Hope, tongue in cheek, requested ropes of pearls and jewels and luxurious ball gowns, while Beauty asked only for rose seeds. The ship was not Robert's, and the proceeds from the sale of the cargo went largely to repay the merchant's debts. On the merchant's return from town, he was caught in a blizzard a few miles from home and lost his way in the forest, stumbling across a mysterious castle as he and his mount came to the end of their strength.

As he left the next day he plucked one rose from the garden to bring home to Beauty, who hoped to grow roses. The Beast appeared before him, ready to kill him, but he begged for his life, pleading that he had daughters to return to. The Beast decided to let him go if he returned in one month with one of his daughters. Although he demurred, Beauty insisted that she be the one to go in her father's place.

The Beast seemed kind, but Beauty was utterly terrified of him and could barely be around him for the first few days. The castle provided her with invisible servants and all the books and food she could want. She came to understand the enchantment on the castle and the Beast. One day, she overheard her servants saying that she was their last hope and that they hoped she could figure it out before it was too late. As the months passed, Beauty came to enjoy living in the



castle. There were only two problems: she missed her family and every night the Beast asked Beauty to marry him. Every night she said no.

One night, she had a magically real dream of her family; the Beast revealed that he could send her 'dreams' of her family's life, and showed her his "mirror" through which he watched them--the contents of a special vial poured over a table which served as a distance viewer. Through this mirror, Beauty saw that Grace was planning to marry a local minister and that Robert was alive and had returned from sea. She begged the Beast to let her go to her family and tell them the news. He reluctantly agreed, but warned her that she could only stay a week, because he would die without her. Beauty was so excited to see her family that she ended up over-staying the week. During her stay, she realized what she had tried to ignore: she was in love with the Beast and he with her. On the eighth morning, Beauty dreamed that the Beast had died and hurried back to the castle. She found the Beast as he lay dying, and she confessed her love to him and said she would marry him. This broke the enchantment, and returned the Beast to his human form, that of a now middle-aged man. Beauty insisted that she could not marry him. "You should marry a queen or something, a duchess at least, not a dull drab little nothing like myself," she said. The ex-Beast showed Beauty her own reflection in a mirror; in the past year, she had transformed into beauty. She and the Beast had a triple wedding with Grace and Robert and her father and Melinda who he became close when Beauty was away.

Questions after reading

1. What is the importance of dreams in this book?
2. What is this story trying to teach us about appearances?
3. How does *Beauty* grow up throughout the book?
4. Which character do you feel the most like?

Disney's Musical *Beauty and the Beast*

On a cold winter night, poor, old woman comes upon a castle belonging to a young prince. She asks the prince to allow her to stay the night, away from the cold, and she would give him a rose for his kindness, but the prince was vain and uncaring and turned her away because of the way she looked. As he did this, she warned him not to be fooled by looks, as true beauty lies within, but he would not let her stay. Seeing his horrible heart for what it truly was, she transformed into a beautiful enchantress and turned the prince into a hideous Beast and his servants into different objects like candlesticks and clocks. She gave him the rose. The one way he could break the spell was to learn to love another and earn her love in return by the time the last petal fell...

Years later, a beautiful young woman named Belle is in a hurry through town to get to the local book shop. She wishes she could live in a world like her books, full of adventure. The townspeople talk about how pretty she is and how odd it is that she likes to read so much. Gaston, the popular guy in town, doesn't like Belle for her brains only her beauty.



Belle has heard the people in town talking about her strangeness, so she asks her father if he thinks she is strange. Maurice, Belle's father, is a wacky inventor. He makes all kinds of gadgets. Maurice tells Belle that she is not strange and both of them finish an invention that Belle's father is taking to a contest.

In the woods, Maurice becomes lost when a pack of wolves attacks him; he finds a mysterious castle and enters. The servants (Lumière, the candelabra, Cogsworth, the clock, and Mrs. Potts, the tea pot) welcome him but the castle's master, a horrid Beast, arrives and orders Maurice to be locked away for trespassing.

Back in town, Gaston asks Belle if she will marry him. She tells of how she doesn't want to live in this small town anymore. Gaston's sidekick, LeFou, returns from the woods in a scarf belonging to Belle's father. Belle goes into the woods to find her father and finds the castle. She finds her father locked in a dungeon. She makes a deal with the Beast, Maurice goes free but she must stay in the castle. Belle is given a room and ordered by the Beast to join him for dinner. Belle sits in her room feeling very sad and upset.

In the tavern, Gaston is upset that Belle will not marry him. Lefou and Gaston's other friends try to cheer him up. Suddenly, Maurice enters and talks about Belle and the Beast. Gaston thinks he has a plan to get Belle to marry him. Back at the castle, the Beast grows impatient, because Belle has not come down to dinner. Cogsworth informs him she refuses to come, after a shouting match between Belle and the Beast (which ends in a victory for Belle) he tells her if she cannot eat with him then she will not eat at all. The Beast doesn't think he will ever get Belle to love him. Soon, Belle becomes hungry and ventures into the kitchen where the servants offer her dinner despite their master's orders. They treat her to an amazing song and dance show!

After dinner, Belle gets a tour of the castle courtesy of Cogsworth and Lumiere, her curiosity leads her to enter the West Wing, a place the Beast told her she could not go. Amazed by the magic rose, she reaches out to touch it but before she can, the Beast stops her and orders her to get out and rips her sleeve. Frightened by his touch, she runs away from the castle. Realizing his mistake the Beast knows he will be a monster forever if he cannot learn to love her.

In the woods, Belle is attacked by wolves and is only rescued when the Beast comes to her aid, but he is injured during the fight and Belle helps him back to the castle instead of taking the chance to run home. She cleans his injuries and after a brief argument about whose fault this is, the Beast thanks her for her kindness and thus their friendship is born. Wanting to give her a thank-you gift, the Beast gives Belle his huge library. Everyone in the castle sees that the Beast is becoming kinder. Belle asks the Beast to join her for dinner and their friendship grows!

In the castle, the Beast and Belle attend a lovely dinner and personal ball, where they dance together in the ballroom. After, the Beast (who plans to tell Belle he loves her) asks her if she is happy here, she says she is but notes that she misses her father. He offers her his Magic Mirror to view him: he is sick and lost in the woods. The Beast allows Belle to leave in order to save him; she leaves after a tearful goodbye.



Belle finds her father and brings him back to their house in the village. After she is able to nurse him back to health she explains the change she seems to have gone through while with the Beast. The townspeople arrive to take Belle's father away, because they think he is crazy.. Belle shows the townspeople the Beast is real using the Magic Mirror. The townspeople immediately fear the Beast, Belle tells them that he's gentle and kind, Gaston realizes that Belle loves the Beast and orders the townspeople to go kill the beast.

At the castle, the objects are able to fight the townspeople but Gaston finds the Beast in his tower. Gaston begins to badly beat the Beast. The Beast doesn't fight because he thinks that Belle is gone forever, but then Belle comes back to the castle! The Beast grabs Gaston but decides not to kill him. The Beast and Belle are reunited just as Gaston puts his knife into the Beast's back. Gaston slips and falls off of the castle.

On the balcony Belle assures the Beast he will live but they both know she is helpless to save him. She begs him not to leave her because she likes living with him in the castle, but the Beast dies. Belle cries on his body and says she loves him just before the last petal falls. A transformation takes place and the Beast is alive and human once more. Though Belle does not recognize him at first, she looks into his eyes and sees the Beast within and they kiss. The two sing of how their lives have changed because of love and they dance once more as all the objects in the castle are turned back into humans. Everyone lives happily ever after.

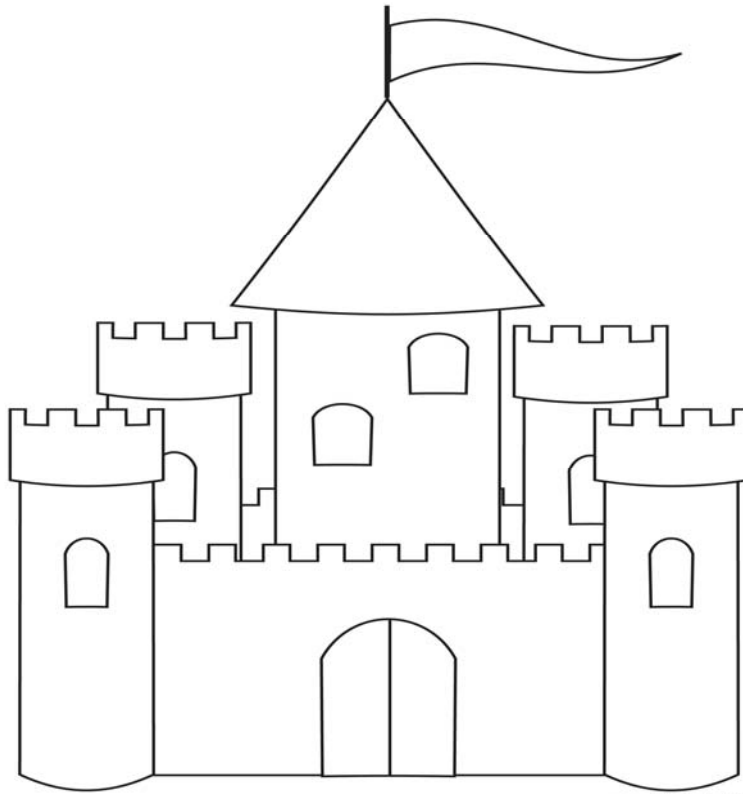
What's the same? What's different?

Now that we have an idea what our book and our musical are about, let's see what the differences are. I will name a few, but then you, your teacher and friends can find more!

1. In the musical, the servants are enchanted objects. In *Beauty* the servants are invisible.
2. In the musical, Belle's father is an inventor. In *Beauty*, Beauty's father is a merchant.
3. In the musical, Gaston is the villain. In *Beauty* there is no real villain.

Now, you list some of the differences you found!

What's going on at this castle? Draw a story on and around your castle. Then, write the story on the lines below!



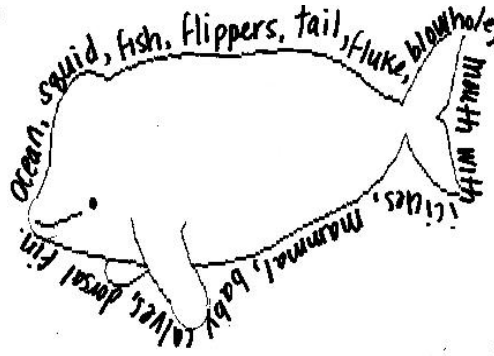
www.ColoringCastle.com

DESCRIBING WORDS! Choose a character from either *Beauty* or from the musical *Beauty and the Beast* and draw it in the box below. Then, fill in the box with adjectives that describe the character. Here is an example:



Now it's your turn!

The rose is important in both of our stories. A shape poem is a poem that is written in the shape of the object you are talking about or is written around a picture. Use the rose below and write a poem that uses the rose as an outline. Here is an example:



Now it's your turn!

