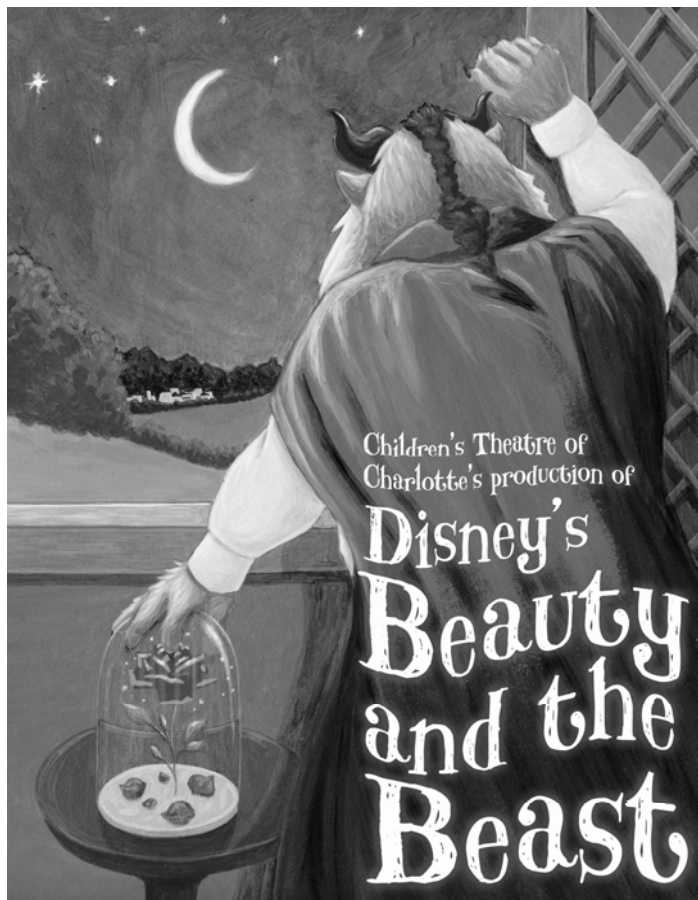




Family Play Guide

Great Activities for the Whole Family

This Family Play Guide is full of ideas to deepen the play-going experience for your family. We hope to spark conversations, invite imaginative journeys and immerse you in stories.



Musical based on the book by Linda Woolverton
Music by Alan Menken
Lyrics by Howard Ashman & Tim Rice
Originally Directed by Robert Jess Roth
Originally Produced by Disney Theatrical Productions
Directed by Alan Poindexter



ImaginOn is a collaborative venture of the Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County and the Children's Theatre of Charlotte. With cutting-edge services and library collections, award-winning professional theatre and innovative education programs, ImaginOn brings stories to life through extraordinary experiences that challenge, inspire and excite young minds.

Learn more at www.imaginson.org.

About the Play

The story of Beauty and the Beast is an old, classic fairy tale. One of its most popular modern adaptations is in Walt Disney Pictures' animated feature film – the first “cartoon” nominated for an Academy Award. When the film was released in 1991, critics praised its songs as “worthy of a Broadway musical.” Prompted by the success of the film, Disney executives began to develop a stage version with the hope that it would make it to Broadway. Their goal was to preserve the essence of the movie, while developing a unique theatrical production.

And they did. The script is filled with humor, magic, mystery, romance, and suspense. Memorable characters include enchanted servants who provide comfort, hope and humor for the heroine, Belle, as she adjusts to life with the Beast.

Composer Alan Menken teamed with Tim Rice, who he'd also worked with on music for the *Aladdin* film, to write seven new songs for the stage version. In addition to the new pieces, the song “Human Again,” which had been cut from the film, was restored for the stage.

The show premiered at Houston's Theatre Under the Stars in December, 1993 for 40 performances in Texas before it moved to Broadway's Palace Theatre in April, 1994. The show broke box office records for single-day ticket sales, and it was nominated for nine 1994 Tony Awards, including Best Musical. To date, *Beauty and the Beast* has been performed in 15 countries and in 7 languages around the world.

Questions for Discussion

Beauty and the Beast has a few big themes, or messages. The most obvious is that **beauty is only skin deep**, and that to really know someone you have to see beyond what they look like.

- Gaston is a handsome man. How does the audience learn that his personality is ugly?
- At first, Belle is afraid of the Beast. As she gets to know him, she sees “the man behind the monster.” What does she see?
- What does the phrase “beauty is in the eye of the beholder” mean?

Another big theme is the idea of **difference**.

- Why did the townspeople think Belle was odd?

- Did Belle mind that people thought she was strange?
- How were Belle and her father alike?
- The townspeople had never met the Beast. Why were they so afraid of him? Why couldn't Belle convince the mob that the Beast wasn't dangerous?
- Have you ever had an opinion that was unpopular, and had to defend your beliefs?

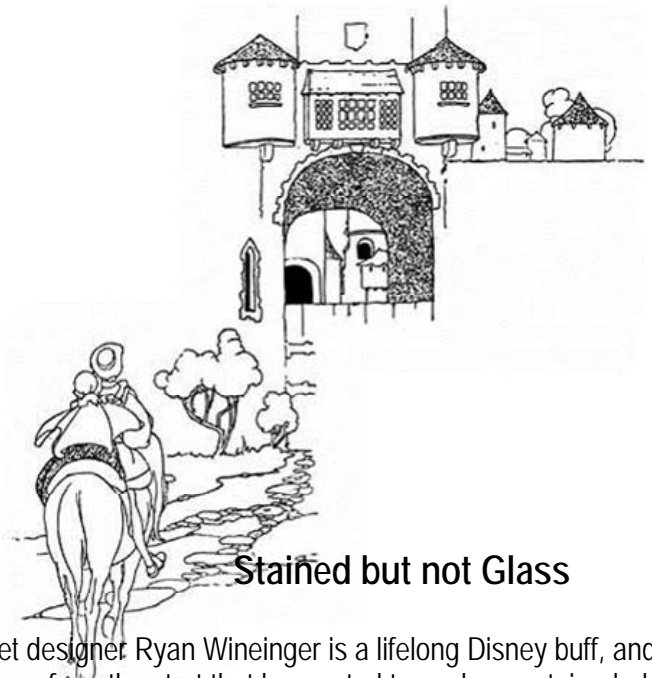
And a third theme is **relationships**.

- What moments help us see Belle's love for her father?
- What do we learn about Gaston from his song, *Me?*
- Why does Gaston like Belle? Why doesn't she like him?
- What are the similarities and differences between Gaston and the Beast?

Similar but Different

This “tale as old as time” has been told in many ways. You may have seen Disney's animated film version. Can you spot the differences between the movie and the musical play? Here are a few of them:

- In the movie, the servants were changed into household objects instantly. In the musical, they slowly transform.
- There are eight new songs in the musical that were not in the movie.
- Belle's horse, Phillipe, does not appear in the play.
- The spell is changed. In the movie, the deadline is the prince's 21st birthday. In the play, it is an undisclosed time, so an actor of any age can play the prince.
- In the movie, Belle and Maurice are trapped by the mob and rescued by Chip. On stage, they leave to warn the Beast.
- In the movie, Belle knew Maurice was in trouble when her horse Phillipe came to her without him. In the play, she knew when she saw Lefou wearing Maurice's scarf.



Stained but not Glass

Set designer Ryan Wineinger is a lifelong Disney buff, and he knew from the start that he wanted to explore a stained-glass production of *Beauty of the Beast*. His inspiration came from some illustrations in a 1911 version of the story. He liked the two dimensional simplicity of the drawings. He studied real places in northern France and Germany, and translated the architecture into flat designs that could be built with the look of stained glass. Using light, the mood of the set can be dramatically changed.

Children's Theatre craftsmen experimented with several techniques before deciding how to create the stained glass effect. Carpenters first built a frame for each environment out of wood. They attached clear, thin layers of acrylic into the open spaces, and then outlined the glass effects with a 3-dimensional paint called liquid leading. Painter Tim Parati used translucent paints to fill the outline.

What is a Musical?

It's more than just a play with music in it! A true musical combines music, singing, dancing, and theatrical production to tell a story. The audience – YOU! – must accept that characters talk, then break into song and dance, and then talk again. In some musicals, the entire orchestra can be seen onstage. In this production, the musicians are below the stage, in the orchestra pit. If you look closely at the hole in the front of the stage floor, you can spot the conductor's head.

Stained Glass Craft

Much of the set for this production looks like stained glass. Because the set is *translucent* – it allows light to filter through – designers can change the mood of a location by changing the lighting.

You can make a craft at home that looks like stained glass.

You'll Need:

construction paper
colored tissue paper
clear contact paper
scissors

What to Do:

1. Decide on a simple shape to frame your project. Draw this shape on construction paper. Draw the same shape, smaller, inside the first shape. Cut out the frame, leaving the middle empty.
2. Cut a piece of contact paper slightly larger than the outside of your frame.
3. Remove the adhesive backing and place the contact paper, sticky side up, on a table.
4. Carefully place the frame on the contact paper, so it frames a sticky center.
5. Cut or tear several colors of tissue paper into small pieces or shapes.
6. Stick the tissue paper onto the contact paper inside the frame. Try overlapping different colored pieces.
7. Hang it in a window to watch the light and reflections change throughout the day.



Can you find these words from the play in the puzzle?

BEAUTY
 BEAST
 MONSIEUR
 LIBRARY
 ENCHANT
 PROVINCIAL
 CASTLE
 REFLECTION
 SPELL
 LOATHSOME
 GILDED
 HIDEOUS



Recommended Reading

"I can't believe it!
I've never seen so many books in my whole life!"
-Belle

Beast gives Belle the gift of a Library, filled with books. Here are a few recommendations from the librarians at *ImaginOn*:

DVDs

Walt Disney Productions – *Sleeping Beauty*

CDs

Menken, Alan – *Disney's Little Mermaid: Original Broadway Cast Recording*

Walt Disney Records – *Classic Disney, Volume II: Sixty Years of Musical Magic*

Walt Disney Records – *Disney Girlz Rock*

Sheet Music

Walt Disney Company – *The Illustrated Treasury of Disney Songs: Piano, Vocal, and Guitar*

Non-Fiction

Hooks, William H. – *Snowbear Whittington: An Appalachian Beauty and the Beast*

Long, Laurel – *The Lady and the Lion: A Brothers Grimm Tale*

Graphic Novels

Tanaka, Rika – *Disney's Kilala Princess series*

Juvenile Fiction

Fowler, Gloria – *The Red Shoes*

French, Vivian – *Singing to the Sun: A Fairy Tale*

Levine, Gail Carson – *Fairy Haven and the Quest for the Wand*

Lewis, Naomi with Christian Birmingham – *The Snow Queen*

McDonald, Megan – *The Hinky Pink: An Old Tale*

Picture Books

Barry, Dave and Ridley Pearson –

Walt Disney's Peter Pan

Child, Lauren – *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*

Rylant, Cynthia – *Hansel and Gretel*



References used in the creation of this guide:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beauty_and_the_Beast_\(musical\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beauty_and_the_Beast_(musical))

http://www.mtishows.com/show_detail.asp?showid=000262

www.ticketpro.caBBstudy_guide.pdf

<http://tools.atozteacherstuff.com/word-search-maker/wordsearch.php>



Working Together – Onstage and Backstage

Many people work together to bring a story to life in the theatre. A cast of actors and actresses perform onstage, but many more people are working hard behind the scenes. Let's meet a few of them:

- The *Director* determines the concept and overall goals of the production, guides actors in understanding their roles, and works with scenery, lighting, costume, and sound designers to create a unified effect.
- The *Stage Manager* develops and uses a "cuesheet" for the whole play – like a script, the cuesheet lists everything that has to happen onstage and off, and when. During the show, the stage manager makes sure everybody follows their cues.
- *Designers* plan scenery, lighting, costumes, and sound based on the director's concept. The *Crew* build and operate everything you see – and hear! – onstage.

Write to us!



We'd love to hear from you! Send us a letter, telling us what you thought about the show.

Mail it to:

Children's Theatre of Charlotte
300 East Seventh Street
Charlotte, NC 28202

Or email us at:

writetous@ctcharlotte.org

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