

WALNUT STREET THEATRE

Disney's
BEAUTY
AND THE
BEAST



Study Guide



SHOW SYNOPSIS

Once upon a time there was an arrogant prince who lived in a luxurious castle with many servants. One cold night, a woman came to the prince's doorstep for help and shelter, offering a rose as payment for a place to stay. Repulsed by her appearance, the prince turns her away. The woman, who turned out to be an enchantress in disguise, felt the prince needed to be taught a lesson. She placed him, and all of his servants, under a curse. The only way that the prince, now a hideous beast, can reverse the curse is by loving another and receiving their love in return. Years later, when the cause seems hopeless, he comes to meet a village girl named Belle. Will the beast be able to break the spell and find true love?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

BEFORE THE SHOW

- Has anyone ever been to a live musical before? How was it different from television or a movie?
- What is the difference between a play and a musical?
- Have you ever judged someone based off of their appearance? Have you ever felt judged based on your appearance?
- Have you ever heard the saying, "you can't judge a book by its cover?" What does that saying mean?
- What's is something unique about yourself?

AFTER THE SHOW

- Did you enjoy this performance? What was your favorite part?
- Who was your favorite character? Why?
- If you were under the spell of the enchantress, what household item do you think you would be?
- Do you think it was difficult for Belle to look past Beast's outer appearance?
- Why is it important to not judge someone before you actually get to know them?



THEATRE 101



Ever wondered how to put on a play?

There are many different elements that go into putting a show up on its feet. Please review the following with your students:

PLAYWRIGHT The playwright writes the script.

DIRECTOR The director is in charge of orchestrating the entirety of the production. They lead the actors, designers, and production crew to put the show on its feet.

COSTUME What the actors wear during the show.

SCENERY Everything on stage (*except props*) used to represent the setting, or the place in which the story is occurring.

PROPS All physical items on stage with the exception of the scenery. This includes lamps, chairs, pens, paper, books, and more!

LIGHTS Stage lights illuminate the actors so that they look their best. The colors used, focus of the light, and amount of lighting can really set the mood and environment of a scene.

SOUND Everything that you hear during a performance that does not come from the actors.

ACTORS The actors are the people that perform the show onstage.

AUDIENCE The lucky people that get to watch the show. New to being an audience member? Follow these rules and you will be a natural!

AUDIENCE RULES



◆ Unlike a movie, the actors are performing in front of you. They can see everything that you do. Talking, sleeping, poking your neighbor, or making noise during the performance distracts the actors and others around you.

◆ Don't bring electronics to the performance. The use of cell phones, cameras, computers, tablets, and video game devices are **not allowed**.

- ◆ Use your better judgment on when to laugh, clap, and/or cry during the performance. But don't forget to clap at the end of the show!
- ◆ Stay in your seat during the performance.
- ◆ Make sure you go to the bathroom *before* the show starts.

START WITH A WARM-UP: "Family Portraits"

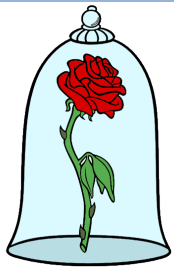
Back in the era of Beast and Belle, there were no camera phones to capture the moment. The only way that people back then could have pictures is if they hired someone to paint them! In this warm-up exercise, students will work together to "build" their own family portraits.

Directions:

- Divide the class into groups. Each group comes up one at a time and is given a title for a picture that revolves around a type of family. "Family of Dentists. Family of Cheerleaders. Family of Lost Librarians", etc.
- Groups have ten seconds to form a portrait based on the title. Remind students to think about the characters involved in the picture and to talk to each other so that there are no repeat characters. Encourage them to tell a story, even though they are frozen in place.
- Count them down and at the end of 10 seconds yell out FREEZE! The end result should be a cohesive picture.



TRY IT YOURSELF!



DIRECTIONS

Give students a chance to act out a scene from *Disney's Beauty and the Beast Jr.* Before jumping into the performance, think about all of the elements that go into a play. Are there any props that we can use to help improve the scene? Where are the characters when this scene is taking place? What might the scenery look like?

SAMPLE SCENE

BEAST: It's no use. She's so beautiful and I'm... well, just look at me!

MRS. POTTS: Master, you must help her see past all that.

BEAST: I don't know how!

MRS. POTTS: Well, you could start by trying to make yourself more presentable!

LUMIERE: Impress her with your rapier wit.

MRS. POTTS: But be gentle.

BABETTE: Shower her with compliments.

MADAME DE LA GRANDE BOUCHE: But be sincere.

LUMIERE/MRS. POTTS: WHAT?!?!

ALL: YOU MUST CONTROL YOUR TEMPER!

Cogsworth enters.

BEAST: Well? Where is she?

COGSWORTH: She's not coming.

BEAST: What did you say?

COGSWORTH: She's not coming.

BEAST: We'll see about that.

COGSWORTH: Your Lordship! Your Grace! Your Eminence! Let's not be hasty!

Beast yells off stage.

BEAST: I thought I told you to come down to dinner!

BELLE: (*off stage*) I'm not hungry!

BEAST: I am the master of this castle and I'm telling you to come to dinner!

LUMIERE: Master, that may not be the best way to win a girl's affections.

COGSWORTH: Please... attempt to be a gentleman.

MRS. POTTS: Deep breaths, Master... deep breaths.

BEAST: I'll give her one last chance. Would you so kindly join me for dinner? Please?

BELLE: No, thank you.

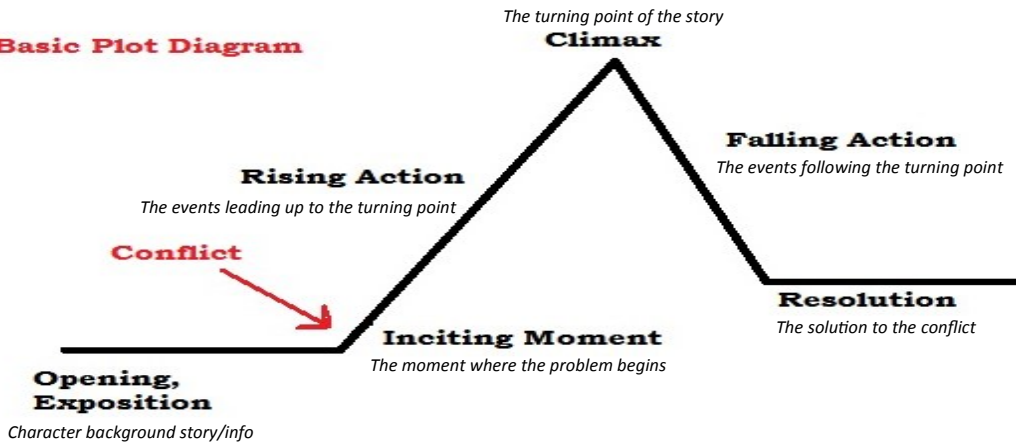
BEAST: FINE. THEN STARVE.

DISCUSSION: "BREAK IT DOWN"

DIRECTIONS:

With your students, discuss what events from *Disney's Beauty and the Beast Jr.* would fall under each category within the plot diagram pictured below. There may be multiple correct responses, as long as students are able to support their answers.

Basic Plot Diagram



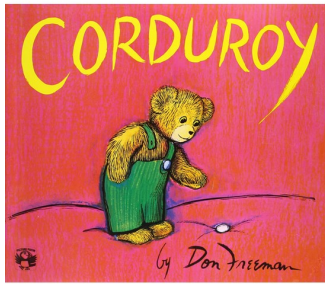
CURRICUM CONNECTIONS:

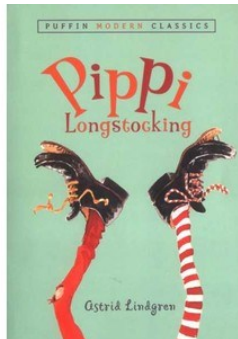
- Plot Elements
- Analysis
- Sequence

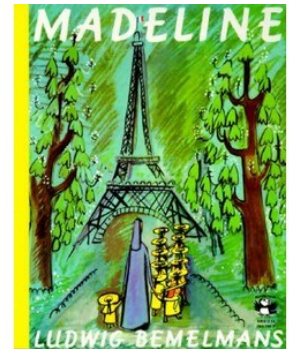
STUDENT ACTIVITY: "DON'T JUDGE A BOOK BY ITS COVER"

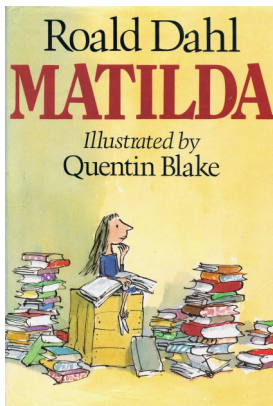
DIRECTIONS

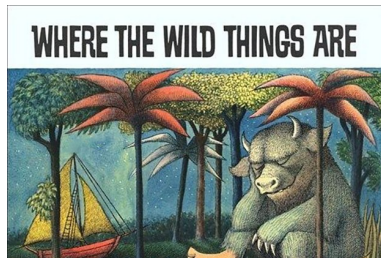
Below, there are six book covers of various children's books. Have students guess the book's content solely based on the book's cover. Descriptions only need to be a sentence or two. Compare the students' answers with the answer key on the following page. If you have a student who has read one of these books before, make sure they don't reveal the answer!

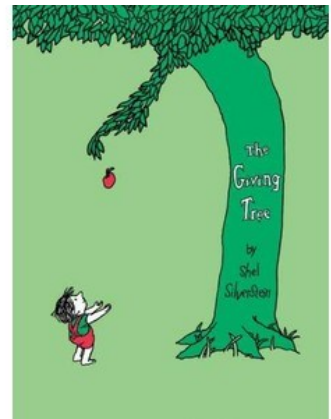












STUDENT WORKSHEET: BE OUR GUEST!

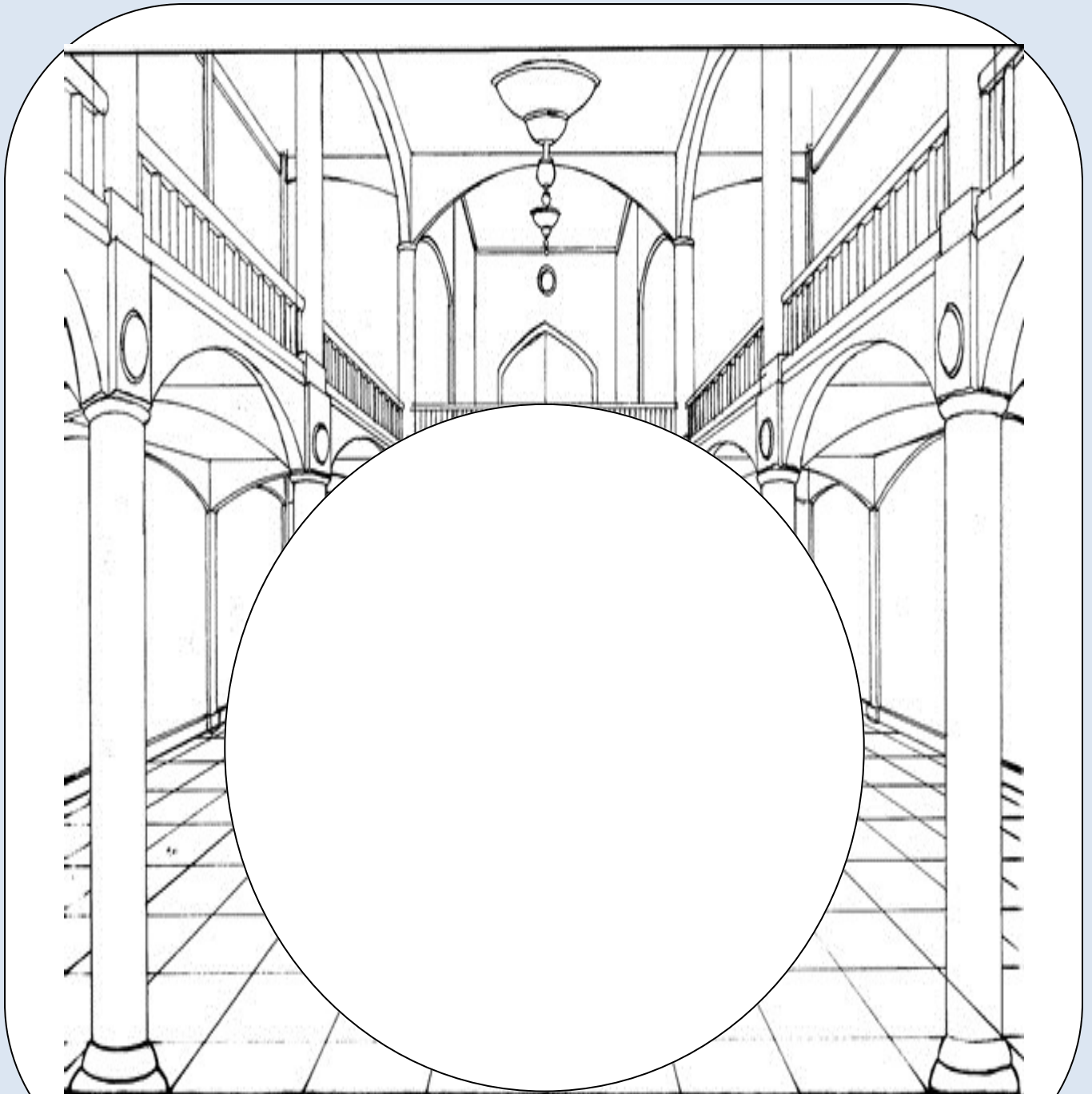
DIRECTIONS

- Have students refer back to the discussion question on page 1 that asks: "If you were under the spell of the enchantress, what household item do you think you would be?"
- Have students illustrate below what their personal *Disney's Beauty and the Beast Jr.* alter ego would look like!
- These illustrations can be used as decoration around the classroom.

LIKE THE SHOW? LET US KNOW!

Send letters or drawings to:

Walnut Street Theatre
ATTN: Education Department
825 Walnut St.
Philadelphia, PA 19107



ANSWER KEY FOR BOOK COVER ACTIVITY—CORDUROY: teddy bear goes on an adventure looking for a missing button. PIPPI: a young girl goes on adventures and has super strength; MADELINE: a brave red head goes to Catholic boarding school in France; MATILDA: a young girl is very mistreated by her family, discovers she is a genius and has telekinetic powers; WILD THINGS: a boy goes on an adventure to a land of mysterious creatures and becomes king; GIVING TREE: a boy befriends a tree and becomes greedy, eventually taking everything from the tree.



WALNUT STREET THEATRE



BIOGRAPHY

Walnut Street Theatre has the unique distinction of being the oldest, continuously operating theatre in the English-speaking world, having served Philadelphia audiences for over 200 years!

Today, under the direction of Producing Artistic Director Bernard Havard, Walnut Street Theatre is in its 34th season as a self-producing, non-profit theatre company. Walnut Street Theatre continues to entertain and enlighten diverse audiences with high quality theatrical programming. With more than 50,000 subscribers, the Walnut is also the most subscribed theatre company in the world!

For 15 years the Walnut has been producing shows as part of our Kid Series. The Kid Series takes well known books and brings them to life on stage for children and families. All actors in *Beauty and the Beast, Jr* are students of the Walnut's Theatre School and attended Camp Walnut this past summer. Both the Kid Series and Camp Walnut are vital parts of the Walnut's educational programs. Last season, **172,000** children and adults were impacted

by the Walnut's Education Programs: including our theatre school with classes for kids and adults, Camp Walnut, Our Touring Outreach Program to local schools and our artist in residency programs.

WALNUT STREET THEATRE EDUCATION STAFF

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

Thomas Quinn

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

Ashley Kerns

EDUCATION PROGRAMS ASSOCIATE

Patrick Shane

EDUCATION PRODUCTION ASSOCIATE

Angie Confredo

RESIDENT TEACHING ARTIST

Jasmine Hammond

EDUCATION APPRENTICE

Amanda Pasquini

ACTING APPRENTICES

Anne Bragg

Alexa Cepeda

Dana Orange

Austin Turner

WEB

Educational Drama Activities

<http://plays.about.com/od/activities/>

Walnut Street Theatre Touring Outreach Company

<https://walnutstreettheatre.org/education/outreach.php>

DISNEY'S BEAUTY AND THE BEAST JR.

CREATIVE TEAM

DIRECTOR

Ashley Kerns

CHOREOGRAPHY

Tara Tagliaferro

MUSIC DIRECTION

Chris Burcheri

MUSIC

Alan Menken

LYRICS

Howard Ashman & Tim Rice

BOOK

Linda Woolverton

ADAPTED BY

Ken Cerniglia & David Weinstein

CREDITS

Disney Theatrical Group

iTheatrics

Kevin Yates & Eric Emch

The Broadway Junior

Music Theatre International

