

**STEPPINGSTONE  
THEATRE**  
FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

For Educators & Families

# Study Guide

Disney  
**BEAUTY  
AND THE  
BEAST**



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# Dear Educators & Parents,

**The tradition of fairy tales are entwined with the history of humankind.** Similar versions of our favorite tales are found in ancient cultures around the world. Fairy tale scholar Jack Zipes said “fairy tales are a means to conquer the terrors of mankind through metaphor.” There is a reason our favorite tales are told and retold to each new generation - they engage us, even the youngest among us, through their memorable characters, meaningful messages and powerful transformations.

SteppingStone theatre is delighted to introduce a new generation to the classic fairytale, **Beauty and the Beast**. This Disney JR. musical version is adapted from Disney’s full-length Broadway musical, and the Disney animated film. Be our guest and sing along to this enduring story about finding your unique identity and celebrating the goodness and strength found within. We’re inspired by the fact our young audiences have access to all versions of Disney’s enduring story - animated, live action film and a live performance.

*The power of live performance brings magical stories to life in a way no other medium can match!  
We’re eager to share the magic with your families this holiday season.*

I hope this study guide provides opportunities for inquiry and conversation with the young people you bring to our theatre. Use the content to provide connections between the play and your curricula. It is our hope that you will use the experience of attending the theater and seeing **Beauty and the Beast** with your students as a teaching tool. Please feel free to pick from these ideas and adapt or extend discussion topics and activity suggestions.

We hope you enjoy the show and we’ll see you under the big white columns.

**Megan Flod Johnson**

Creative Learning Director

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# PRODUCTION SYNOPSIS

Based on the original Broadway production and the Academy Award-winning motion picture, **Disney's Beauty and the Beast JR.** is a fantastic adaptation of the story of transformation and tolerance. The classic story tells of Belle, a young woman in a provincial town, and the Beast, who is really a young prince trapped under the spell of an enchantress. If the Beast can learn to love and be loved, the curse will end and he will be transformed to his former self. But time is running out. If the Beast does not learn his lesson soon, he and his household will be doomed for all eternity. **Disney's Beauty and the Beast JR.** features some of the most popular songs ever written by Alan Menken and the late Howard Ashman, along with new songs by Mr. Menken and Tim Rice.

**Disney's Beauty and the Beast JR.** is recommended for all ages

**Run time:** 65 minutes with no intermission

## Welcome to SST

**Where is SteppingStone?** All SteppingStone performances will be presented at our theatre: 55 Victoria St. North, Saint Paul, MN 55104 This is two blocks north of Summit Ave at Holly (just north of Mitchell Hamline College of Law).

**When should we arrive?** Please allow plenty of time to unload your buses or vans, and park. We recommend that you arrive at the theatre 30-minutes before show time.

**Where do we park?** Bus drivers may park and stay with their bus along Concordia (frontage road south of I-94). Busses may not park in front of the building, block the alley, or park along Portland headed westbound, as this is a fire lane. Paid parking for cars and vans is available at the Victoria Crossing Ramp (corner of Victoria and Grand Ave.) There are two handicap accessible parking spaces in our employee lot near the north entrance. Additional unmetered parking is available along the streets surrounding the theatre. Please respect posted parking restrictions.

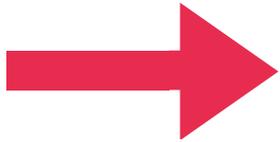
**Seating for people with special needs:** If you have accessible seating requirements and did not indicate your need when you ordered your tickets, please call our Front of House and Volunteer Manager, at (651) 225-9265. Our knowledge of your needs will enable us to serve you better upon your arrival to the theater.

### SteppingStone Policies

- The use of recording equipment and cameras are not permitted during the performance.
- Food, drink, candy and gum are not permitted in the theatre.
- Should anyone become ill, suffer an injury or have another problem, please escort him or her out of the theater space.

**How can I prepare for my visit to the theatre?** Discuss audience behavior expectations with students before you attend the performance. Use this study guide to prepare content-specific questions. At a performance, audience members are active participants. Their quiet attention, applause and laughter (both appropriate and inappropriate) are all heard by the young actors on stage and affects the performance in good or bad ways. The best way to show that you're enjoying the show is to listen attentively, laugh when something is funny and clap loudly following a scene or song you enjoyed!

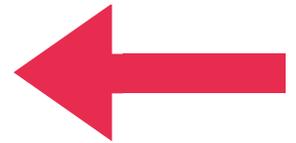
# QUICK CONVERSATIONS



## On the ride there...

- 1.) How are Musicals different from Plays? What purpose do the songs serve in a musical? How does music enhance storytelling? Give examples from stage or movie musicals you've seen.
- 2.) In *Beauty and the Beast*, characters make quick judgments about unfamiliar people and places before getting to know them. Have you ever judged someone, based off of their appearance, before you got to know them? Have you ever felt judged based on your own appearance? Tell us the story.
- 3.) Think about a time when you met someone new. What were some ways you got to know the other person and let them get to know you? Would you have done anything differently? Could you have done anything more?
- 4.) The differences between people, cultures and ways of life are what make life exciting and keep things interesting. It would be boring if everything and everyone was the same! Tell us something unique about yourself or family. Why do you feel this uniqueness is special, important or exciting?

## ...On the ride home



- 1.) How is the play similar to Disney's movie? How are the play and movie different? Why do you think there were differences between the movie and the play?
- 2.) When the townspeople hear a Beast is living outside their village, they are quick to organize an angry mob who will march to the castle and harm the Beast. Why do you think the townspeople were afraid of the Beast? Why would they want to hurt him? What could the townspeople do instead of use violence?
- 3.) Bell is seen as "odd" and "strange" in her town. Why do you think the villagers see Bell as different from them? When you meet someone who is different from you, how do you make them feel comfortable and included?
- 4.) In this play, "*things aren't always what they seem to be*". What does that saying mean? Can you give character examples from the play? How about plot examples? In your own life, did you think something was one way, and then it turned out to be another? What did you do - tell us the story!

## Want more?!

**Did you know SST can ignite theatre learning inside your classroom?**

Contact us to book a theatre arts residency on empathy-building, cultural competency, or arts integration with your curriculum.

**SteppingStoneTheatre.org | 651.225.9265**

## The History of Fairy Tales

A fairy tale like **Beauty and the Beast** is a kind of folktale or fable. The oldest fairy tales were told and retold for generations before they were written down. French fairy tales were the first to be collected and written down, but now we can read fairy tales from almost any culture around the world! When these stories were studied together, something amazing was discovered. From countries as distant and different as Indonesia and Germany similar fairy tales are told. Both Japan and Africa have "**Beauty and the Beast**" stories, as do China, England, Scandinavia, America, Portugal, and Vietnam. There may be a thousand versions of the **Beauty and the Beast** story, each with a unique telling which carries cultural information about the time and place the story was told. One thing is for sure; people everywhere like stories in which truth prevails over deception, generosity is ultimately rewarded, hard work overcomes obstacles, and love, mercy and kindness are the greatest powers of all.

# FAIRY TALES

## Myth, Folklore, & You

## Fairy Tale Common Elements Activity

**Big Question:** Think about a Fairy Tale you know *REALLY* well. A great example is The Three Little Pigs. Ask students to tell you the basic story, keeping in mind the Common Elements of a Fairy Tale (from the Pop Quiz).

### Vote with Your Feet

Split the class into two groups and have them each stand on opposite sides of the room. Ask the questions, below. If the students think it happened, they cross the floor to the other side of the room. If not, they stay standing in place.

### "The Three Little Pigs..."

- Live happily ever after
- Has things happen in threes
- Has magic
- Has royalty
- Has a reward
- Has good vs. evil
- Has a problem/conflict
- Has a character who makes a plan to solve the problem
- Happened long ago and far away

**Reflection:** What Common Elements did we see? What Elements didn't we see? Examine the Common Elements that weren't in The Three Little Pigs - which fairy tales do we know that have those elements?

### Information & activities adapted from the following sources:

[http://teacher.scholastic.com/writewit/mff/fairytales\\_discovering.htm](http://teacher.scholastic.com/writewit/mff/fairytales_discovering.htm) | <http://dbp.theatredance.utexas.edu/content/characteristics-fairytales>

\*click the links for more learning extensions using theatre and creative drama approaches.

## Pop Quiz

### What are the 5 Common Elements of a Fairy Tale?

1.) There is Magic 2.) There is royalty 3.) There is good vs. evil 4.) There's a reward 5.) They live happily ever after

### Bonus Points:

Things happen in threes. Someone makes a plan to solve the problem. The story happened long ago and far away.

# ENJOY THE SHOW!