



Beauty and the BEAST

Study Guide

Music & Lyrics by
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Orchestrations
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Directed by
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The Characters

Rose

The Beast

Bratella

The Mayor

The Witch

Horatio the Servant

Summary of Beauty and the Beast

Once upon a time in the loony land of Rottingham, there lived a Mayor who had two daughters who were extremely different in many ways. Bratella, the oldest child, was very selfish and self consuming – she only cared about herself. Her younger sister Rose was the complete opposite - she was a very sweet kind hearted young girl. Once a year their father, the Mayor, bid farewell to his daughters and journeyed across the sea to deliver the Tax money to the King. Our tale begins on this very day.

Upon his delivery, he encounters a horrible storm. The boat is smashed, and the Mayor washes ashore onto the beach of an enchanted castle. Luckily Horatio, the servant of the castle, rescued the Mayor. Fearing that his Master – The Horrible Beast – will discover the Mayor, the servant decides to hide him but breaks the Mayor's glasses rendering him blind. Eventually the

Beast discovers the intruder and is extremely relieved that he cannot look upon his face. He decides to treat him as his guest and lets him roam his Magical Garden. The Mayor, not knowing it is forbidden to pick any flowers, decides to pick a rose for his youngest daughter Rose. The Beast becomes enraged and demands that he send one of his daughters to be his prisoner FOREVER. As the Mayor departs, we discover the true source of the Beast's turmoil – the Witch of the Castle. She taunts him, teases him, and constantly degrades him. She convinces him that the daughter who returns will be afraid of him.

Upon the Mayor's arrival, his daughters are told of the news. Of course, Bratella declares that Rose should be the one to go, because it is "her fault". Rose sadly agrees and departs for the Beast's castle. Upon her arrival the Beast greets her, hiding his face. As she discovers what he looks like, she is afraid but curious to know who is behind the face. The nasty Witch again reminds the Beast that no one will ever love him, but as time passes Rose looks deep within and sees the inner beauty in the savage Beast. Rose and the Beast become best friends – but best friends help each other. So the Beast releases Rose with a magical ring so she can reunite with her family. But Rose must promise that in three days she will return. Little does she know that if she breaks her promise, the Beast will die.

As Rose arrives in Rottingham there is great celebrating by the Lord Mayor. But her sister is jealous of the new gifts Rose has acquired. She teases and makes fun of Rose for being Best Friends with an ugly Beast. But Rose assures her that "*beauty is only skin deep*" and although he is not handsome, he is kind and sweet and that is all that is important to her.

The Witch, who is eager to rule the castle, follows Rose to Rottingham. She casts a spell on Bratella who now demands that Rose stay home FOREVER! Rose pleads to return, knowing something is wrong. Finally, she sees in her ring that the Beast is ill and she rushes away to him. Rose arrives to find that the Beast is dying, so she looks deep within her heart and finally admits to the Beast that she loves him. The Witch disappears, the spell is finally broken, and the Beast is transformed into a handsome Prince. He explains to Rose that it took someone to discover his inner beauty and learn the meaning of true friendship to break the Witch's curse. They happily return to Rottingham together and they all live happily ever after.

Describe Elements of the Set:

Describe one costume that you saw. What did the costume tell you about the character? Was the character young or old? Was the character a boy or a girl?

Describe the set in the play. What did the set tell about the play? What reaction did you have to the set? Why?

Name a prop that you saw during the show. How did it appear on stage? How was the prop used to tell the story?

Name a sound you heard during the show. What did the sound tell you? How did the sound help tell the story? Did that sound make you feel an emotion and if so how did it make you feel?

Storyline/Plot

Why did the witch turn the prince into a beast?

Why does Rose choose to be the Beast's prisoner?

The Beast wanted Rose to stay with him at the castle – why did he let her leave to see her family?

How do you think the Beast felt when Rose didn't want to marry him? How did the Beast get over his disappointment?

What does this story teach us about friendships?

What is this story trying to teach us about appearances?

Is the witch cruel? Is she a bully?

Why is it wrong to make other kids cry?

What lessons can we take away from the show?

Characters (Performance) and Choice

What did the Beast want overall? What did the actor say or do to show us that? What obstacles prevented the Beast from getting what he wanted?

How did the Beasts' behavior change during the course of the show? Why did this change occur?

Communicate observations about the actors:

- How did the Beast walk? Talk? What did his body language convey?
- How did Rose walk? Talk? What did her body language convey?

Which character do you feel like you are most like? Why?

Which character is your favorite and why?

Which character is your least favorite and why?

Which character is the villain and why?

Which character is the hero/heroine and why?

If you could ask one of the characters a question, what would it be? Why? Why did you choose that character to ask a question?

What was your favorite moment from the show?

Describing the Action

Describe and demonstrate how one of the characters you were observing moved on stage?

Demonstrate a gesture or a movement done by one of the characters you remember from the show? Which character used the gesture? What was the actor trying to say with the gesture or movement?

Describe one of the actor's voices. Do you remember a specific word or phrase that one of the actor's said? What do we notice about the character or the character's voice when we say it in the same way?

Describe the music that you heard during the show. What did the music tell us about the characters? How did the music tell us about the action? Did the music change during the show - from what to what?

What sounds did you hear during the storm scene? How did the sounds help the action or the story? How did the sounds make you feel as you were watching the scene?

Which moment do you remember most from the performance? What was happening at that moment? Draw a picture of that moment and include all the characters.