

# Beauty and the Beast

BRIGHT STAR CHILDREN'S THEATRE, LLC

[WWW.BRIGHTSTARTHEATRE.COM](http://WWW.BRIGHTSTARTHEATRE.COM)

## About the Production!

This classic tale of “Beauty and the Beast” has been entertaining audiences of all ages for nearly 300 years! The original story, written in French as “La Belle et la Bête,” was published in 1740 by French novelist Gabrielle-Suzanne Barbot de Villeneuve. Her original story has been the inspiration for hundreds of different versions we all enjoy today! This classic tale of finding inner beauty has been touching audiences for years, and we can't wait for you to see ours! Follow Lenny and Mable, two of the greatest actors in the world, as they undergo the task of retelling this heartwarming tale! From a family fallen on hard times, to unexpected love - everyone can relate to this story in one way or another.



## What am I seeing?

This production is real life professional theatre. Our actors at Bright Star Touring Theatre come from all over the U. S. They have a short rehearsal period and then set out to perform 16 to 20 shows a week! On average, our actors travel about 1000 miles a week with everything they need packed into one of our cozy mini-vans! Each show ends with a 5 minute question and answer time where the actors can answer questions about the set, the show, the props/ costumes, and even themselves!

## Where did the story of “Beauty and the Beast” come from?



When Gabrielle-Suzanne Barbot de Villeneuve wrote “Beauty and the Beast,” she also wrote several other stories and published them together in a book called, “La Jeune Americaine et les Contes Marins” which translates from French to English to mean “The Young American and Marine Tales.” She wrote a series of stories that taught children valuable lessons and placed them all together in one, lengthy, book! These stories were meant to be fun, and entertaining, lessons that helped children learn right from wrong, and how to look at the world through loving eyes. While she has written several other stories, “Beauty and the Beast” is her most popular, and well known work today!

## Adaptions of "The Beast"



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Each time this story was re-written, the Beast got a makeover, too! Most of the earliest illustrations show him looking like part wolf and part man. After that, some later interpretations show the Beast looking like an elephant, a boar, and finally to the lion-like figure we think of today! Have you ever had to illustrate the writings of someone else work? What kind of things would you look for in the text to help you out?



## CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES



- **WRITE YOUR OWN FAIRYTALE** (Best for grades 3rd-5th; Materials Needed: Pencil & Paper) Have each student come up with their very own fairytale and write the story from start to finish. After all of the fairytales are written, designate a day where everyone reads their own story aloud to the class.

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- **READING DAY** (Best for grades 3rd-5th; Materials Needed: Books, Blankets & Pillows from Home) Have an entire day designated to reading. Encourage students to bring blankets and pillows from home that they can cuddle up in. Spend the day before perusing the library and encourage each student to check out 2-3 books each. On Reading Day, have everyone pick a cozy spot in the room away from all distractions, lay out their blankets and pillows and reading marathon all day long.

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- **COSTUME PARADE** (Best for grades Pre-K-3rd; Materials Needed: Costumes from Home) Have a designated day throughout your grade or school where books and are celebrated with costumes. Direct each student to pick a favorite character from any book they've read and love and tell them to dress up like them for a day. On the day of the costume parade, have a 30-minute period for each class set aside so they can walk through the halls and all of the classrooms showing off their classroom's special and unique characters.

## DISCUSS

What is your favorite fairy tale?

Why are stories so important to our world?

Is there a story that taught you something?

Why is reading so important?

What makes a good story?

Think of a famous fairytale. What would happen if one of the elements of the story were missing? How would it change? What would be different?

If you had to write a Fairy Tale that taught a very important lesson, what would you make your story about?



### Fairy Tale Facts!

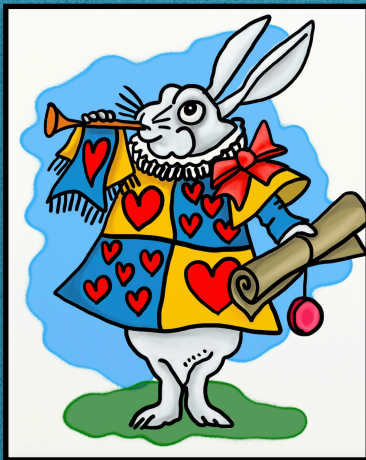
- There are over 700 different versions of "Cinderella," and it has been translated to almost every language!
- Some versions of "Little Red Riding Hood" have an Orge instead of a Wolf
- Stories of "The Gingerbread Man" have come up in all different kinds of tales and books! The largest Gingerbread Man ever made weighed over 1,000 pounds and over 20 feet tall!



## Write your own Fractured Fairy Tale!

This can be a fun writing exercise, or put students in groups and have them act out these classic Fairy Tales with a twist! Pick two fairy tales and blend them into one story! Remind your students that they don't have to use every character associated with these fun tales. You can brainstorm ideas as a class, or have them work in groups. This is a fun activity that uses a great level of imagination!

1. **Cinderella**
2. **Little Red Riding Hood**
3. **The Boy who Cried Wolf**
4. **Alice in Wonderland**
5. **Pinocchio**
6. **Jack and the Beanstalk**



### CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

1. **PUT ON A PLAY** (Best for grades 3rd-5th; Materials needed: Pencil, Paper & Creativity) Divide the classroom up into groups of 3-4. Have each group write, create and then perform a play of their choice. Have them choose one of the morals, or lessons, from below, and write a play that helps teach that lesson!
  1. Think before you speak.
  2. Treat others as you would like to be treated
  3. Don't judge a book by it's cover
  4. Look before you leap.
2. **DO WHAT I SAY** (Best for grades K-2; Materials Needed: None) Pick a group of 3-4 students to get up in front of the class. Narrate a story a little bit at a time that the students up on their feet have to act out. Make sure to have a clear beginning, middle and end and give enough time for the students to act everything out. After they've gone or while they're still going, discuss the elements of the story that you're covering.

### How to get your class to want to READ!

- Let them choose the book! Plan trips to the library where they get to pick whatever they want. Also, keep books readily available in the classroom.
- Read to your class. Establish a routine and read during that time everyday.
- Read aloud together. Pick a book your students love and have everyone read pieces of it aloud. Do this one on one if you get the chance, too.
- **Discuss what you read. Have group discussions about the books you read. Ask questions before, during and after the book is over.**
- Show your students that you enjoy reading, too. Be a reading role model! Let the class see that you yourself are an avid reader and they just may follow suit. You are a role model, after all.



## YOU CAN DO THIS TOO!

**Where to start:** All of our actors started out playing and telling stories when they were young -then they decided to study acting in school. Now they are pros! Here are some ways you can start doing theatre right away!

**In School!** Does your school have plays or musical performances? This is a great place to start.

**In Your Community!** Many towns have community theaters or local acting groups. See if you can try out!

**Start Something!** If your school doesn't have a drama club or a theatre club, talk to your favorite teacher about how you might be able to start one.

**At Home!** Get together with friends, cousins, brothers and sisters and make your own play! You can make up plays based on your favorite books and stories. Invite family and friends to see your performance.

**Try new things and do your best at them!** There are lots of jobs in the theatre besides acting. There are people who paint the sets, make costumes, write plays and more. Get the most out of your art, music and English classes. You can use all of these things to be a live

## Before, During and After the Play...



### BEFORE YOU SEE THE PLAY...

Attending the theatre is very different from watching TV or going to the movies. For one thing, the actors are real people who are performing right then and there! They can see and hear everything that happens in the audience. Because of this, YOU are an important part of the play and its important to do your job as an audience member well. Here are some tips before you see the play.

1. Please be quiet and respectful so everyone else around you can hear what's happening and so the actors can do their job.
2. If something is funny, it is okay to laugh!
3. The actors may ask you to participate. Don't be afraid to respond, ask a question or volunteer!
4. Keep your hands to yourself and your eyes up front.
5. If you like the play, be sure to clap at the end.
6. Have fun! Enjoy yourself!

### Student Reviews

Did your student write a review? Encourage them to draw a picture of their favorite scene or character as well. Feel free to hang them up in your classroom. The students could also take them home and show their parents what they saw and what they learned from it. Or you can always mail your classrooms reviews to us at Bright Star Theatre! We LOVE getting mail and hearing what our amazing audience members thought of the program. Please send them to: Bright Star Theatre, 565 Long Shoals Rd., Suite 204, Arden, NC 28704.

## FUN FACTS ABOUT THEATRE!

After a play is over and everyone goes home, there is always a light left on backstage. It's called a ghost light!

The oldest play that is still around was written by an Ancient Greek named Aeschylus. It's almost 2500 years old!

The longest performance on stage ever was over 23 hours long! It happened in New Jersey in 2010.

William Shakespeare is a famous playwright. He wrote 37 plays and is still quoted today. There are 157 million google pages that mention him--the most of any famous person ever!

In theatre, it's considered bad luck to tell an actor, "Good luck" before a performance. Instead, you're supposed to say, "Break a leg!"

In Ancient Greece, audiences stamped their feet rather than clapping their hands to applaud.





# Everything about the Theatre!



**A mini-van is our hip and favored mode of transportation for touring the country!**

## THEATRE VOCABULARY!

**Actor:** The people on-stage performing the play.



**Backdrop:** The background for the play.

**Props:** Anything that an actor holds while on-stage--a cane, book or rubber chicken.

**Downstage:** The area closest to the audience a long time ago stage were built at angles.

**Upstage:** The area away from the audience, like the back wall of the a stage.

**Director:** The person who told the actors where to go while they were on-stage and helped them create the characters they played.

## Facts about us!

1. Did you know we're owned by an Emmy winning actor?
2. Our actors average 1,000 miles a week traveling the country to entertain young audiences.
3. Our programs have been seen in almost every corner of the country and even around the world.
4. We watch over 2000 actors audition before we cast our season.
5. We offer dozens of different shows a season from Black History to anti-bullying and literary classics.
6. We travel from Seattle, Washington to Moscow, Russia - and everywhere in between!
7. We're based in Asheville, NC.



## ABOUT US!

Founded in 2003, Bright Star Theatre tours the nation offering high quality, affordable, programs to every imaginable venue. We've had countless engagements at the National Theatre, toured to Moscow and are so grateful to be in your very school today!

**Costumes:** The wigs, clothing and glasses that the actors wore to help flush out their characters.



**Auditions:** How an actor gets a role is by auditioning. They may have to interview, pretend to be a character from the play or read something from it.

**Set Designer:** The person who decided what should be on the background and who painted or created it.

## The Process of a Play:

1. Actors audition
2. Directors cast the show (that means they choose actors)
3. The directors and actors rehearse the play (that means they practice it).
4. A team of people works on building the set, costumes and props.
5. The play opens (that means it is performed for the first time)!

Were there other terms that came from the experience of seeing the live play that you'd like to learn more about? What do you find interesting about live performances? Which do you like more, films or theatrical performances?

## BRIGHT STAR THEATRE

Bright Star Touring Theatre performs across the country from Boston to Burbank and many schools, museums, theaters and community events in between. Each season our shows run the gamut from Black History to anti-bullying, from literary classics to biographical shows, and more! Our shows are available throughout the year for any event in any part of the world.

## BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

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Learn more about this show, this company & our whole Season:

[www.brightstartheatre.com](http://www.brightstartheatre.com)

We want every show to be special and remarkable for our audience. Please feel free to connect with us at anytime to tell us about your experience:

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