



READER'S THEATER



Beauty and the Beast retold by Michael Dahl

Characters:

- Father** – reads at grade level
- Sister #1** – reads below grade level
- Sister #2** – struggling reader
- Beauty** – reads slightly above grade level
- The Beast** – reads slightly below grade level
- Narrator** – reads above grade level

Genre: Fairy Tale

Ages: 8-13

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Narrator: Many years ago, in a faraway kingdom, in a town that sat by the sea, a rich merchant lived at the top of a high hill with his three daughters. The youngest daughter was the loveliest and the kindest of the three. So the merchant called her Beauty.

Sister #1: That carriage ride took forever! And now my dress is full of dust!

Sister #2: I'm so glad to get home.

Father: I'm afraid I have some unpleasant news, my daughters. I must take another trip.

Sister #2: But you just returned!

Beauty: I worry about you, Father. There is so much danger for a traveler alone on the road.

Father: Don't be afraid, Beauty. You know how lucky your father is. Just tell me this. What would you like me to bring you when I return?

Sister #1: Presents? I just love presents! Bring me a new dress. The prettiest one you can find.

Sister #2: She means the most expensive!

Sister #1: Ha! So what do you want?

Sister #2: Jewels, of course. I need a new necklace and some earrings. My old ones are too dull.

Father: Anything you wish, my daughters. But what about you, Beauty? You haven't said anything?

Narrator: Beauty thought hard about her decision.

Father: Do you know what you want, Beauty?

Beauty: First, I want you to come home safely, Father.

Father: That I can promise, Beauty.

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- Beauty:** My poor roses have all been ruined by summer storms. Father, if you wish to bring me something, bring me a rose.
- Father:** Just one rose? Is that all?
- Beauty:** It will be enough.
- Father:** Then it will be the most perfect rose I can find, my dear.
- Narrator:** Early the next morning Father set off on his trip.
- Father:** Good-bye, my lovely daughters!
- Sister #2:** Good-bye, Father!
- Sister #1:** Remember my dress, Father!
- Beauty:** Please be careful, Father!
- Narrator:** The storm clouds worried Beauty, but the deep, dark forests frightened her even more.
- Father:** (Speaking to his horse) Come on, girl. Let's head into the forest. We'll be out of the rain in here.
- Narrator:** Later, as Father traveled through the woods, the storm worsened. Lightning cracked in the sky, lighting up a scary-looking castle. Then, Father saw a beautiful rose.
- Father:** What's this? It will make a perfect gift for Beauty.
- Narrator:** Suddenly, a huge, terrifying beast came out of the woods!
- Beast:** ROARRR! You have stolen one of my roses!
- Father:** Please, sir. I only meant it as a gift for my daughter, Beauty. Here take it back!
- Beast:** I should eat you here and now! Instead, I shall give you another chance. Send your daughter, Beauty. I want to see what this creature looks like who demands something that is not her own. Now go! Go before I change my mind and give in to my hunger!

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- Narrator:** Terrified, the merchant fled the forest. A day later, he returned home.
- Sister #1:** Father, it's lovely!
- Sister #2:** Oh, I can't wait to try it on!
- Narrator:** But as she watched her father that day, Beauty knew that he was in trouble.
- Beauty:** Father, is something wrong?
- Father:** This rose is for you, Beauty.
- Beauty:** I've never seen anything like it! It's beautiful!
- Father:** Yes, but there is something I must tell you about it.
- Narrator:** The merchant confessed to Beauty about the promise he made to the Beast. Because Beauty loved her father, she agreed to visit the monster the very next morning.
- Beauty:** This is the place that Father described.
- Narrator:** Suddenly, a loud creak came from inside the castle.
- Beast:** Welcome, young woman. Welcome to my home!
- Beauty:** I have come to fulfill my father's promise.
- Beast:** Yes, yes, but first . . . we shall eat.

What will happen to Beauty? Will she fulfill her father's promise to the Beast? More importantly, will she survive dinner? To find out, read *Beauty and the Beast: The Graphic Novel* from Stone Arch Books.

THE END