

the beauty of **BEASTS!**



Have you ever noticed how in stories and legends, beasts and monsters always seem to get a raw deal? In almost every case the beast or the monster will end up losing out: if the story pitches beast versus human, the human nearly always wins; if it's a case of a beautiful hero or heroine against an ugly monster, the beauty will always come out top.

It is almost as if humans have an unquenchable desire to tell stories and make films in which the beautiful and the human can beat the ugly and the monstrous. The reason for this could, of course, be that in real life we know that few of us, no matter how beautiful and courageous, would stand a chance if we had to pit ourselves against actual beasts or monsters. We just like to pretend that we can in stories!

Medusa



The Minotaur

At the same time we are fascinated by the idea of beasts and monsters. Most children love stories about fantastic creatures and vicious monsters, whether they be fairy tales or Harry Potter. And even grown-ups continue to be fascinated, with horror and science fiction films and stories still among the most popular of all fictions.

Some famous fictional beasts and monsters

Beasts and monsters have found their way into stories throughout history. From ancient Greece, we have many mythical tales of fabulous creatures such as:

Medusa, the Gorgon

Once a beautiful woman, Medusa was changed into a monster so hideous that a single glance at her face could turn you into stone. She was finally destroyed by the hero Perseus, who used his polished shield as a mirror so that he could see Medusa without looking directly at her face.

The Minotaur

A creature that was half-man, half-bull who lived in a labyrinth on the island of Crete. Every year seven youths and seven maidens were fed to the hungry Minotaur and nobody could challenge the beast because the labyrinth was such a complicated maze: any would-be hero venturing in would quickly get lost and be eaten. The Minotaur was finally killed by Theseus, who used a ball of string to help him find his way through the maze and out again.



Other creatures from Greek myths include centaurs (half-man, half-horse), satyrs (half-man, half-goat) and Cyclopes, giants who each had only one eye in the middle of the forehead.

The myths of many other lands also feature fearsome beasts, of which the most spectacular must be the dragons of European and Chinese mythology.

Werewolves are particularly

feared in many countries, as they can only be killed by silver bullets, which most people cannot lay their hands on!

Some of the most intriguing beasts are those that many still believe to exist, but have never been captured, creatures such as the Loch Ness Monster and the Abominable Snowman. Although science rejects their existence, many hundreds of people insist that they have come face to face with these spectacular, but shy, creatures.

Yeti Footprints

Quasimodo



Beasts from horror stories

Some of the most popular beasts in fiction come from horror and fantasy tales. Some like *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* and *The Phantom of the Opera* are human beings that look frightening, or have become deformed, whereas the monster created by Doctor Frankenstein is a 'human' made by stitching together body parts. In the story of *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* by Robert Louis Stevenson meanwhile, a normal human being turns into a hideous monster after drinking a special potion.

Fans of fantasy adventures are familiar with a whole host of hideous beasts such as orcs and Gollum from J R R Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings* to the many bizarre creatures that can be found in the Harry Potter books.

Are beasts always beastly?

One of the most unusual things about the *Beauty and the Beast* story is that the beast is not actually vicious or dangerous at all. In fact, he is as kind and noble as any normally 'beautiful' character would be. As mentioned, monsters and beasts are usually cast as the baddies, but occasionally we are surprised to find that a 'monstrous' character is actually not that bad.

Quasimodo, the disfigured Hunchback of Notre Dame, for example, turns out to be a big softy inside, as did the real-life character of The Elephant Man. Born in 1862 with a number of disfigurements, Joseph Merrick, also known as The Elephant Man, was shunned by many for his fearsome appearance, until a famous doctor decided to take him under his wing.

The Elephant Man surprised everyone by turning out to be a gentle, sensitive, intelligent man. His story ended on a happy note, as he was soon accepted by everyone who met him – including duchesses, countesses and the Princess of Wales – and he made many friends.

So not all beasts are beastly; many turn out, like the ugly duckling, to be something far more beautiful than they might at first seem.

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Joseph Merrick, The Elephant Man



A tale of true love

An illustration of the Beast and Belle from Disney's 'Beauty and the Beast'. The Beast is a large, brown, horned creature with a thick beard, wearing a blue coat with white ruffles and a gold chain. He is looking down at Belle, who is a small, balding man with a mustache, wearing a green shirt and a brown coat. Belle is looking up at the Beast with a surprised expression, his hands raised. The background is a light yellow color with several large, stylized roses in shades of orange and red. The overall style is classic and whimsical.

Although the theme of the fairy tale of *Beauty and the Beast* is a very old one, the story was not written down in a book until over two hundred years ago, in 1740. This is not quite the story we know today – it was very complicated and took up three hundred and sixty-two pages! So it's not really very surprising that the version of the story most people know is a much shorter one.

A father who has lost his way finds shelter in the castle of a noble beast. Before he leaves, he steals something from the castle garden, a rose which he had promised to take home for his youngest daughter, Beauty. The Beast is furious and threatens to kill him for this breach of hospitality, unless he offers him one of his three daughters as a bride. The father is distraught, but Beauty goes to the Beast's castle out of love for her father, and there she is treated like a princess. After giving her some time to get used to the strange ways of the castle, the Beast asks Beauty to marry him. She is still frightened by the Beast's appearance and his castle and cannot agree to his request. Then, her father falls dangerously ill and she begs the Beast to let her return home, promising to come back to him. He agrees and Beauty's father recovers under her loving care. The Beast meanwhile is heartbroken without Beauty. It is only when she returns to him that Beauty realises how much she has come to love the Beast, and through her love he becomes the handsome prince of her dreams.

Despite the many magical elements involved in the story, *Beauty and the Beast* is probably one of the most realistic of all the famous fairy tales. Unlike Cinderella, who falls in love in a single evening or Sleeping Beauty, who falls in love with a kiss, the two people in *Beauty and the Beast* actually spend a lot of time getting to know one another before they realise just how much they love each other.

Beauty and the Beast seems to have everything we could wish for from a good story: the main characters capture both our interest and our sympathies and they are believable as real people; the story reflects the kind of decisions we all have to make in life, even if here they are on a grander scale and, on top of all this, we still get plenty of magic and romance – no wonder *Beauty and the Beast* continues to be one of our very best-loved fairy tales.

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The three main characters: Beauty, her father and the Beast show gentleness and loving devotion towards each other, and the story very definitely sets out to tell us what 'true love' is all about. The Beast's castle, where all of Beauty's wishes come true as soon as she thinks of them, seems like just the sort of fantasy world any child would love to live in, but the story goes on to show that such a life soon loses its shine and becomes empty and boring. Whatever he looks like on the outside, we come to realise that the Beast is just as beautiful a person as Beauty herself.

Similar stories which prove the old sayings of 'beauty is only skin deep' and 'you can't judge a book by looking at its cover' go back many hundreds of years. And *Beauty and the Beast* has also inspired modern variations, first pantomimes nearly two hundred years ago, then films of the actual story and also other stories of male 'beasts' being saved by the selfless love of a beautiful girl, like the story of the film *Edward Scissorhands*.

Beauty and the Beast seems to have everything we could



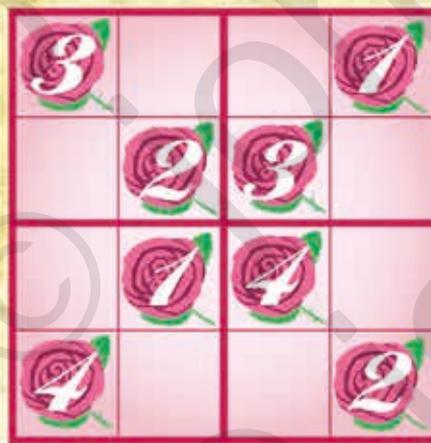


Beauty's SuDoku

To while away the hours wandering in the Beast's rose garden, Beauty passed the time making up sudoku puzzles.

The first one she made had 16 squares, divided into four smaller boxes of four squares each. The idea is to fill it so that every row and column of the large grid and every smaller 2 x 2 box contains each of the four numbers inside the roses.

Can you solve it?



The next puzzle she made was even harder—she made the grid bigger, so that each row, column and box has six squares. See if you can do this one!



Dot to Dot



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Spot the Difference



There are six differences between these two pictures of the Beast in his rose garden.

Can you spot them all?



Beastly Wordsearch



CAN YOU FIND THE WORDS LISTED BELOW IN THE WORDSQUARE?

They are all hidden somewhere. Cross out the words as you find them, and the remaining letters will spell out something you will find in the Beast's garden.

D G C R Y F P G R
R A D A S O A U O
E R U S E R L E Y
D D D G B E A S T
E E L S H S C T U
K N O T O T E B A
C I G A M E E T E
I U N Y E S O R B
W D S D L L E P S

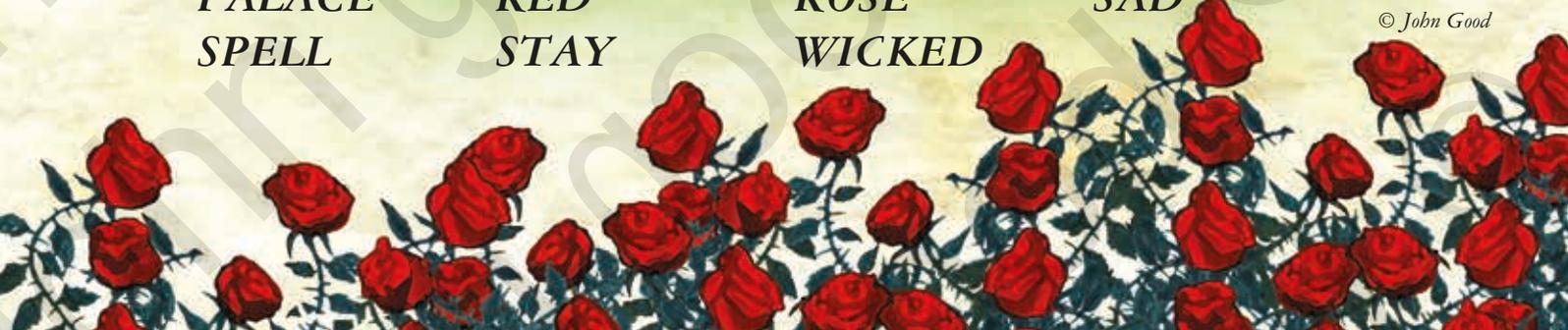
*BEAST
FOREST
HOME
PALACE
SPELL*

*BEAUTY
GARDEN
KIND
RED
STAY*

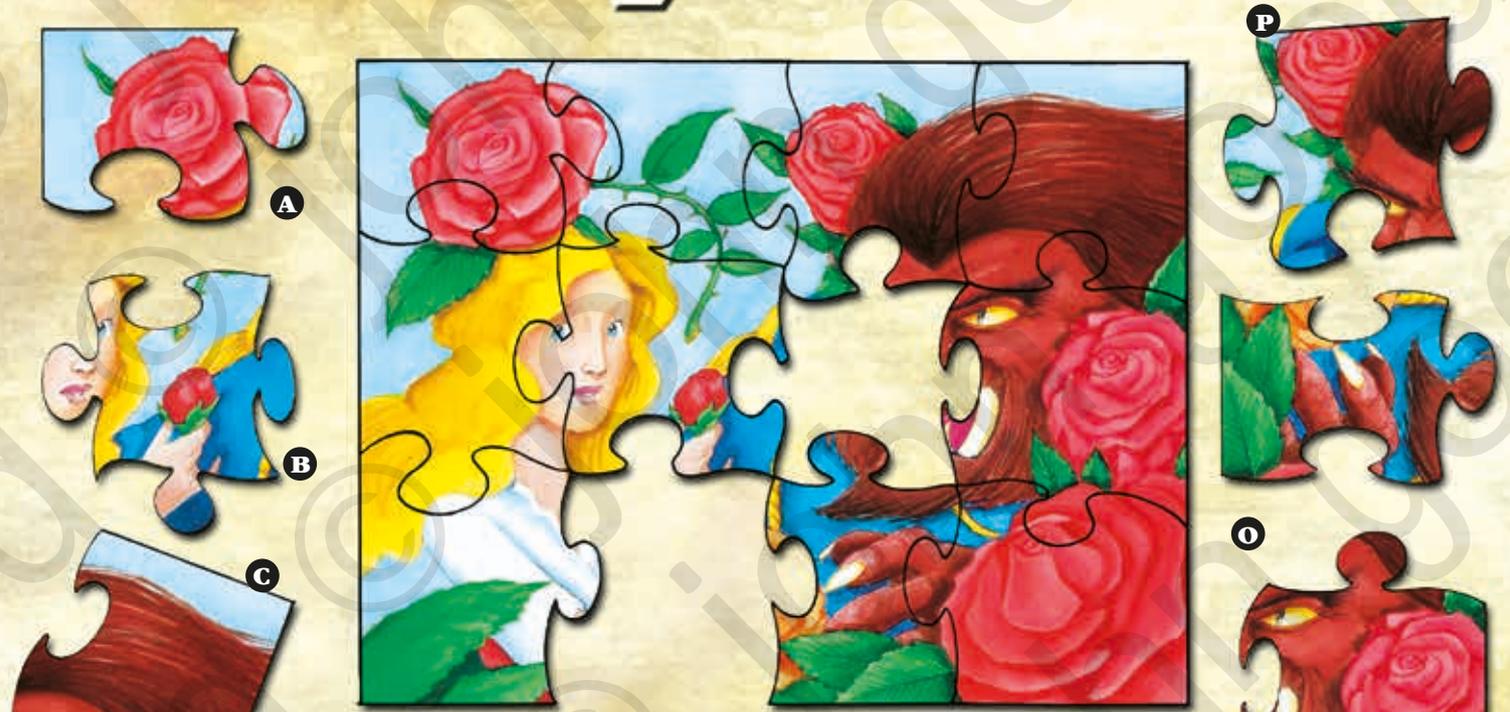
*CRY
GOLD
MAGIC
ROSE
WICKED*

*DAUGHTER
GUEST
MEET
SAD*

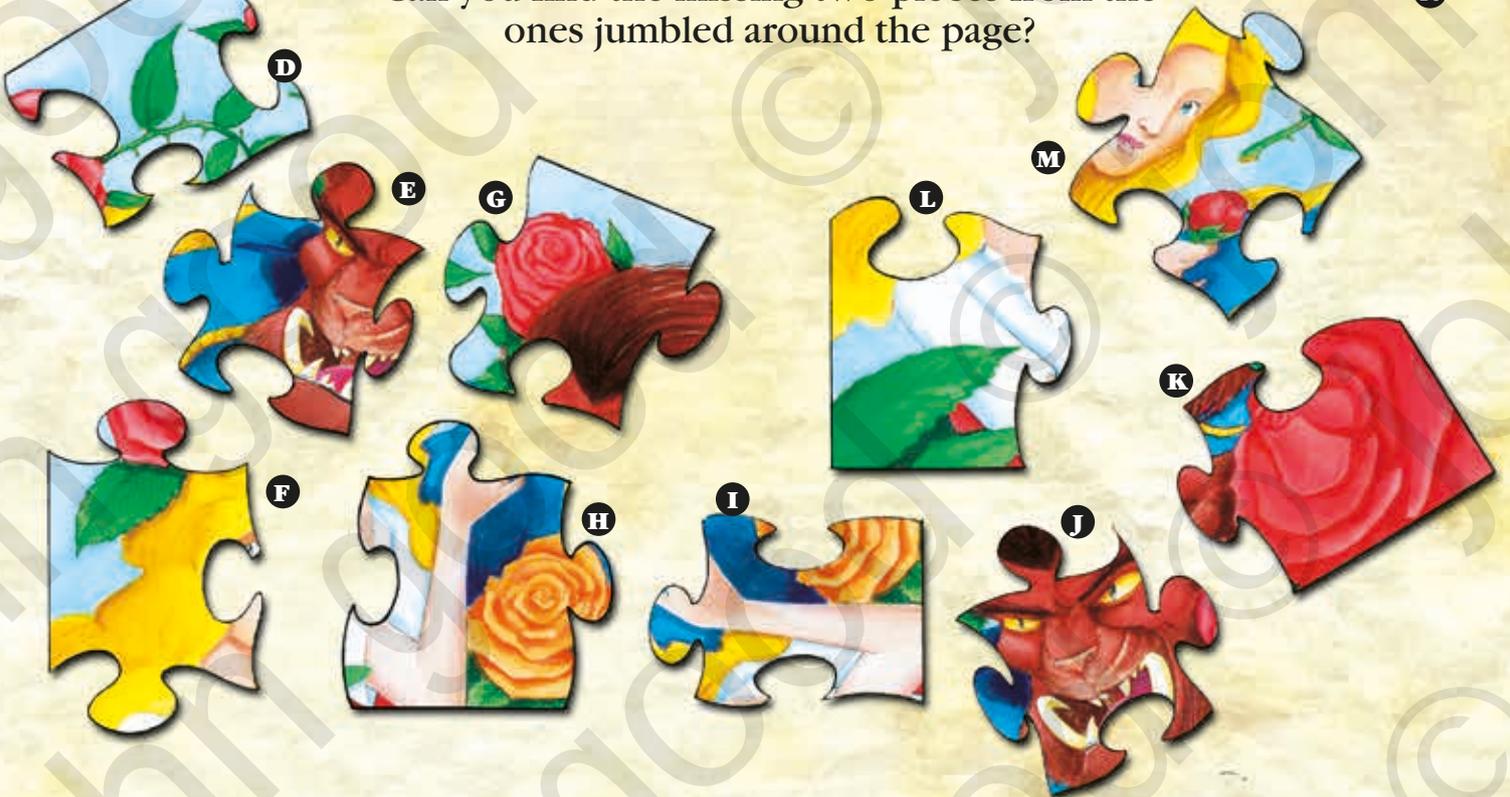
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bits and pieces



This jigsaw has some pieces missing from it.
Can you find the missing two pieces from the ones jumbled around the page?



Rose maze



Beauty's father has been discovered by the Beast!

Can you help him find the trail that leads to the white rose?



Opposites Attract

The story of Beauty and the Beast is about a beautiful young lady and an ugly-looking creature.

They were the complete opposite of each other.

See if you know the opposites of the words listed opposite!

SMALL

STRONG

SHINY

DARK

FAMILIAR

RICH

HAPPY

GOOD

FEAR



Colour In



Answers

Spot the Difference



Rose Maze



Opposites Attract

LARGE, WEAK, DULL,
LIGHT, ODD, POOR, SAD,
BAD, BRAVERY

Beauty's SuDoku

3	4	2	7
7	2	3	4
2	7	4	3
4	3	7	2

4	2	3	7	6	5
5	7	6	3	4	2
6	4	7	2	5	3
2	3	5	4	7	6
3	5	4	6	2	7
7	6	2	5	3	4

Beastly Wordsearch

D	G	C	R	Y	F	P	G	R
R	A	B	A	S	O	A	U	O
E	R	U	S	E	R	L	E	Y
D	D	D	C	B	E	A	S	T
E	E	L	S	H	S	C	T	U
K	N	O	T	O	T	E	B	A
C	I	G	A	M	E	E	T	E
I	U	N	Y	E	S	O	R	B
W	D	S	D	L	L	E	P	S

ANSWER: ROSEBUDS

Bits & Pieces

