



BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

STUDY GUIDE 😊



The story of Beauty and the Beast has been around since 1740. A woman named **Gabrielle-Suzanne Barbot de Villeneuve** wrote the tale, titled La belle et la bête.



The Disney movie is actually based on a later version of this story, written in 1756 by **Jeanne-Marie Leprince de Beaumont** that far surpassed Villeneuve's in popularity.



The original themes of the story were **class disparity** and country life as opposed to noble life.

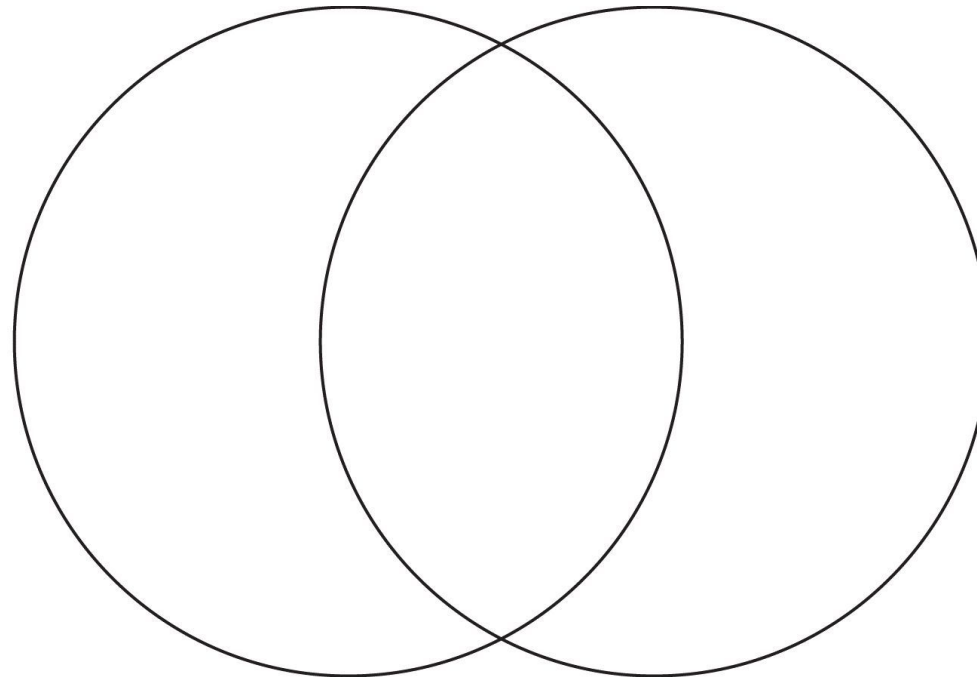
DID YOU KNOW?

FOR FURTHER STUDY...

Follow this link to read the original tale of Beauty and the Beast. Fill out this Venn diagram comparing Beaumont's tale with the Disney version.

<https://www.pitt.edu/~dash/beauty.html>

Beaumont



Disney

TALE AS OLD AS TIME...

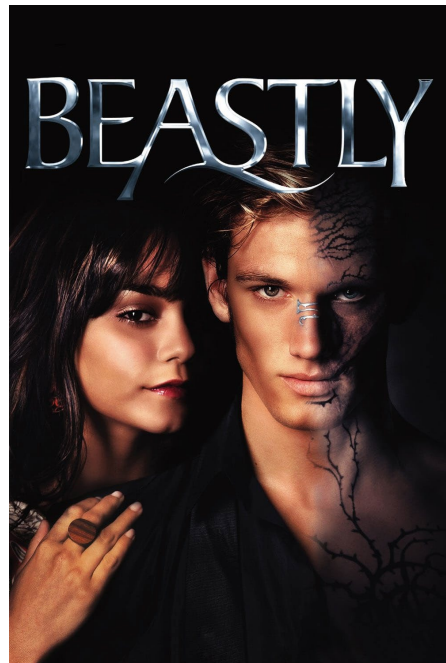
Beauty and the Beast is one of the most beloved stories of all time. How many adaptations can you think of that follow this basic storyline?



MORE ADAPTATIONS...



Beauty and the Beast, 2017



Beastly, 2011



La Belle et la Bête, 1946



Once Upon a Time, TV series



The Beautician and the Beast, 1997

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

There's actually no concrete setting for Beauty and the Beast, but Disney settled on the 1750s as inspiration for this storybook tale. This is pre-revolution France, as the big French Revolution started in 1789. France was, however, facing large tensions between the bourgeoisie (wealthy) and the proletariat (poor). We can assume the king of all France during this time is Louis XV, a highly unpopular king due to his affairs, losing the territory of Canada during the Seven Years' War, and just being overall a weak king.



FASHION

Most of our costumes are inspired by the Rococo period in France. This includes:



Men's pants, or breeches, in the style of "fall"



Mobcaps for women

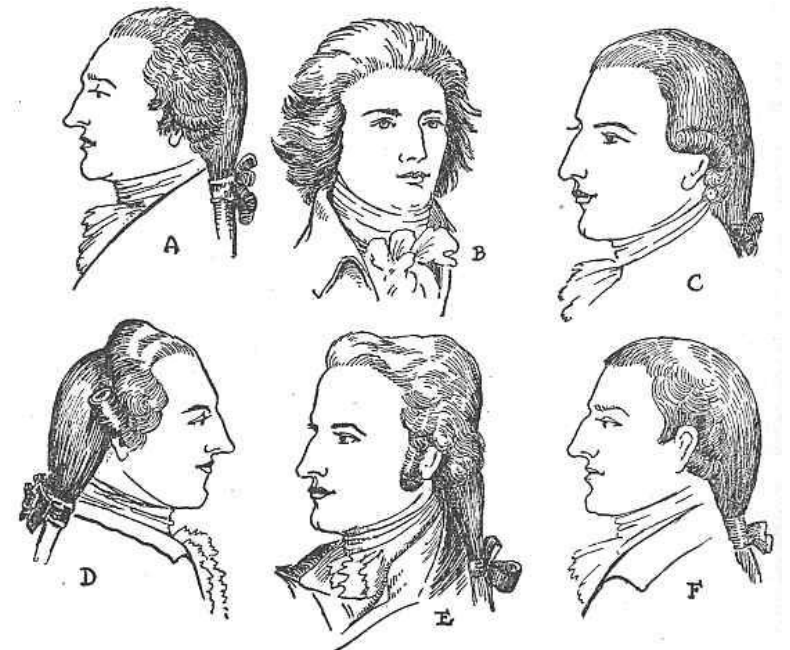


FIGURE 71

Men's hairstyles shown above

**Watch carefully in the show for lace cuffed sleeves, dresses tight in the waist, and ornate patterns on fabrics!

MORE FASHION



The pannier, worn under the dress for volume



The “sack back” dress

FRENCH

Try pronouncing a few French words after hearing them in the show! (Tip: Try imagining your top lip touching your nose as you speak the French!)

- “bonjour” = “hello”
- “oui” = “yes”
- “s’il vous plait” = “please”
- “maison de lunes” = “house of moons”
- “joie de vie” = “joy of living”
- “tout suit” = “right away”



COURT ETIQUETTE

To be in the royal court of France, you had to follow some pretty crazy rules. Here's just a few!

- Knocking was a big no-no. Instead, you grew out one fingernail to scratch at the doorpost.
- You could only wear red heels if you were in good favor with the King.
- You could not turn your back on royalty, so you had to simply back out of rooms.
- The Queen could only be dressed by the highest-ranking lady in the room: if someone else came in, she had to wait for them to pass the clothes to that higher-ranked lady.

THEMES TO PONDER

- **What in the end makes us beauty or beast—and how do we transform in reaction to it?**
- **Judging a book by its cover**
- **Inner beauty**
- **Fear of the unknown**
- **Mob mentality**
- **What it means to be a bystander or complacent in evil rather than standing up and saying something**
- **Light and shadow**
- **Transformation of the soul and restoration**
- **Exclusion and its effect on the excluded**
- **Presence vs contact**
- **What absence of contact leads to**
- **Your expectations of the world vs reality (and how sometimes reality can be even better)**
- **Sacrifice**
- **Where identity comes from**
- **Exile**
- **Community**
- **The love of community**

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

Beauty and the Beast

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

BEAUTY
BEAST
BELLE
LUMIERE
COGSWORTH
FRANCE
OUI
BONJOUR
PROLETARIAT
BOURGEOISE
BABETTE
ETIQUETTE
ROCOCO
SACKBACK
FALL
PANNIER