

# A Tale of True Love

**A**lthough 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 200 years ago, in 1740. This is not quite the story we know today - it was very complicated and took up 362 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.

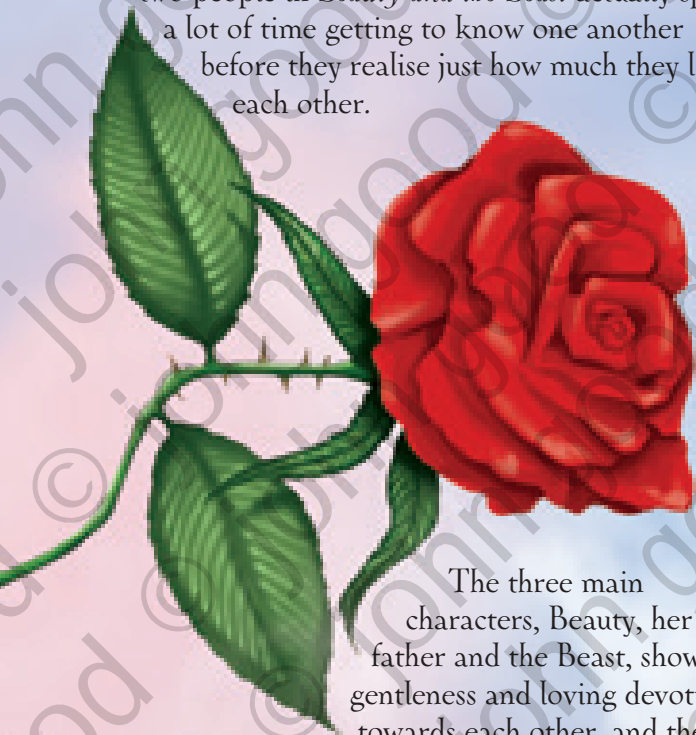
Then, her father falls dangerously ill and she begs the Beast to let her return home, promising to come back to him. He agrees and Beauty's father recovers under her loving care. The Beast meanwhile is heartbroken without Beauty. It is only when she returns to him that Beauty realises how much she has 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 200 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*.





# All Things Dark and Horrible

Why is it that we all like tales of 'beasts' so much? Stories throughout the ages are full of mythical creatures guaranteed to make us shudder, particularly if told in the dark of night. In fairy tales, an ordinary boy or girl is often pitted against vile monsters ranging from giants to witches to wolves. With the odds stacked against our hero or heroine, we are firmly on their side and silently applaud as they use their inner qualities such as cunning and bravery to outsmart these vile creatures. We want the underdog to win and we want good to triumph over evil. The outer ugliness of these monsters is used to demonstrate the evil nature of their true characters.

The difference in *Beauty and the Beast* is that the Beast is actually rather nice. In fact, he's a prince who has been cursed to appear as a beast and he is really kind and noble. This story shows us that appearances can be deceptive and, just because someone isn't physically beautiful, doesn't mean they are not a good person. It is important to look beyond the exterior and see what lies within, an important lesson to learn and a sentiment summed up in old sayings such as 'beauty is only skin deep' and 'you can't judge a book by its cover'.

The truth is though that sometimes we want our monsters to be 'bad'; it really does make life so much simpler and it's fun! So here are some mythical and fictional 'baddies' you really wouldn't want to meet.

## Medusa, the Gorgon

In Greek mythology, Medusa, once a beautiful woman, 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 Abominable Snowman



*(otherwise known as the yeti)*

In the Himalayan regions of Nepal and Tibet, there have been reported sightings of a giant creature living in the higher mountain peaks since the 19th century. In 1889, a major in the British Army saw huge footprints in the snow, which appeared to belong to neither human nor any known animal type. The locals described to him a 'yeti', which would attack humans and take them away to eat. A 'sighting' in 1902 described a creature "three metres in height, with a hairy body, an alarming face without hairs, yellow and sharp-edged teeth, with red and cold eyes".

## Vampires

Today, when thinking of vampires, most of us conjure up the image of the fictional vampire Dracula created by Bram Stoker in 1897. However, legends of a creature who overcomes death by sucking the blood from living humans have existed throughout Europe for centuries, with characteristics particular to different countries. For example, in Bavaria, vampires were reputed to sleep with thumbs crossed and one eye open, Bulgarian vampires had only one nostril and, best of all, Albanian vampires apparently wore high-heeled shoes! Gives a whole new meaning to 'a killer pair of heels'.

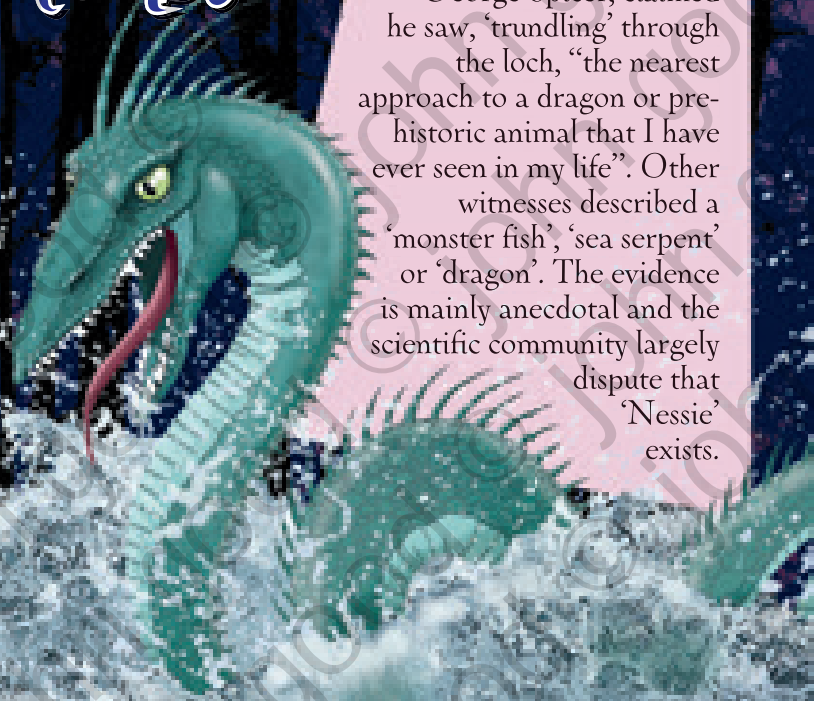
A creature who was half-man, half-bull, and lived in a labyrinth on the island of Crete. Every

## The Minotaur



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.

## The Loch Ness Monster

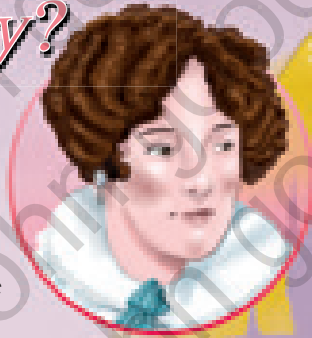


Rumours of the Scottish lake monster first came to light in 1933 when a London man, George Spicer, claimed he saw, 'trundling' through the loch, "the nearest approach to a dragon or pre-historic animal that I have ever seen in my life". Other witnesses described a 'monster fish', 'sea serpent' or 'dragon'. The evidence is mainly anecdotal and the scientific community largely dispute that 'Nessie' exists.

# Everything You Wanted to Know About Beauty and the Beast

## 1 How old is the Beauty and the Beast story?

Over 250 years old! The original story was written in 1740 by a French lady with a reeeeeeally long name called Gabrielle-Suzanne Barbot de Villeneuve. Her version was meant for adults and was quite dark and scary. We *would* tell you more about it, but it would give you nightmares for weeks!



## 3 Were those really the first versions?

Probably not, no. People had been telling very similar stories for many years, but no one had bothered to write one down before Gabrielle.

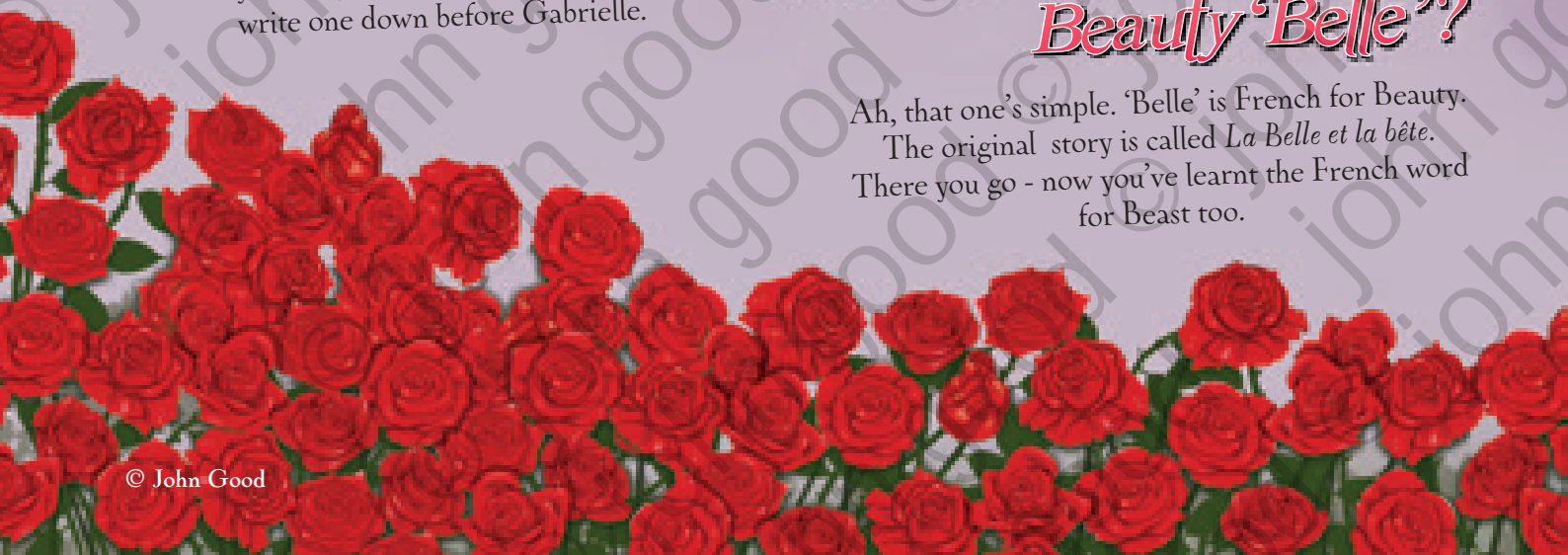


## 2 Was that the only version?

No, there was a second version written 17 years later by another French lady with another loooooong name called Jeanne-Marie Leprince de Beaumont. She was rather cheeky and pinched Gabrielle's story for herself. She chucked out a lot of complicated backstory, like Beauty discovering she is the daughter of a king and a fairy (who isn't in the panto!), and made it more suitable for kids.

## 4 Why do lots of versions of the story call Beauty 'Belle'?

Ah, that one's simple. 'Belle' is French for Beauty. The original story is called *La Belle et la bête*. There you go - now you've learnt the French word for Beast too.



## 5 How many adaptations of the story exist?

Too many to count. But here's a few of the strangest:

- Beauty and the Beast both attend an American high school (2011 film);
- Beauty is a New York lawyer and the Beast lives under the city (1980s TV series);
- Beauty is a princess and the Beast is a werewolf (1962 film);
- Beauty and the Beast live in Viking times (2005 film);
- Beauty is a cop and the Beast is a science experiment gone wrong; together, they solve crimes (2012 TV series).

## 7 Are there any other famous ones?

Yes, there was also a French film in 1946 called...you guessed it, *La Belle et la bête*. We'd tell you more about it, but we only know two French words.

## 9 What's the message of Beauty and the Beast?

The main message is: don't judge someone by their looks. Just because someone isn't considered pretty on the outside doesn't mean they aren't a nice person on the inside. This works both ways: sometimes pretty people can turn out to be the biggest meanies.

## 10 What other stories have been inspired by Beauty and the Beast?

- *Shrek* - a horrible green ogre falls in love with a princess (who is secretly an ogre too).
- *The Hunchback of Notre-Dame* - a hunchback falls in love with a gypsy girl.
- *The Thing* from the comic book *Fantastic Four* - a man made of rock falls in love with a blind woman.
- *Jane Eyre* - a governess falls in love with a moody man called Mr Rochester.

## 6 What's the most famous version?

Most people tend to remember the 1991 Disney film. It was a pretty big deal because it was the first animated film to ever be nominated for Best Picture at the Oscars. Did you know Disney had first started planning that film in the 1930s?

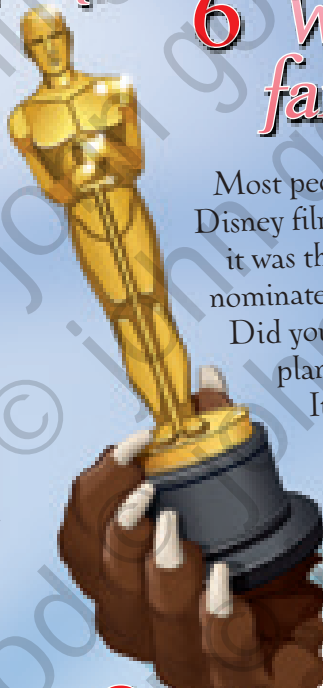
It took them over 50 years to figure it out.

## 8 What is the Beast supposed to look like?

Different stories have had different ideas.

Nowadays, people tend to depict him as a lion. This is because that's how he looked in the 1946 film.

There are also versions where he looks like a boar, a stag, a frog, a wolf and a bison. That's one scary combo!



# Flower Fun

Can you find 24 red roses on these two pages?

Also, can you find a bluebell, a dandelion, a daisy, a buttercup and a tulip?

# 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 opposite of these words:

Small

Strong

Familiar

Happy

Good

Fear

Shiny

Dark

Rich

# Panto

# Prickly Problem!

Use the thorny code to work out the secret message below!



Secret message:



# Puzzlers!

# Dot to Dot!

## Spot the Difference

Can you spot the six differences between these two princes?



## First Kiss

Relax your eyes and stare at the space between Belle and the Beast. Slowly bring the page towards your face and see them share their first kiss!





# Wonderful 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

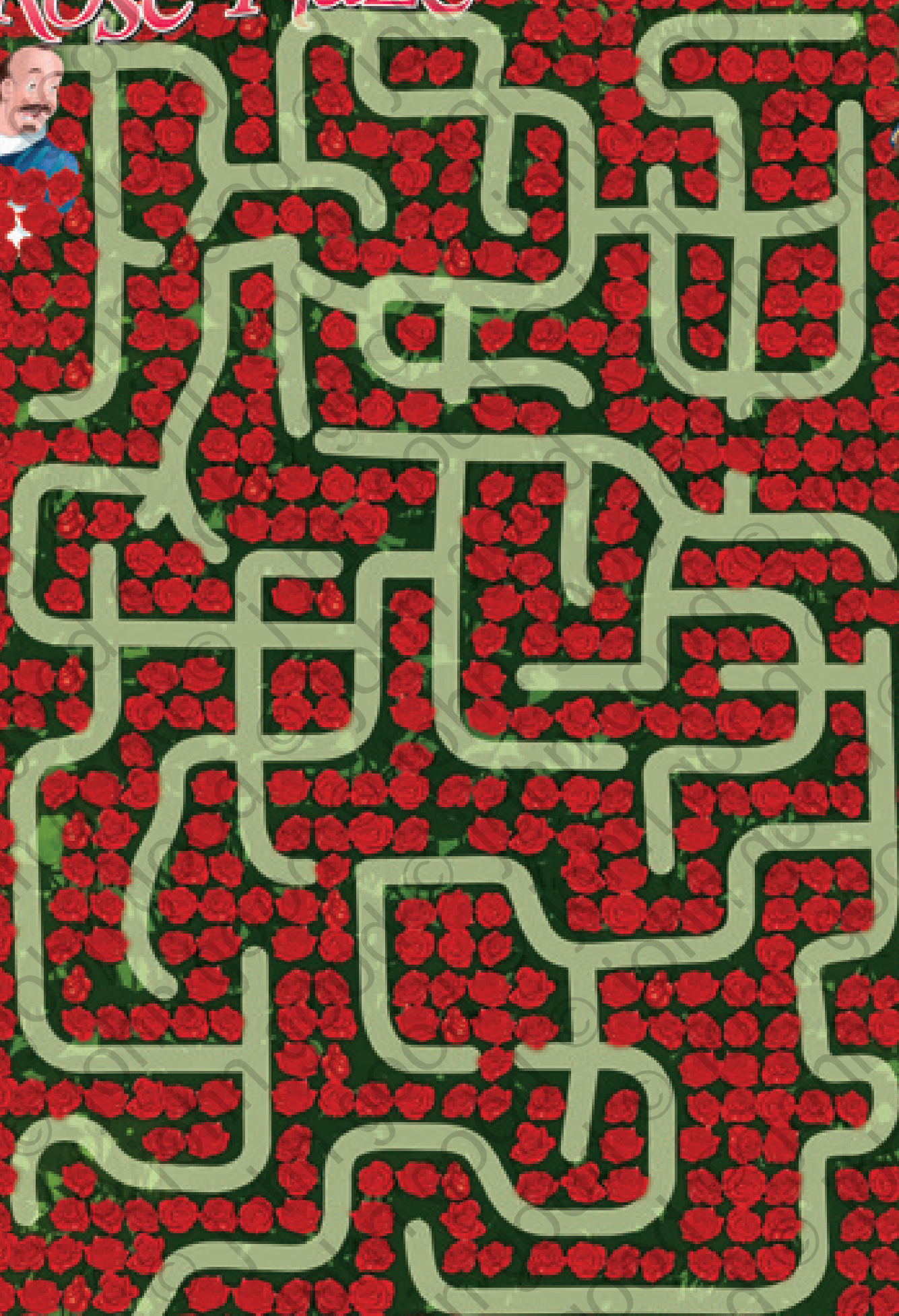
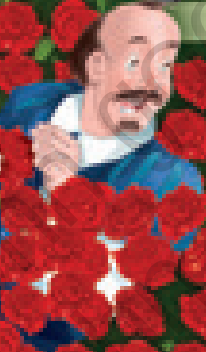
BEAST  
FOREST  
HOME  
PALACE  
SPELL

BEAUTY  
GARDEN  
KIND  
RED  
STAY

CRY  
GOLD  
MAGIC  
ROSE  
WICKED

DAUGHTER  
GUEST  
MEET  
SAD

# Rose Maze



Beauty's father has been discovered by the Beast!  
Can you help him find the trail that leads to the white rose?

# Colour Me In



# 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?



3			1
	2	3	
	1	4	
4			2

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!



4					5
5		6	2		3
		1	5		
	5			2	
6		5	4		2
1					6

# Beastly Baking

Why not tempt your friends with these deliciously wicked cupcakes?



Ask an adult to help you! First we need to make our cupcakes. These are the ingredients you will need to make 12:

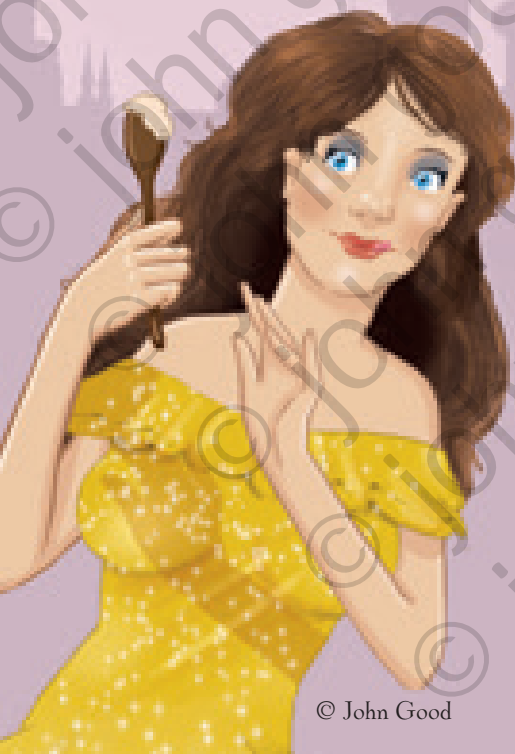
Two large eggs ▶ One tsp vanilla essence  
Two tbsp cocoa powder ▶ 125g/4oz caster sugar  
125g/4oz soft margarine  
125g/4oz self-raising flour

- 1 Turn on the oven and heat it up to 180°C/350°F/Gas Mark 4.
- 2 Crack the eggs into a bowl and beat lightly with a fork.
- 3 Add the other ingredients and beat until you have a smooth mixture.
- 4 Put 12 cake cases on a baking sheet and half-fill each of them with the mixture.
- 5 Cook the cakes for 18 – 20 minutes. You can easily tell when they are done when they have risen up and spring back into shape when lightly pressed.

Now to make them beastly!

For this, you'll need some marshmallows, a big bar of milk chocolate and some sweets to use for faces.

- 1 Melt the milk chocolate in a glass bowl in the microwave, or over a saucepan of simmering water.
- 2 Dip the marshmallows into the melted chocolate and swirl them around to cover them. Bring them out and lay them flat on a paper plate for the chocolate to harden.
- 3 Now use your imagination and decorate them with sweets to make them as beastly as you can! For the face, you could use chocolate buttons for eyes and strawberry laces to do a mouth.
- 4 Finally, use some of the melted chocolate to stick them on top of the cakes.



# Other Cursed Princes



Turns out that the Beast isn't the only prince who has been cursed. Can you work out who these five beasts used to look like?

# Answers!

## Beauty's SuDoku

3	4	2	1
1	2	3	4
2	1	4	3
4	3	1	2

4	2	3	1	6	5
5	1	6	2	4	3
2	6	1	5	3	4
3	5	4	6	2	1
6	3	5	4	1	2
1	4	2	3	5	6

## Rose Maze



## Wonderful Wordsearch



## Other Cursed Princes

- A 4      B 5
- C 1      D 3
- E 2

# Answers!



*Spot the Difference*

*Prickly Problem!*

PLEASE DON'T  
PICK ANY OF THE  
RED ROSES

*Opposites Attract*

Large

Weak

Strange

Sad

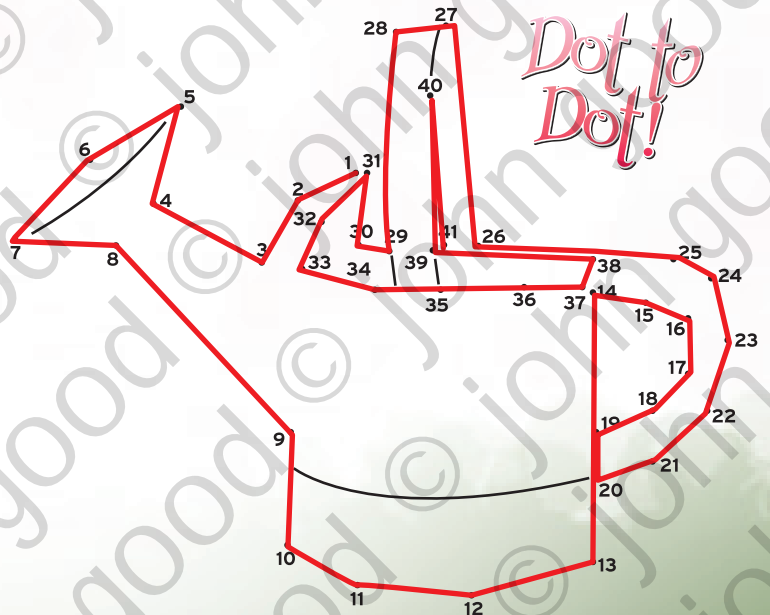
Bad

Bravery

Dull

Light

Poor



*Dot to Dot!*