



ALL THINGS

DARK AND HIDEOUS

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.



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'.



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 nineteenth 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 meters in height, with a hairy body, an alarming face without hairs, yellow and sharp-edged teeth, with red and cold eyes".



THE MINOTAUR

A creature who was half-man, half-bull and 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.



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.




A TALE OF TRUE LOVE

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 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 a rose from the castle garden 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. In the meantime 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 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.

A vibrant illustration of Belle and the Beast. Belle, with her signature long blonde hair, is shown in profile, looking up at the Beast. She wears a white dress with a blue collar and a yellow sash. The Beast is depicted with a large, shaggy red head and a white ruffled collar. He is holding Belle's hand. The background is a bright blue sky with white clouds and a pink castle silhouette. The foreground is filled with a light blue path covered in pink and red roses. The overall style is whimsical and colorful.

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 has 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*. It 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 best-loved fairy tales.

Spot the Difference

There are 14 differences between these two pictures of the Beast in his rose garden. Can you spot them all?



beastly WORDSEARCH

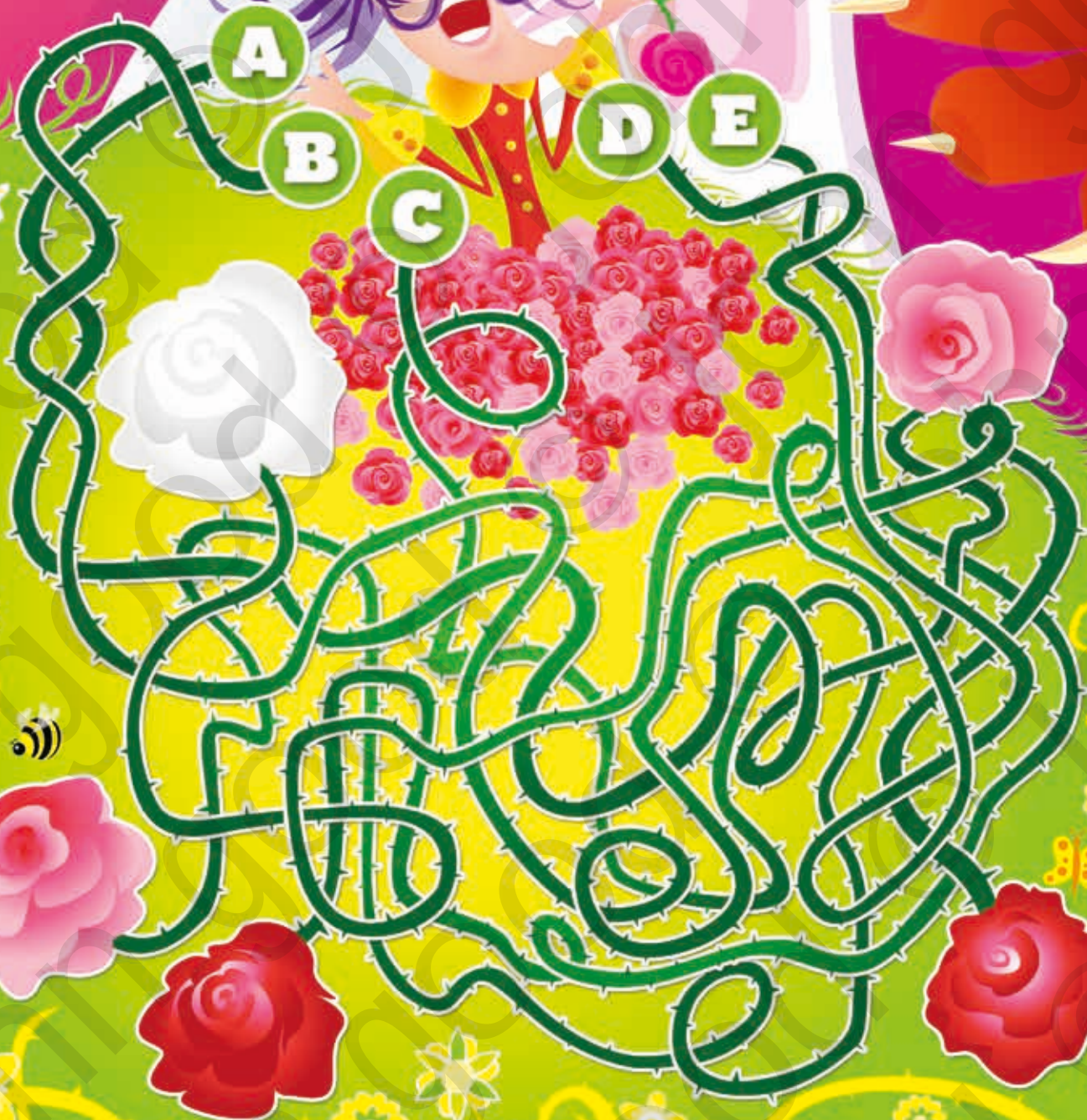
D G C R Y F P G R
R A D A S O A U O
E R U S E R L E Y
D D D G B E A S T
E E L S H S C T U
K N O T O T E B A
C I G A M E E T E
I U N Y E S O R B
W D S D L L E P S

Can you find all the words listed below? 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!

- | | | | | |
|----------|--------|-------|--------|--------|
| 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?



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:

2 large eggs
1 tsp vanilla essence
2 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 tell 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.

opposites attract

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



SMALL

STRONG

SHINY

DARK

FAMILIAR

RICH

HAPPY

GOOD

FEAR

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

They were the complete opposite of each other.



Flower Fun

Beast's magical garden is blooming but how many roses can you see?

Hidden among the roses are some other flowers. Can you find and identify them from this list?

Dandelion
Forget-me-not
Poppy
Daisy
Cornflower

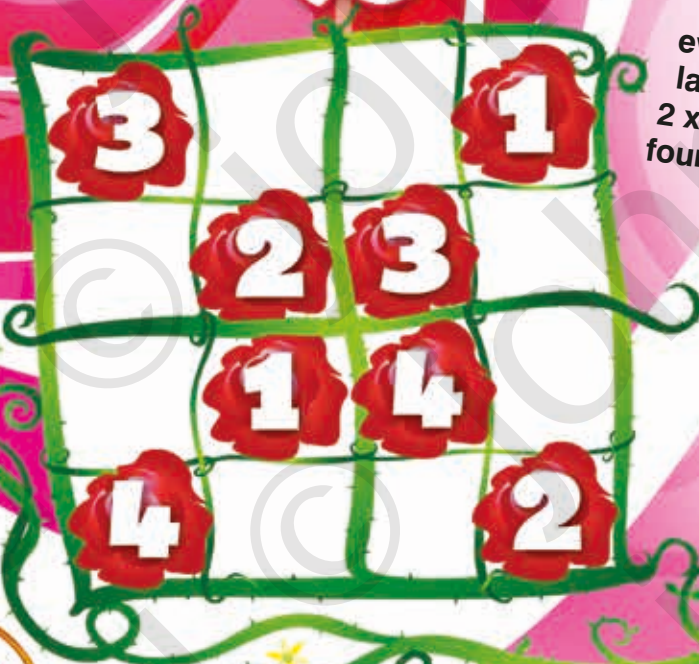
Beauty's SUDOKU

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.

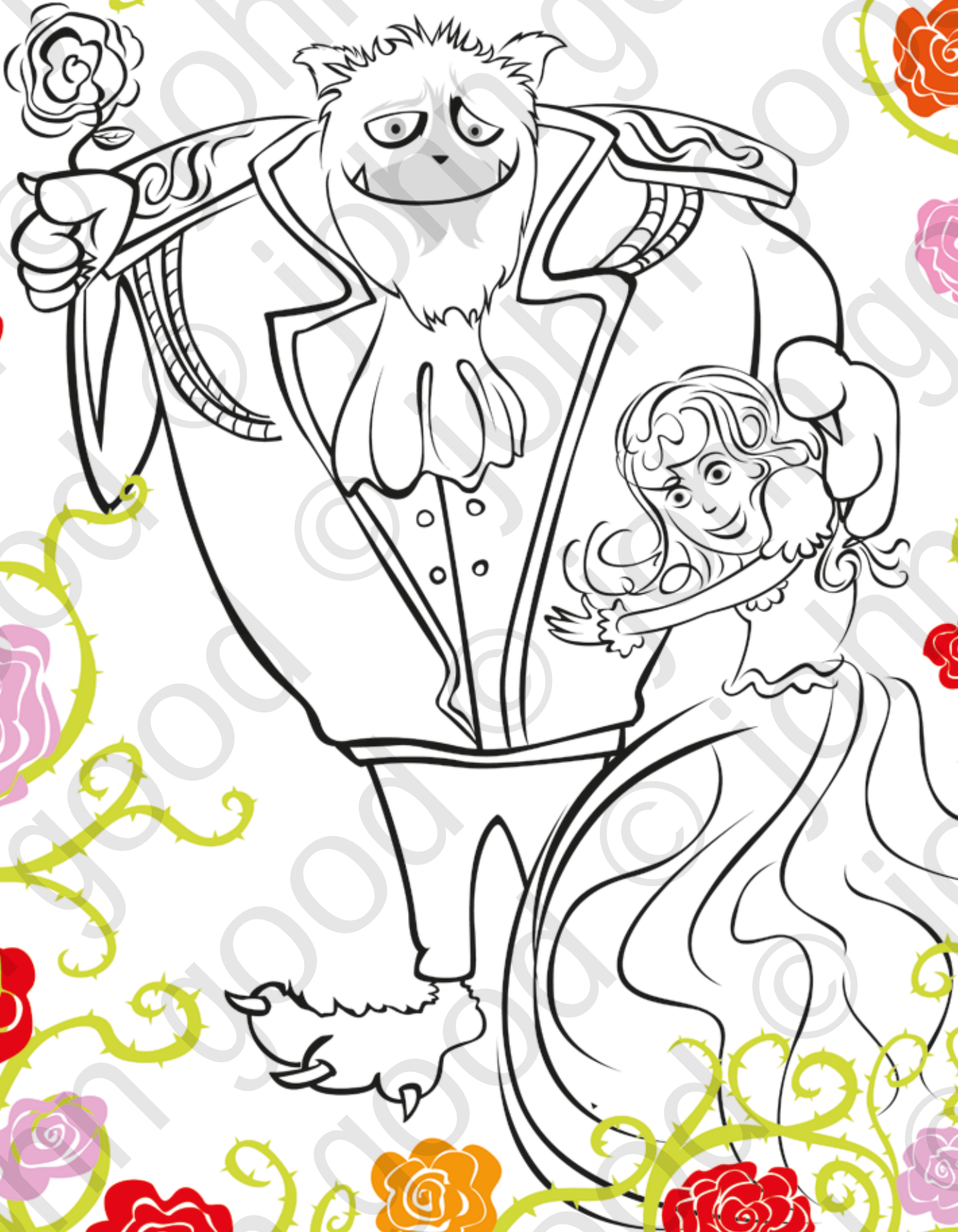
Can you solve it?



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!



COLOUR ME IN



Answers

Spot the Difference



beastly WORDSEARCH



Answer: ROSEBUDS

opposites attract

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

beauty's SUDOKU



Rose Maze



Flower Fun



Cornflower

Daisy

Dandelion

Poppy

Forget-me-not

Answers

