

A PARENT'S GUIDE TO

Beauty and the Beast

This informational and fun guide has been prepared to serve as a resource to help you navigate meaningful conversations with your elementary and middle school aged children around themes presented in Olney Theatre's production of Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*—beauty, judgement, kindness, and bravery. We hope this provides context for your child's experience.



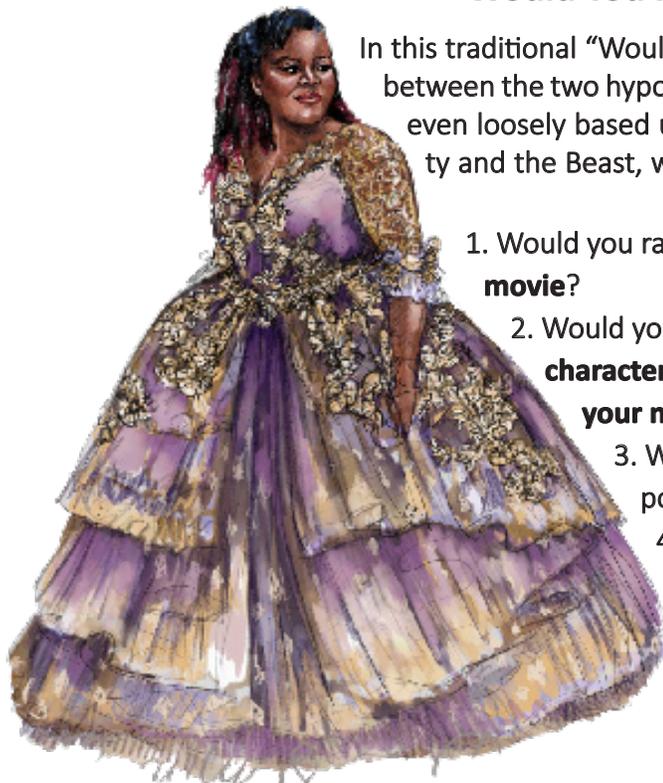
Pre-Show Questions

1. What makes a person beautiful?
2. What do you believe makes you feel beautiful or unique?
3. What are you missing out on when you spend your time and energy focusing on just your appearance or someone's looks?
4. In our society, we tend to focus on one version of beauty for all people, even though everyone looks different. Do you believe this is fair? Why or why not?
5. Describe a time when you felt like you were growing up and changing. What was that moment like? How did you feel? What did you learn from that experience?

Intermission Activities

Would You Rather? (Ages 5+)

In this traditional "Would you rather..." style game, choose your favorite option between the two hypothetical scenarios. Some of these exciting questions are even loosely based upon ideas, scenes, and magical characters from *Beauty and the Beast*, who are faced with difficult and not-so-difficult choices.



1. Would you rather read your **favorite book** or watch your **favorite movie**?
2. Would you rather dress you up in your **favorite cartoon character's clothes** or clothes that **change color depending on your mood**?
3. Would you rather have the power to **freeze time** or the power to **time travel**?
4. Would you rather have an **ice-cream party** or a **pizza party**?
5. Would you rather have **magical powers but live alone** or have **no powers and live with your best friends**?



Intermission Activities



Evolution of Beauty Trivia: (Ages 10+)

The idea of what makes individuals beautiful has consistently changed over time, but perceptions surrounding beauty standards have also varied based on cultural differences and beliefs throughout history. This trivia game covers questions about multiple beauty standards that have evolved over time in places all over the world and have set different expectations for beauty in general! Please choose the correct option between either A, B, C, or D . You can find the answers at the bottom of this page.

1. Which culture favored black teeth during the Heian period (794 AD to 1185 AD)?

- A. Chinese
- B. Japanese
- C. Spanish
- D. Lithuanian

2. How long were Chinese women's nails in the Qing Dynasty (1644 to 1912)?

- A. 1 inch
- B. 3 inches
- C. 0 inches, they bit their nails.
- D. Up to 10 inches

3. What is considered a symbol of beauty in Maori culture?

- A. Nose piercing
- B. Tattoos
- C. Elongated Earlobes
- D. Belly Button Piercing

4. Which society believed the unibrow was beautiful?

- A. The Aztecs
- B. The Mayans
- C. The Ancient Greeks
- D. The Persian Civilization

5. What did women use to glue their wigs onto their heads in the 18th century?

- A. Lard
- B. Toothpaste
- C. Petroleum jelly
- D. Tomato sauce

After the Show: More Conversations

Beauty and the Beast covers wonderful themes including the importance of beauty, kindness, and empathy. We have curated additional questions, aside from the program materials, that you can ask kids on the way home from the show. You can use these questions as a guide to help process your child's experience watching the show.

Post-Show Questions

1. Has there ever been a time when you felt misunderstood like the Beast? If so, how did you feel? Has there been a moment when you felt like you misunderstood someone else?
2. In Beauty and the Beast, Gaston and the townspeople are cruel and bully the Beast. What is one way you can stand up for a friend who has been bullied?
3. Have you ever been judged before someone has gotten to know you? What did that feel like? Why do you think it is important to never judge a book by its cover?
4. Although Gaston is very handsome on the outside, would you say he is a beautiful person? Why or why not?
5. What specific changes did you notice at the end of Beauty and the Beast? This can include costumes, set design, character changes, changes of heart, etc.

