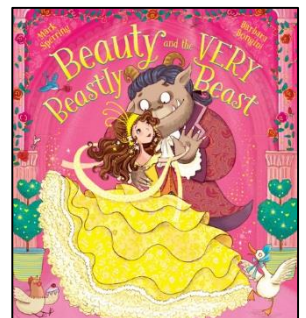




Beauty and the Very Beastly Beast
Written by Mark Sperring and illustrated
by Barbara Bongini

1 – Introducing the book

- Before starting to read the story, ask the children if they know the fairy tale of Beauty and the Beast. What happens in the story? What other fairy tales do they know?
- The title of this version of the story refers to a ‘very beastly beast’. What features do children think might make him particularly beastly? Could it be the way he looks or how he behaves?
- Look at the front cover of the story. Does Beauty look frightened to be with the Beast or do they look like friends?
- Read the first page of the story which introduces all the members of Beauty’s family. Invite children to talk about who is in their family. Beauty’s family has hens, ducks, a goose, a pig and a dog. Ask children if they have any animals at home.
- Popsey offers to bring something back from the city for each of his girls. If he was your father, what would you ask him to bring back? Why?

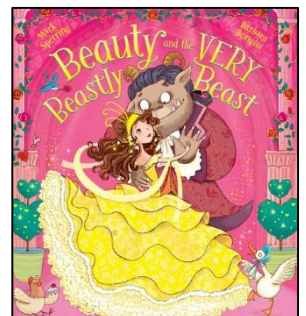




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1 – Introducing the book

- Talk about why it was a problem for Popsey to pick the rose from the Beast's garden. Explore concepts of stealing. Do you think the Beast might have let Popsey pick a rose if he had asked permission?
- Imagine you are Beauty. How do you think you might feel setting off to go and live with the Beastly Beast? What might be going through your mind?
- Children could then write postcards home in role as Beauty, telling her family about life with the Beast. The illustrations in the story show time passing – what season is it when she is writing? What adventures has she had? Is she enjoying herself?

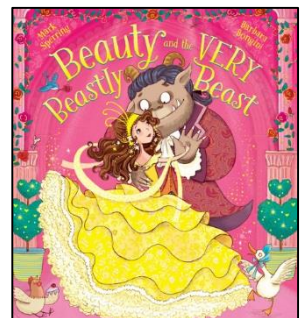




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2 – Say it with flowers

- The Beast's garden is his pride and joy. Encourage children to plant seeds or plants in an outside area. Look at the different parts of a flowering plant and what job each part does. Children can use this understanding to label a picture of a plant. If children take responsibility for watering their plants over time, they will understand how the Beast felt when Popsey stole the rose.
- Ask children to imagine they are Beauty, picking flowers from the Beast's garden to help her remember him when she returns to her family. Show them how to press a selection of flowers, leaves, grasses and rose petals (pansies and daisies work particularly well). Ensuring they are completely dry, place the flowers face down between sheets of blotting paper. Weight down with heavy books and leave for at least two weeks. These pressed flowers can be used to make attractive flower pictures: Create a frame from a cardboard box and paint the cardboard in a bright colour. Tape a sheet of cling film, pulled taut, across the back of the frame. Arrange the pressed flowers, leaves and grasses on the cling film, fixed in position with clear tape, and then fix another sheet of cling film over the top.





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3 – Unleash the Beast within

- Talk to children about the character of the very beastly Beast. Is he really beastly, or does he turn out to be quite friendly? Use this opportunity to talk about 'not judging a book by its cover'. Print out two A4 size photos of each of the children. On one of the pictures, invite them to 'beastify' themselves by drawing or sticking on horns, large teeth, hair, a warty nose, scary eyebrows etc. Clip the plain picture underneath and then lift up to reveal – just as the Beast is really a handsome prince in disguise, so they can see that they are still the same person inside, even if they look different on the outside.

