

Mirror and the Beast

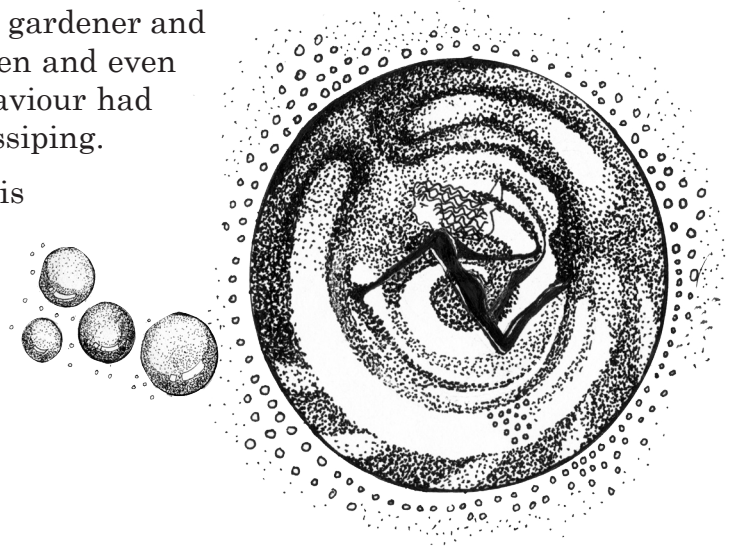


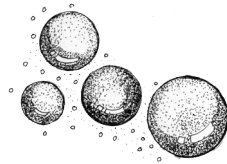
There once lived a young Prince. First his father died, and then his mother. Then his twin sister, Amanda, whom he loved very much, went away to marry the King of Mireneh, leaving him quite alone. At first the Prince felt lonely, but **gradually** he got used to his **solitude** and even began to like it. For company he had a family of noisy **swallows** who **nested** in the branches of the rose tree. And when the swallows had all flown away, he would look for the tiny Watersprite who lived in a silver bubble at the bottom of the fountain.

The Prince tried very hard to make friends with the Watersprite, but sometimes she was gay and bubbly and other times she was **moody**. Some mornings she would come floating up to talk to him, but very often she would not. And even though he woke up earlier and earlier each morning, he could never catch the tiny **glittering** Sunsprite who slid over the hill at sunrise, but then raced away, without warning, leaving a **trail of sundrops** over the lawn.

So most of the time the Prince had no one to talk to, for he had sent away the gardener and the maidservants and the footmen and even the cook. Now, this strange behaviour had started all the townspeople a-gossiping.

“Perhaps our young Prince is ill,” they said. “Perhaps he is in **grave** danger and cannot send for help.”





Can you write down the word that is missing on each line? If you don't remember, look back at the Mirror and the Beast story. **Example number one is done for you.**

1. (solitude) being alone
2. _____
feeling a little sad, being quiet
3. _____
birds with forked tails
4. _____
shining like gold
5. _____
made their nests
6. _____
little by little
7. _____
a sunny path
8. _____
serious

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS Page 1

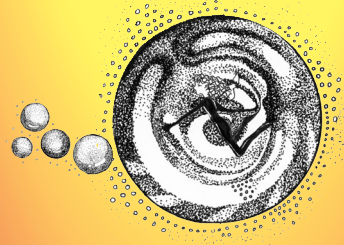
- a. Why do you think the Prince sends everyone away from his castle?
- b. If you were the Prince, would you do the same thing?
- c. Do you like being alone sometimes?
- d. Why are the townspeople worried about the Prince?



Can you draw a picture of the Prince trying to make friends with the Watersprite?



Listen to the CD again and imagine what you might see.

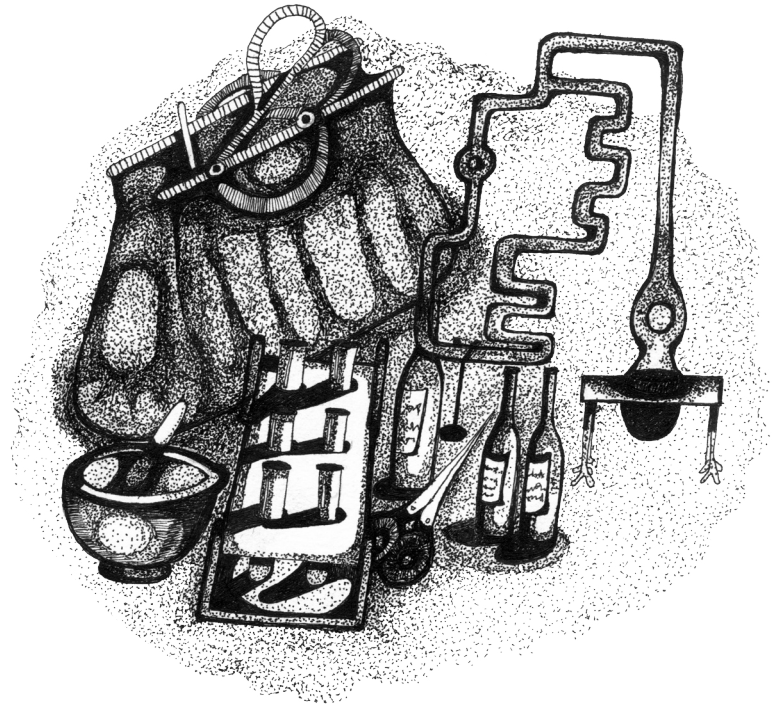




So one morning, the Lord Mayor decided to pay a visit. He walked up from the town, crossed the **drawbridge** and stood at the castle door. Behind him was the **surgeon** carrying his black bag full of sharp **instruments** and **evil-smelling potions**, and behind the surgeon followed a great crowd of curious townsfolk. The Lord Mayor knocked loudly. He waited a few minutes, but there was no answer. So he knocked a little louder, and cocked his sharp little ears in the air.

Still no answer.

The Prince could hear someone knocking, but he was watching the sunrise, as usual, and the sound of visitors made him impatient. Who was it? How *dare* anyone **disturb** him so early in the morning? The grass twinkled green diamonds at him and the breeze carried purple rose petals through his open window. He could not **tear his eyes away**. It was all too beautiful. Too peaceful. He simply would not open the door to anyone, and that was all.



And so he shut the window and drew the heavy curtains closed. Surely, he thought, if he didn't answer the door, the visitors would all go away. But, instead, the townspeople **swarmed** around the castle like a cloud of humming bees. Some of them climbed over the walls. They peeped curiously through the windows. It seemed they'd do anything for a **shadowy glimpse** of their Prince.





Can you write down the word that is missing on each line? If you don't remember, look back at the Mirror and the Beast story. **Example number one is done for you.**

1. (evil-smelling potions) medicine that smells bad
2. _____
a wooden bridge, lowered by chains, across a moat
3. _____
a doctor's tools
4. _____
ran all over the place
5. _____
bother, annoy
6. _____
a sneaky look
7. _____
stop looking
8. _____
a doctor



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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS Page 2

- a. Who visits the Prince one day?
- b. What does the Prince decide to do about the visitors?
- c. Do the visitors do what the Prince expects them to?



Can you draw a picture of the Lord Mayor knocking at the castle door?



Listen to the CD again and imagine what you might see.





But the Prince, locked up inside his own castle, **was determined** not to see them. Yet neither could he **stroll** around his garden and hear the purple rose trees singing to him as they did every morning. He couldn't splash his face and hands in the fountain, nor talk to his friend, the Watersprite. He couldn't even watch the sun rising behind the hill. It made him really angry. Why was everyone *bothering* him today?

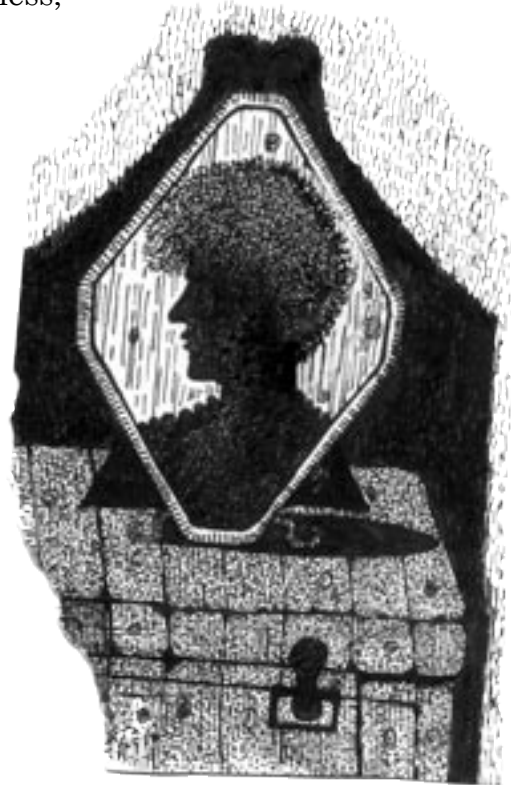
"Good riddance!" he **muttered** at last as the Mayor, the surgeon and the townspeople began to **drift away**. Suddenly he had a wonderful idea.

In the hall there was an oak chest, crowned with two **slender** mirrors. It was very heavy, but the Prince managed to push it against the door. A sunbeam lit up one of the tall mirrors, but left the other in gloomy shadow. The Prince smiled when he saw his handsome **reflection** in the bright mirror.

"You're very handsome, Your Highness," it **beamed** at him.

"But you haven't even combed your hair today," **grumbled** the dark mirror.

The Prince **ignored** that. He was so pleased to be alone again. Besides he was getting hungry, for it was long past his breakfast time.





Can you write down the word that is missing on each line? If you don't remember, look back at the Mirror and the Beast story. **Example number one is done for you.**

1. (slender) thin, narrow
2. _____
spoke quietly under his breath
3. _____
take a walk
4. _____
paid no attention to
5. _____
had made up (his) mind
6. _____
wander away
7. _____
smiled brightly
8. _____
spoke angrily
9. _____
image

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS Page 3

- a. Can you explain why the Prince won't open the castle door and speak to the visitors?
- b. What is strange or special about the Prince?



Can you draw the Prince looking into the bright mirror?



Listen to the CD again and imagine what you might see.





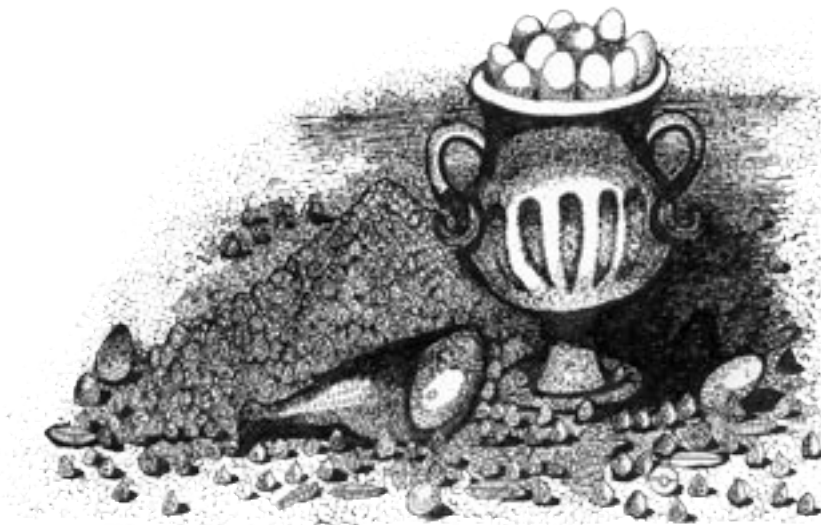
In the cold room beside the **scullery** the cook had **abandoned** all her stores. Rows of salt hams **dangled** from silver meathooks. A large **urn** was filled with fresh brown eggs. There were sacks of dried fruit and nuts. He had plenty of fresh spring water from the fountain in the courtyard.

There must be enough food here **to last a lifetime**, thought the Prince, as he tore off a piece of cold ham and stuffed his pockets with a fistful of prunes. I shall stay here in my castle forever. I will *not* talk to the Lord Mayor, nor the surgeon, nor the townsfolk, nor anyone else, unless I choose to—and no one shall make me!

But the next morning just before dawn, the Prince was rudely awakened again. The shouts of the townspeople **pierced his dreams**. He **leapt** out of bed and raced down the staircase into the hall.

“Your Highness, are you ill?” called the Lord Mayor at the door. “The surgeon is here and your sister, the Queen of Mireneh, is on her way to see you.”

“I shall see no one,” said the Prince. He heard a lot of **anxious** whispering, and then the *boom, boom, boom* of a **battering ram** against the castle door. The oak **splintered** but it did not break. “I said I shall see no one,” shouted the Prince indignantly. “Go away all of you!”





Can you write down the word that is missing on each line? If you don't remember, look back at the Mirror and the Beast story. **Example number one is done for you.**

1. (**scullery**) a back kitchen where pots and pans are washed
2. _____
a thick wooden pole used to break through
3. _____
to have enough for your whole life
4. _____
split into thin, sharp pieces
5. _____
a large clay pot
6. _____
woke him up
7. _____
left behind
8. _____
worried
9. _____
jumped
10. _____
hung

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS Page 4

- a. Do you think the Prince will have enough food and water to last a lifetime?
- b. If you were the Prince, what food would you store in your castle?
- c. Do the townspeople break down the castle door?



Can you draw a picture of the townspeople banging at the castle door?



Listen to the CD again and imagine what you might see.



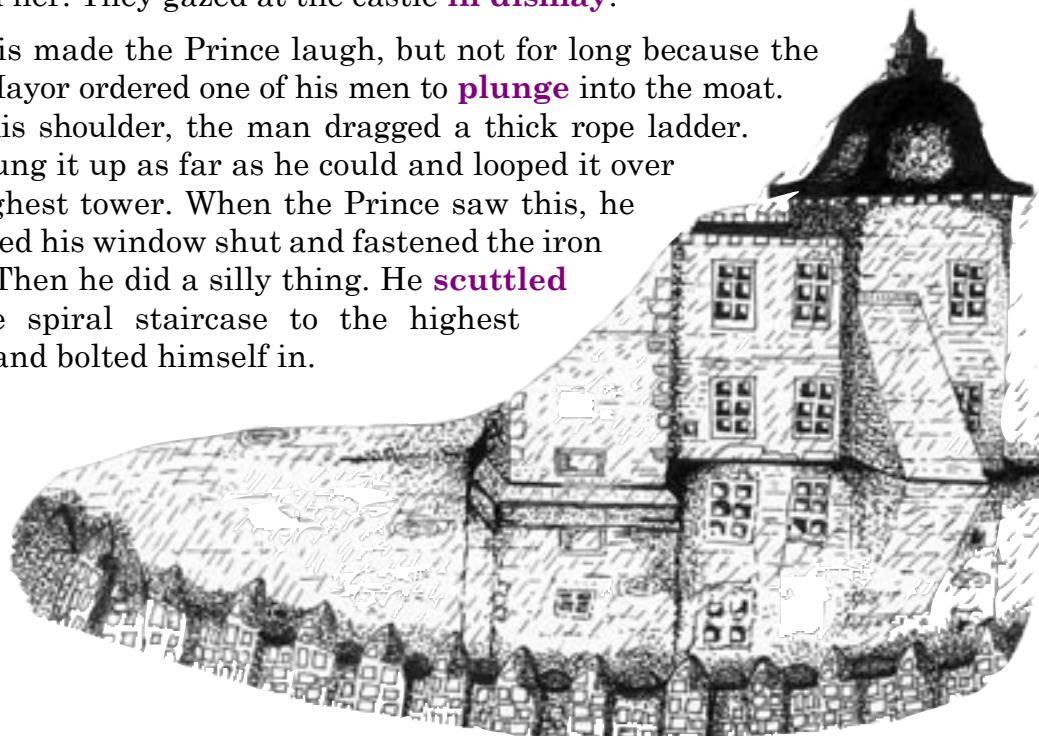


After some time, the thumping stopped. The disappointed townsfolk wandered away, grumbling, to their homes. At last there was silence. Everyone was gone. But the Prince had again missed seeing the sunrise, as well as talking to his little friend, the Watersprite. He stamped his foot and **glared**, darkening the whole sky with his **scowls**. It was strange how his ugly temper seemed to make the sun sink low and disappear. Down, down poured the rain. By nightfall, the **moat** had risen and **overflowed its banks**. It was now deep enough to drown a **legion of intruders** among the floating water lilies.

“And I hope it does!” grumbled the Prince, before he stomped off to bed.

Next morning he awoke especially early. He ran barefoot into the garden and splashed clear water from the fountain over his sleepy face. But just then, he heard the thundering **hoofs** of horses. He knew it must be his sister, Queen Amanda, coming to see him at the **urgent request** of the town. So he hurried outside to pull up the drawbridge on its iron chain. Up it creaked, **sealing** the castle from all intruders. On the other side, Queen Amanda’s white horse **reared** nervously and paced along the slippery edge of the moat. The townspeople gathered around her. They gazed at the castle **in dismay**.

This made the Prince laugh, but not for long because the Lord Mayor ordered one of his men to **plunge** into the moat. Over his shoulder, the man dragged a thick rope ladder. He swung it up as far as he could and looped it over the highest tower. When the Prince saw this, he slammed his window shut and fastened the iron latch. Then he did a silly thing. He **scuttled** up the spiral staircase to the highest tower and bolted himself in.





Can you write down the word that is missing on each line? If you don't remember, look back at the Mirror and the Beast story. **Example number one is done for you.**

1. (a legion of intruders) a crowd of unwanted visitors
2. _____
a demand that must be answered at once
3. _____
a wide, deep ditch around a fortress
4. _____
an angry expression on your face
5. _____
closing up, protecting
6. _____
stood on hind hoofs
7. _____
flooded the land
8. _____
stared fiercely
9. _____
sad or upset
10. _____
ran very fast
11. _____
horses' feet
12. _____
dive

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS Page 5

- a. How can the Prince's ugly temper make the sun sink low and the moat overflow its banks?
- b. Why do you suppose the Prince runs upstairs and locks himself in?



Can you draw a picture of Queen Amanda arriving on horseback?



Listen to the CD again and imagine what you might see.

