



Next morning at sunrise, the Prince was **amazed and overjoyed** to see the Watersprite floating freely in the fountain.

“I thought you were dead, little Watersprite. Where did you go?”

“The Sunsprite saved my life, Your Highness. He **wrapped** me into a blanket of mist and carried me back into the fountain.”

The Prince tried to catch her again, but she slipped out of his fingers.

“*Here* is where I belong,” she said **saucily**, tossing a few silvery drops at his beard.

“All right, little Watersprite, I promise to let you stay free,” sighed the Prince. “Just promise to live here in my fountain forever.”

“Well, Your Highness,” said the Watersprite, as she **braided up her silver hair**, “I promise I shall be here sometimes—”

When he heard this the Prince smiled, but only briefly.

“—but sometimes I shall not.”

The Prince sighed again. “Then can you tell me how to catch the Sunsprite?”

The Watersprite giggled, blowing up **delicate** little bubbles from the bottom of the fountain. “Catch the Sunsprite? You’ll never do that,” she said.

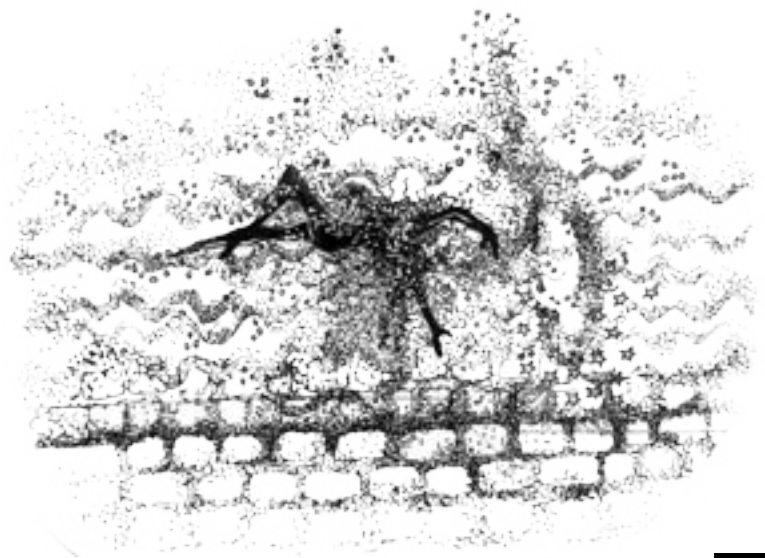
“I most certainly shall.”

“Then you’d better hurry. Autumn is already here; the days are very short. You know the Sunsprite doesn’t like to stay too long.”

“But I must catch him!
Be a good friend, little Watersprite. Tell me what I have to do.”

“Be more polite, Your Highness, and I shall ask the Sunsprite to slow down for you—just for a moment, of course, and no longer.”

“I promise, I promise,” said the Prince. “A moment is all I ask.”





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. (saucily) cheekily, boldly
2. _____
combed her silver hair into plaits
3. _____
very surprised and happy
4. _____
covered up
5. _____
fragile


Mirror and the Beast

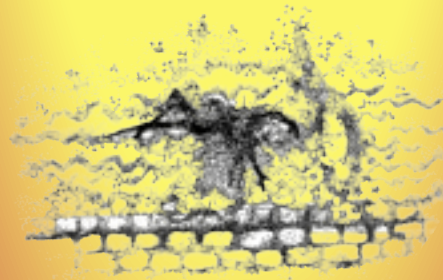


DISCUSSION QUESTIONS Page 11

- a. Who saves the life of the Watersprite? How does he do it?
- b. Is the Watersprite still angry with the Prince? How do you know?
- c. What does the Watersprite promise to do for the Prince?

 Can you draw a picture of the Prince finding the Watersprite alive in the fountain?

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





So early next morning the Prince ran into the garden. Under his robes he **concealed** his crystal jar. As he crept closer, he was amazed to discover that the Sunsprite was really a tiny old man, no taller than a **thimble**, glittering on top of the fountain.

“Good morning, Your Highness,” said Old Man Sunsprite, flashing upon the Prince’s golden ring. “What’s that you’re hiding under your robe?”

The Prince **grasped at** the little old man, yet he need not have done so, for the Sunsprite twinkled all by himself to the bottom of the glass. **Instantly** the jar filled with a misty golden light. The Sunsprite peeped at the Prince through its **diamond point design**.

“How do I look?” he asked.

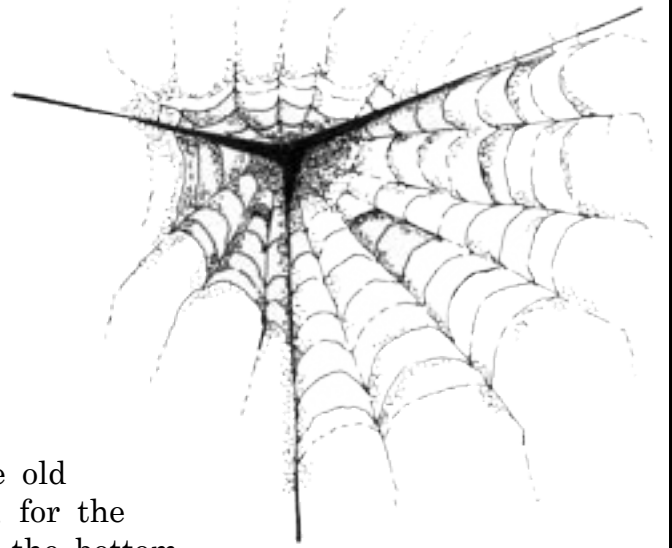
“Wonderful,” said the Prince, snapping shut the **jewelled lid**. “You’re perfect to brighten the **cobwebbed corners** of my castle. I shall keep you forever.”



Holding the glittering jar close to his chest, he hurried back into the castle. He set the jar down in front of the gloomy mirror, then peeped inside.

“Where are you? Little Sunsprite—I can’t see you any more.”

“You’ve made me very late, Your Highness; I really must go now,” said the Sunsprite, escaping from the crystal jar. He slid through the **latticed window**, twinkled across the garden and **vanished** behind the hill.





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. (latticed window) a window pane made of small glass squares
2. _____
the lid of a jar, covered in jewels
3. _____
walls and ceilings covered in spider webs
4. _____
a small metal cap that fits over the finger
5. _____
a diamond-shaped pattern
6. _____
grabbed at
7. _____
disappeared
8. _____
at once
9. _____
hid

Mirror and the Beast



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS Page 12

- a. Show with your fingers how tall Old Man Sunsprite must be.
- b. How does the Sunsprite get into the crystal jar?
- c. Where does the Prince take the Sunsprite?
- d. How does the Sunsprite get out of the crystal jar?



Draw Old Man Sunsprite escaping from the crystal jar.



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



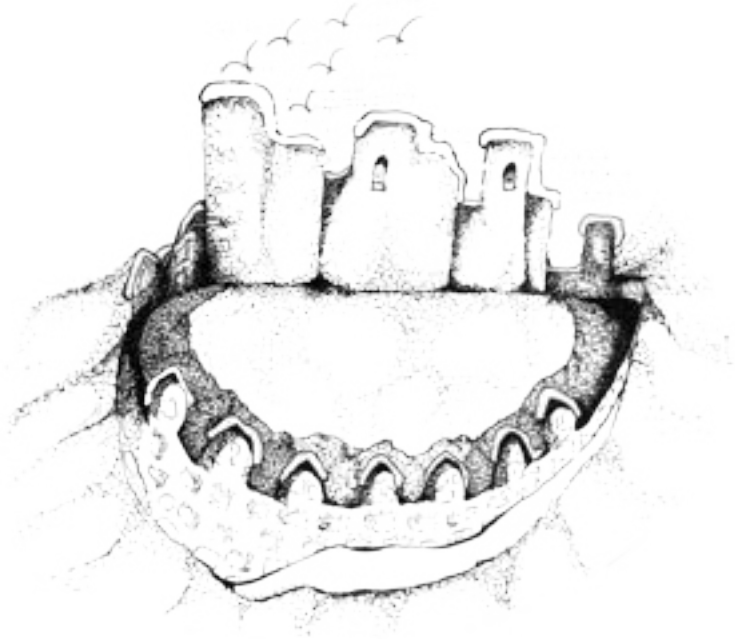


He's gone again," thought the Prince **bitterly**. "There must be a better way to catch him, there *must*."

But suddenly it grew dark outside. Storm clouds slid over the sky. It seemed the sun had risen, only to set at once. Even the swallows at the fountain did not **chirp** as **merrily** as usual. Their cries were **shrill** and anxious.

"Come away, children," said Father Swallow. "Winter's coming! Hurry, we must all fly away now."

And soon the Prince could no longer run barefoot through his garden. The wintry sun rose later and later each morning, and the ground was hard with frost. All the swallows had flown away; icicles dripped from the fountain.



"When will the Sunsprite come back?" asked the Prince, shivering at his frosty window.

"I don't know; I'm still waiting for him," cracked the frozen voice of the Watersprite.

There was no one for the Prince to talk to now, for visitors no longer came. Snowflakes drifted over the **battlements** and buried the castle deep, deep into an **enchanted** silence. At the heart of this silence, wandered the Beast.



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. (shrill) a sound that is loud and sharp
2. _____
a row of stone blocks built above castle walls
3. _____
birdsong
4. _____
spellbound
5. _____
happily
6. _____
sadly and angrily



Mirror and the Beast



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS Page 13

- a. Why does the sky suddenly become dark?
- b. Where do all the swallows fly?
- c. What happens to the Watersprite when the fountain freezes?
- d. Who do you think the Beast really is?



Can you draw the Prince calling to the Watersprite from his frosty window?



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



Who's that? thought the Prince, staring into the dark mirror.

A **furry creature** stared back at him. Its **teary** eyes glittered. At first, when it opened its mouth, no sound came; then its voice cracked like a broken **lute**.

"This can't be me," sobbed the Prince, wiping one **sunken** eye with his furry paw. "I'm not a Beast."

"It *is* you," said the mirror.

"No, I don't want to look at you," said the Prince.

He searched for his beautiful reflection. But where was it? Just at that moment, the bright mirror **shattered** into a thousand **fragments** and was gone.

"How did I become so ugly?" sobbed the Beast, for that was what the Prince truly was. A tear rolled down his furry cheek, then another, and another. He wept for days and days and days.

But the cruel mirror only mocked him.

"Remember, long ago, Beast, how you sent away everyone that loved you! Now we are all alone together. I am your only friend—and your dearest **enemy**."

"I must stop weeping," thought the Beast miserably, staring at the silvery **surface** of his own pool of tears.

But as the days passed, his tears kept falling and filling that **briny** pool; it rose as high as his knees—his waist—and then his chin. And knowing that it would soon cover his furry head, the Beast sobbed with all his heart.





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. (fragments) broken pieces

2. _____
a musical instrument

3. _____
someone who is not a friend

4. _____
an animal covered in fur

5. _____
flat top (of the water)

6. _____
deep set

7. _____
smashed apart

8. _____
full of tears

9. _____
salty



Mirror and the Beast



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS Page 14

- What does the Prince see in the dark mirror?
- What happens to the Prince's beautiful reflection in the bright mirror?
- What does the dark mirror do when the Beast cries?
- What happens to all the Beast's tears?



Can you draw a picture of the Beast standing in his pool of tears?



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



Meanwhile the Prince's twin sister, Queen Amanda, lay in her gloomy **sick chamber** in the faraway Castle of Mireneh.

What is the matter with her? thought the King. My Queen is no longer beautiful. Since she returned from her brother's castle, she lies abed all day. Her eyes are **hollow**; her lips are pale. Her beautiful curls are a **mass of tangles**. Even the **sickling son** she has given me is a blind Dwarf Prince who will never grow tall and strong enough to be a King!

The surgeon came out of Queen Amanda's chamber. In his black bag were strange pointed instruments and evil-smelling potions. He blinked his owl eyes; grimly he shook his head.

"Queen Amanda is **gravely ill**, Sire," he said. "We can do nothing."

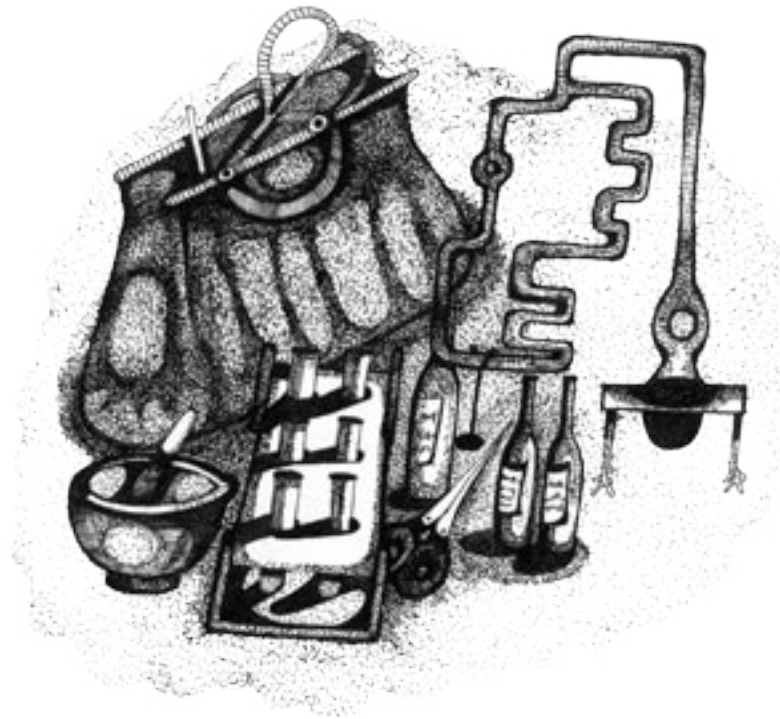
"Enough!" said the King. He slammed his heavy fist on the council table. "Let my Queen die now, and not **haunt** me the rest of my days. Take them both from my sight forever!"

And so it was that next morning, before sunrise, the King's servant galloped breathlessly back through the forests of Mireneh.

"It is done, Sire," he said, bowing his head so the King would not see his tears.

"But have you left them deep enough in the forest? Are you sure they won't find their way back to my castle?"

"I took the Queen almost as far as her brother's castle. She is very weak, Sire; she can hardly stand. Without her, the child is lost. You will *never* see them again."





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. (**haunt**) to keep appearing, looking like a ghost
2. _____
untidy hair that is difficult to comb smooth
3. _____
a room for sick people, an infirmary
4. _____
a deep circle (under the eye)
5. _____
a weak little boy
6. _____
very ill

Mirror and the Beast



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS Page 15

- a. Why do you think the Prince's twin sister, Queen Amanda, is very ill?
- b. What is the matter with Queen Amanda's sickling son, the Dwarf Prince?
- c. What does the King of Mireneh decide to do?
- d. Where does the King's servant take Queen Amanda and the Dwarf Prince?



Can you draw a picture of Queen Amanda in her gloomy sick chamber?



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

