



Far off in the wintry forest Queen Amanda **stumbled** along a snowy path. Close behind followed the blind Dwarf Prince, hanging onto her long silk **train**.

“Where are we going, Mother?”

“To find **shelter** at my brother’s castle.”

“Is it far?”

“No, not very far,” said the Queen, resting for a moment against a snowy tree trunk. “Look, I think I see it over there in the distance.”

“You know I see nothing,” said her son **reproachfully**. They walked on a little further and suddenly he stopped. “Mother, listen, someone is sobbing.”

“I hear nothing,” sighed the Queen.

When they reached the **icebound moat**, she took her son’s hand and stepped carefully onto the edge. Together they walked a little way across; but, further on, the ice was as thin as glass. It cracked under their feet, and the Queen slipped into the water.

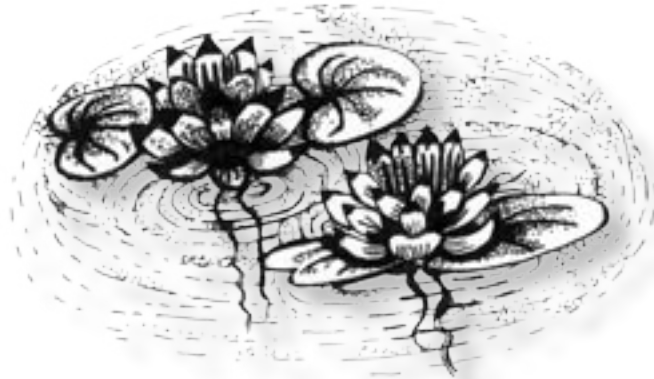
“Mother!” cried the Dwarf Prince, clinging on to her as they both plunged in. “Can you swim?”

“I am too weak, my son, I can no longer carry you.”

She struggled on a little further through the floating chunks of ice; her head almost sank beneath the dark green water.

“Mother, mother, we’re almost there!”

On she swam, clinging to the **ice floes** until—almost she reached the shore.

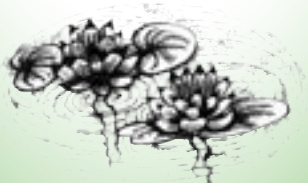


She managed to push the Dwarf Prince onto the bank; but then her foot slipped on a **mossy rock** and got **entangled** in the **slimy stems** of the water lilies. Slowly she sank beneath the water.



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. (slimy stem) the slippery part of the water lily plant that grows underwater
2. _____
a long piece of cloth attached to the back of a dress
3. _____
flat chunks of ice floating on top of the water
4. _____
a rock covered in moss
5. _____
a safe place to stay
6. _____
frozen moat
7. _____
stuck
8. _____
accusingly
9. _____
tripped



Mirror and the Beast



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS Page 16

- a. What does Queen Amanda see in the distance?
- b. What does the Dwarf Prince hear?
- c. Queen Amanda says something that upsets the Dwarf Prince. What is it?
- d. Who carries the Dwarf Prince across the moat?
- e. What happens to Queen Amanda?



Can you draw the Queen swimming across the moat with the Dwarf Prince?



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



Inside his gloomy castle, standing all alone in his pool of tears, the Beast felt something.

“Who’s there?” he cried out.

“Let me in!” cried the Dwarf Prince, thumping on the window pane with his small fist.

“Who are you?”

“I am the Prince of Mireneh. Let me into your castle, please, or I will die!”

The Beast tried to move, but he couldn’t. The **claws** on his toes had grown as long as **tree roots**, deep into the stone floor. The pool of tears had reached his lips; it was cold and **clammy** and tasted **bitter**. He turned toward the mirror.

“My friend, dearest enemy,” he said, “how can I get out of this prison?”

The mirror twinkled **cruelly** at him, so that the Beast looked beastlier than ever.

“I cannot help you, dear Beast,” it said. “And it’s all your fault. You have made me a prisoner, just as you are.”

The Dwarf Prince tapped on the window again. Through the frosty glass the Beast could see the child’s ice-blue face. His ears were frozen; his hair was **stiff with rime**. As the Beast watched, the little Dwarf sank out of sight into the snow.





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. (stiff with rime) hard with frost
2. _____
part of a tree that grows underground
3. _____
sharp curved nails on an animal's paws
4. _____
bad tasting
5. _____
wickedly
6. _____
cold and sticky

Mirror and the Beast



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS Page 17

- a. Who knocks on the Beast's window pane?
- b. Why can't the Beast move?
- c. Why can't the dark mirror help the Beast escape?



Can you draw a picture of the Dwarf Prince tapping at the Beast's window pane?



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





Please,” begged the Beast, turning back to the evil mirror, “tell me what to do.”

But the mirror laughed at him again, a **horrid** crackling laugh.

“I must get out!” cried the Beast. “I *must!*”

He **tugged** with all his strength at the long roots growing from his claws, but they seemed as strong as iron chains. He **heaved forward**, but almost slipped headfirst into the slimy pool.

“*Let me out!*” cried the Beast.

The **dismal** echoes of his sorrow spread through the lonely castle, sending the mice scurrying into their tiny holes and terrifying even the bats in the **rafters**. But the evil mirror was **unmoved**.

“Poor poor Beast, we are chained together forever,” it said.

“*No! No! No!*” howled the Beast. “*I don’t believe you!*”

He tugged again and then, with a **tremendous roar** of pain, he **wrenched** his claws out of the stone and smashed **headlong** through his own beastly image in the mirror.





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. (**wrenched**) pulled very hard
2. _____
the loud cry of an animal in pain
3. _____
wooden beams which support a roof
4. _____
made a great effort to move forward
5. _____
very sad and gloomy
6. _____
pulled very hard (2)
7. _____
cold, uncaring
8. _____
headfirst
9. _____
horrible

Mirror and the Beast



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS Page 18

- a. What happens to the dark mirror when the Beast escapes from his pool of tears?



Can you draw a picture of the Beast escaping from the dark mirror?



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





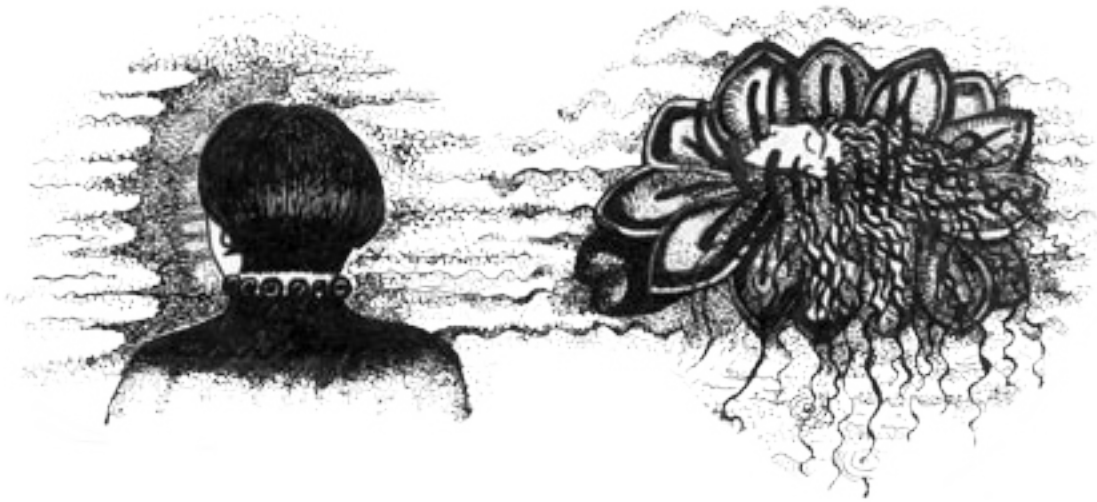
Down thundered the drawbridge. The door blew open; the wind **roared** through the castle with a tremendous *who-o-sh!* **Sloshing** through the pool of tears, the Beast **hobbled** outside into his garden. He picked up the little Dwarf Prince who was half frozen, and warmed his shivering body in his great furry paws; the child clung to him as closely as a shadow.

And only then, as he gazed across the moat, did the Beast realize that spring had come at last. The sun burst out of the frozen clouds and shone hotly on his head. Slowly it began to melt the ice mirrors on the water. Trees were blossoming in sudden puffs of white and green. Rooted below the rocks like a water lily, Queen Amanda **tilted** her pale face toward the sun. The Beast bent his head closer to the water and saw, among the white petals, his own image rise to the surface of the moat.

The Beast laughed. He laughed so loud that the distant blue mountains caught the echoes of his joy and tossed them from **peak to peak**.

“I am a Prince again!” he shouted.

Again—again—again! laughed the mountains.





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. (hobbled) limped clumsily
2. _____
turned or bent toward something
3. _____
from mountain top to mountain top
4. _____
wading through water
5. _____
blew loudly



Mirror and the Beast



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS Page 19

- a. What does the Beast find outside his castle?
- b. What time of year is it?
- c. What has happened to Queen Amanda?



Can you draw a picture of what the Beast sees outside his castle?



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



Joyfully he plunged his hands into the water. Then the **ripples faded**. The water became calm. His own eyes stared back at him, deep and clear, and just a little sad. And then he saw a flash of silver.

“Oh, is that you, little Watersprite?” cried the Prince. “Have you come back?”

“Of course,” said the Watersprite, rippling through the water. “It’s springtime again and I promise to stay with you for as long as I can.”

“Oh, thank you, thank you! But where’s the Sunsprite? Is he coming back too?”

“Greetings, Your Highness,” said Old Man Sunsprite. “Sorry, I won’t be able to stay too long.”

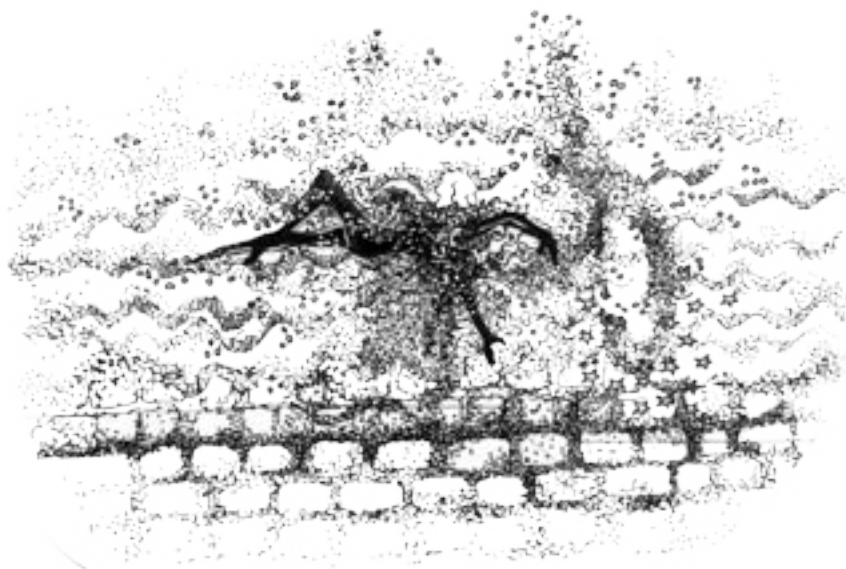
He waved to the Prince, then twinkled to the other side of the moat. The Watersprite swam off as well, trailing her silver braids behind her.

“Come back, little Watersprite, please. Won’t you promise to stay with me forever?”

Forever? laughed the Watersprite, as she disappeared from view.

“I can’t hear you,” shouted the Prince, **cupping his hands feverishly** to his ears. “What did you say, little Watersprite? What did you say?”

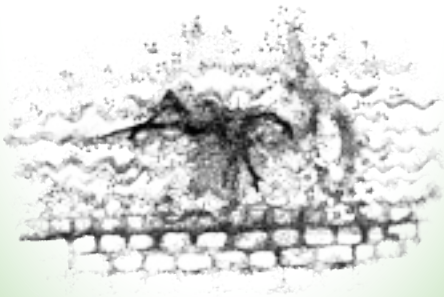
Forever? I said—Never...ever...ever....ever....ever





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. (feverishly) excitedly
2. _____
tiny circular waves of water that disappeared
3. _____
holding his hands (against his ears)



Mirror and the Beast



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS Page 20

- a. Why does the Beast laugh when he looks into the water?
- b. Do both the beautiful Watersprite and the tiny Sunsprite come back to say hello?
- c. How long can the Sunsprite stay?
- d. How long does the Watersprite promise to stay?
- e. Why can't the Watersprite stay forever?
- f. Make up another ending to this story. What do you think the Prince should do now?



Can you draw a picture of the Beast, becoming a Prince again?



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