

Beauty and the Beast

April 12-15, 2018

Children's Guide

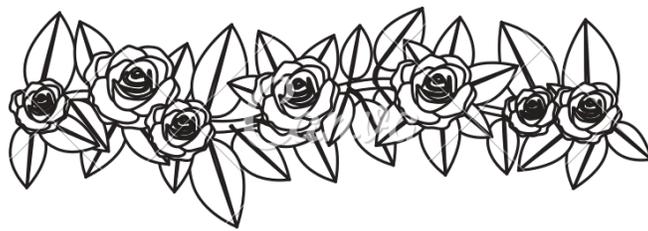
Synopsis: Pg 2-7

Activities: Pg 8-13



MILWAUKEE
BALLET

MICHAEL PINK, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

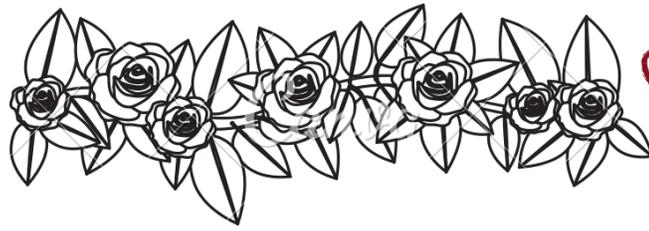


Once upon a time, a powerful Prince was riding through the forest. He was stopped by a group of orphaned children, dressed in rags and in need of help.

The selfish Prince ignores them. But thankfully, a magical Enchantress appears and welcomes them into her arms.

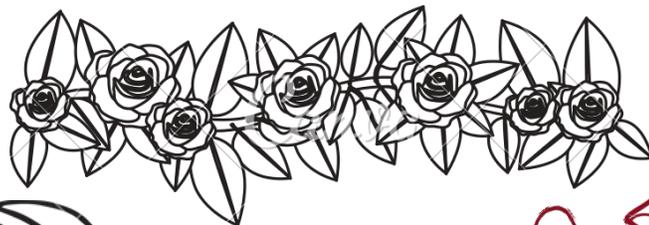
The Prince is hosting a ball in his castle and everyone in town is there! A loud knock is heard at the door and a haggard, old woman comes in asking for shelter. "Get out!" the Prince shouts, "You aren't welcome here!" As he tries to throw her out, her cape falls and suddenly he sees the beautiful Enchantress. He can't believe his eyes! He tries to say sorry and to charm her with a dance. Her arms become vines and he is trapped. She casts her spell:

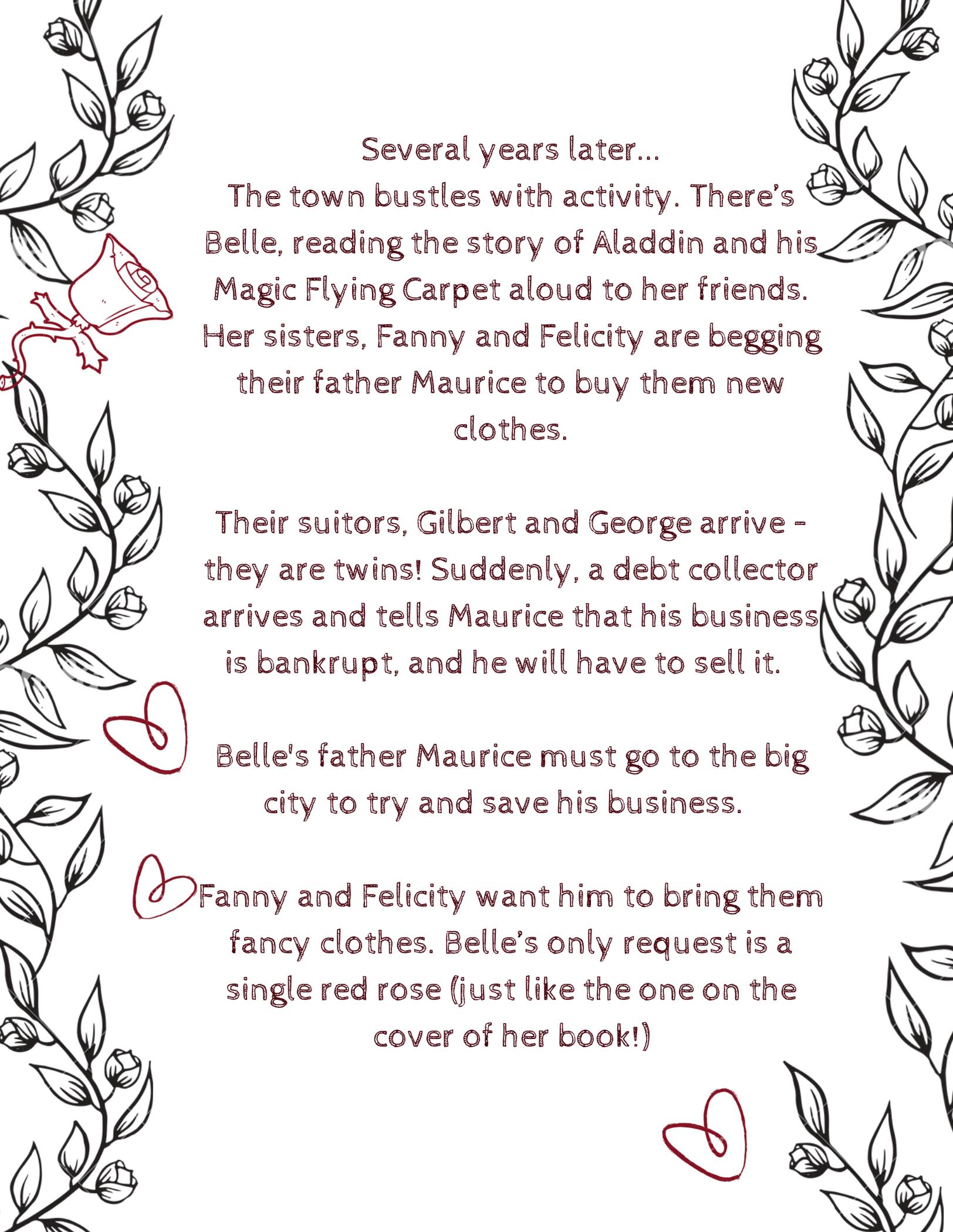




"Like a beast, you are without
compassion and love
in your heart.

The thorny branches of the
rose bush will
entwine your body and slowly
suffocate you unless you can
win true love - a true love
that must come to you of
its own free will."





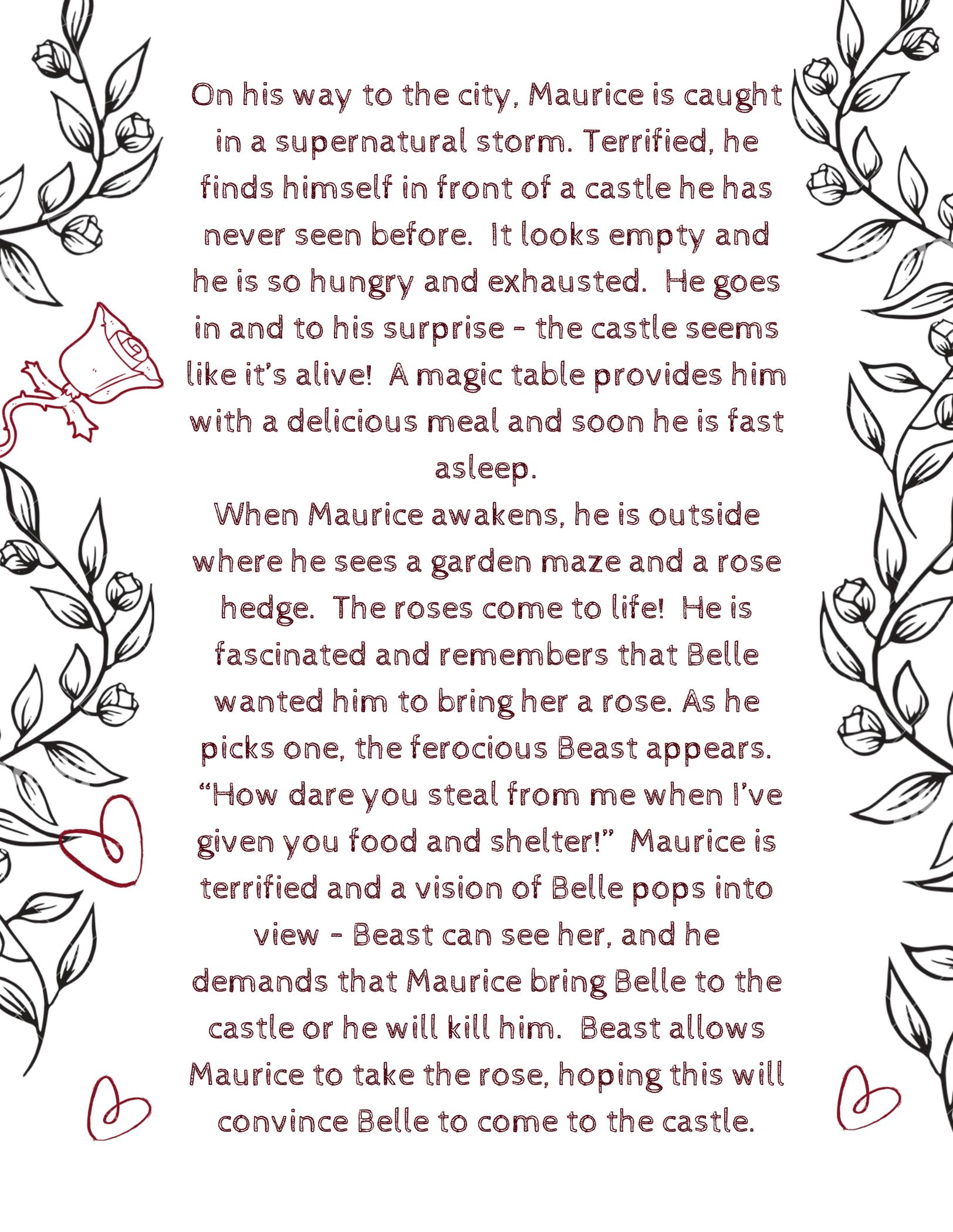
Several years later...

The town bustles with activity. There's Belle, reading the story of Aladdin and his Magic Flying Carpet aloud to her friends. Her sisters, Fanny and Felicity are begging their father Maurice to buy them new clothes.

Their suitors, Gilbert and George arrive - they are twins! Suddenly, a debt collector arrives and tells Maurice that his business is bankrupt, and he will have to sell it.

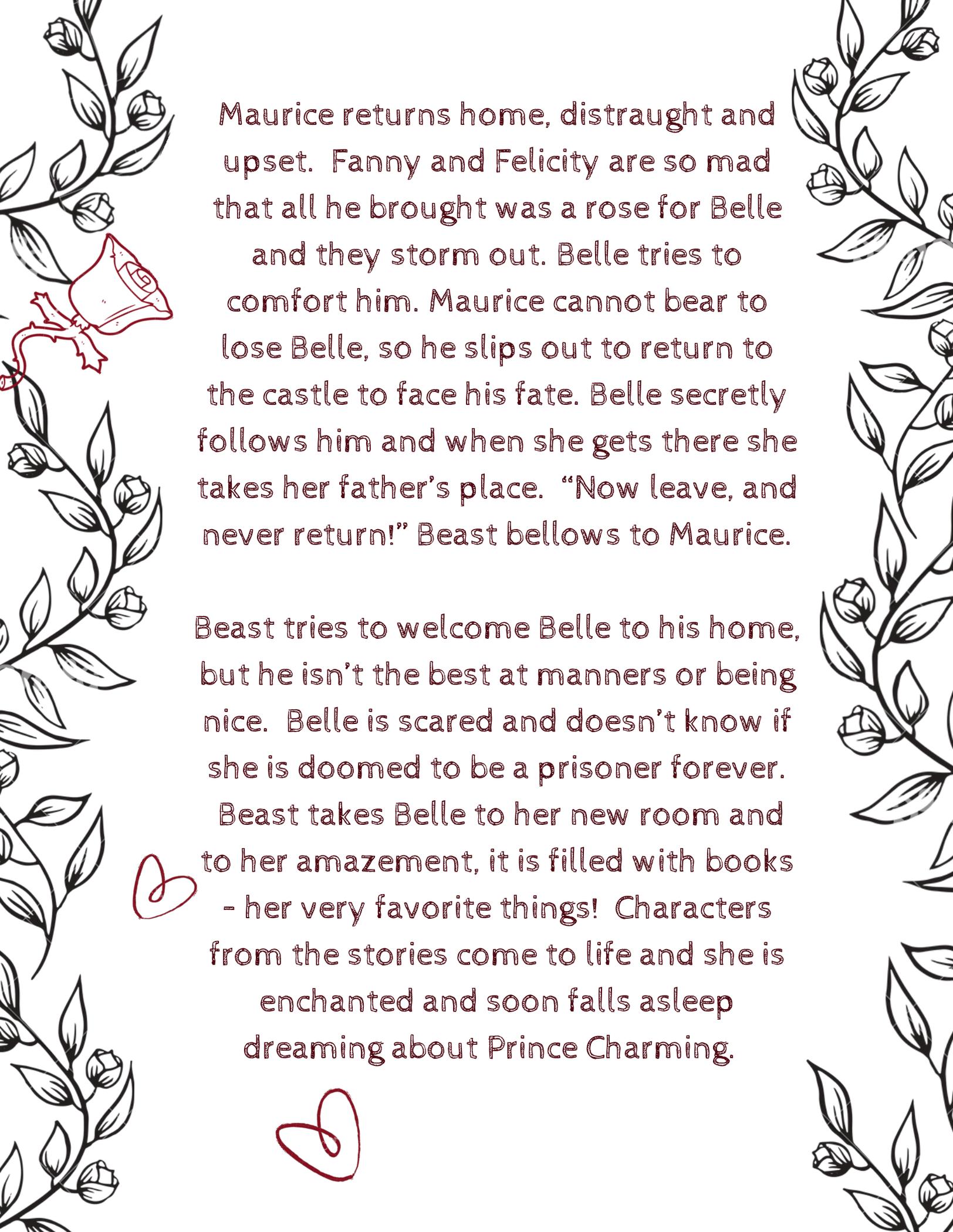
Belle's father Maurice must go to the big city to try and save his business.

Fanny and Felicity want him to bring them fancy clothes. Belle's only request is a single red rose (just like the one on the cover of her book!)



On his way to the city, Maurice is caught in a supernatural storm. Terrified, he finds himself in front of a castle he has never seen before. It looks empty and he is so hungry and exhausted. He goes in and to his surprise - the castle seems like it's alive! A magic table provides him with a delicious meal and soon he is fast asleep.

When Maurice awakens, he is outside where he sees a garden maze and a rose hedge. The roses come to life! He is fascinated and remembers that Belle wanted him to bring her a rose. As he picks one, the ferocious Beast appears. "How dare you steal from me when I've given you food and shelter!" Maurice is terrified and a vision of Belle pops into view - Beast can see her, and he demands that Maurice bring Belle to the castle or he will kill him. Beast allows Maurice to take the rose, hoping this will convince Belle to come to the castle.



Maurice returns home, distraught and upset. Fanny and Felicity are so mad that all he brought was a rose for Belle and they storm out. Belle tries to comfort him. Maurice cannot bear to lose Belle, so he slips out to return to the castle to face his fate. Belle secretly follows him and when she gets there she takes her father's place. "Now leave, and never return!" Beast bellows to Maurice.

Beast tries to welcome Belle to his home, but he isn't the best at manners or being nice. Belle is scared and doesn't know if she is doomed to be a prisoner forever.

Beast takes Belle to her new room and to her amazement, it is filled with books - her very favorite things! Characters from the stories come to life and she is enchanted and soon falls asleep dreaming about Prince Charming.



Over time, Belle learns that Beast can read, and she is impressed and encouraged to try and be nicer to him. They start to become friends and every day he asks her to marry him but she always says no. He tries to give her a gorgeous red dress and she refuses it. He is getting frustrated that Belle doesn't like him and the vines from the curse are getting tighter and tighter. One day, the magical Enchantress appears and tells Beast to try giving Belle a rose instead.

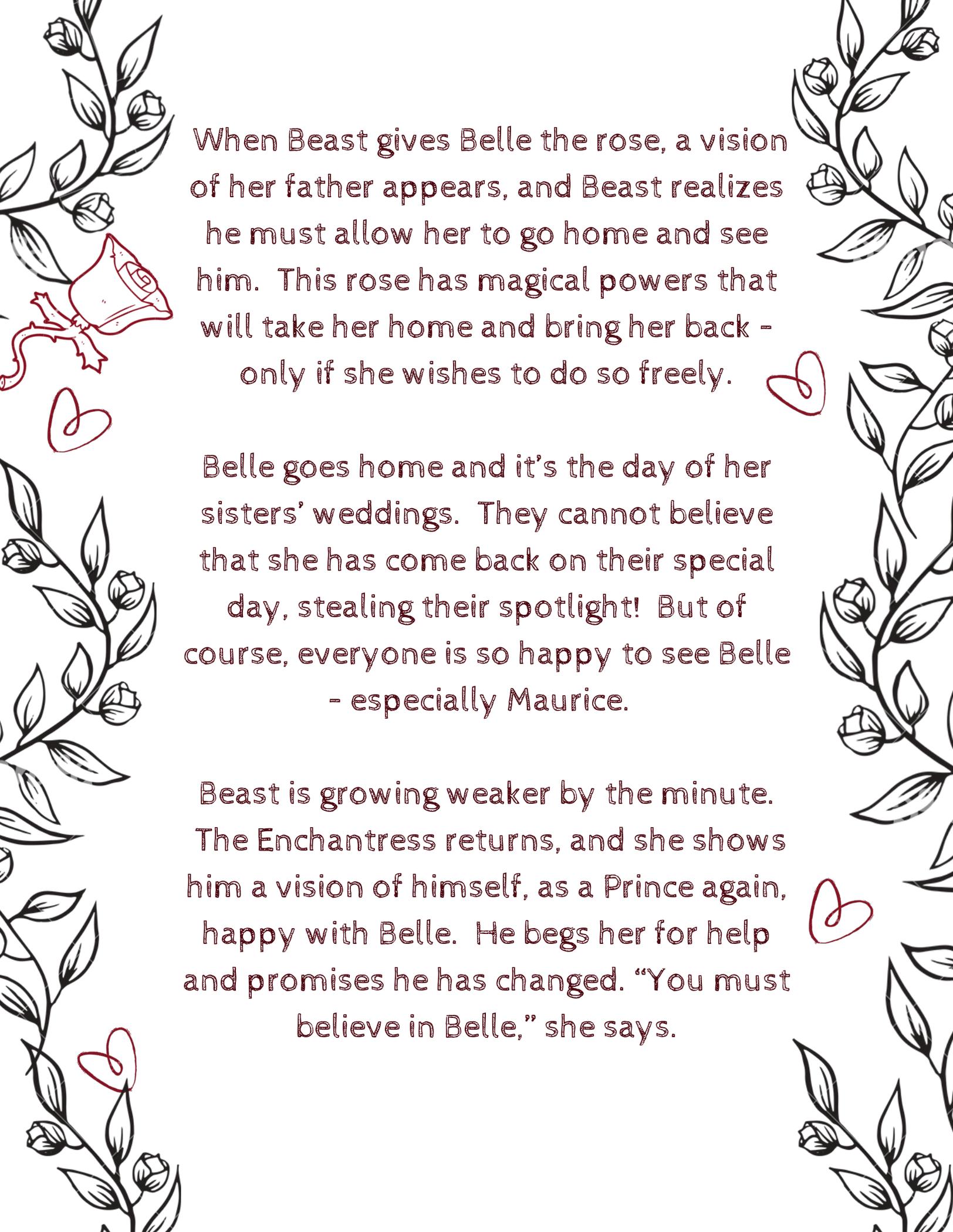


Meanwhile, back in the town, Fanny and Felicity have accepted proposals from Gilbert and George. Maurice is so sad and misses Belle all the time.



At the castle, Belle misses her father terribly.





When Beast gives Belle the rose, a vision of her father appears, and Beast realizes he must allow her to go home and see him. This rose has magical powers that will take her home and bring her back - only if she wishes to do so freely.

Belle goes home and it's the day of her sisters' weddings. They cannot believe that she has come back on their special day, stealing their spotlight! But of course, everyone is so happy to see Belle - especially Maurice.

Beast is growing weaker by the minute. The Enchantress returns, and she shows him a vision of himself, as a Prince again, happy with Belle. He begs her for help and promises he has changed. "You must believe in Belle," she says.



At the same time, Belle is thinking about Beast. She can feel his life slipping away and as she feels this, the petals of her rose are falling, one by one. She wishes to return to him, freely and of her own will.

When she gets to the rose garden, Belle finds Beast weak and slumped down on the ground. She places the magical rose on his heart and realizes she has grown to love him. She fears it is too late and gently kisses him goodbye. Suddenly, the power of her true love transforms him into the kindest and most thoughtful Prince that ever lived...

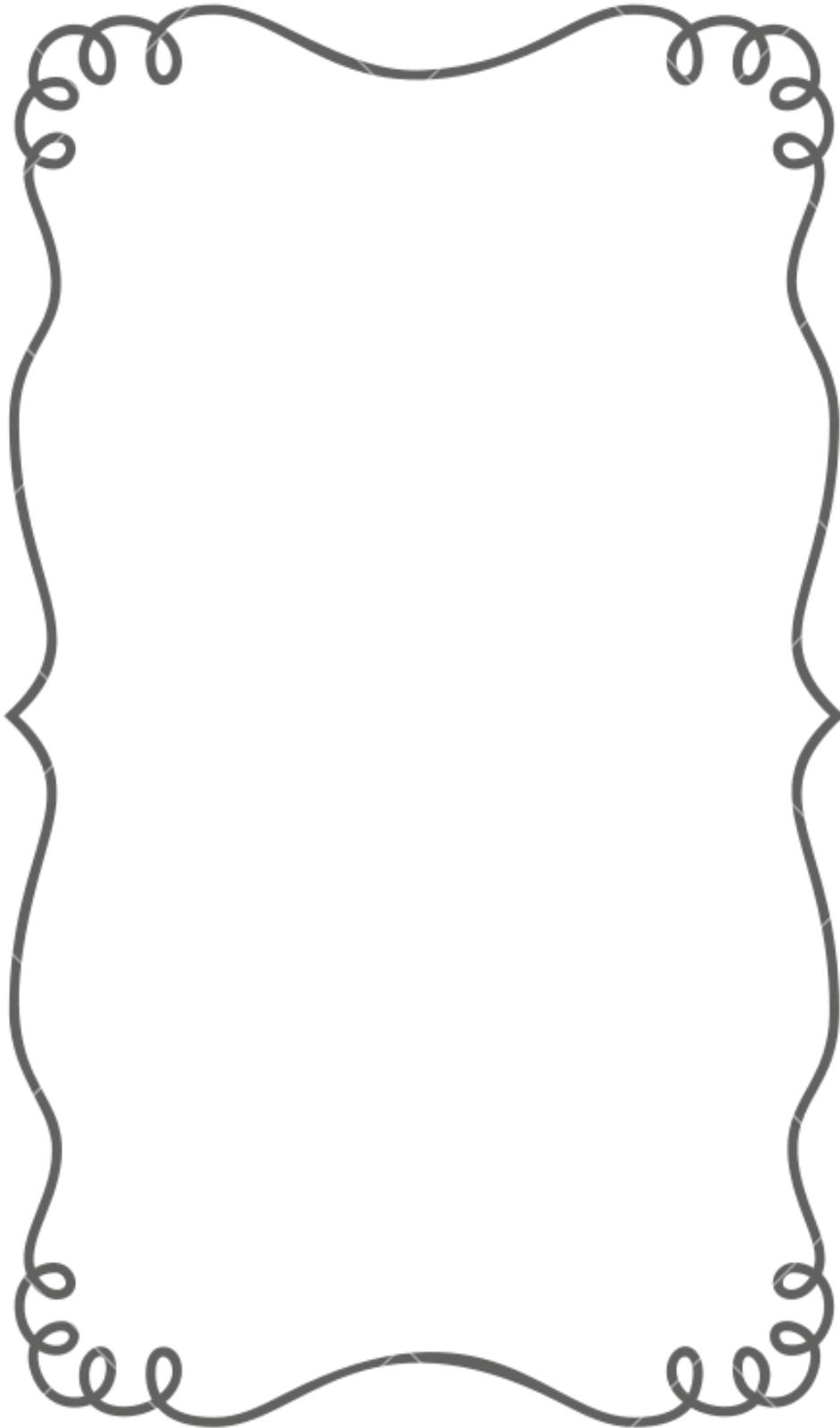
And they live happily ever after.



The Beast in our production wears a costume made of rose thorns and vines. What would your Beast look like?



What color dress do you think Belle wears? (Remember, this is not the Disney version of the story!) Draw Belle's in her dress.



Beast's castle is magical. Many things
come to life in it. What magical powers
would your home have if you could
make it come alive?





• What story would you like to see Michael create as a ballet? Send us a postcard with your suggestions. Who knows? You might inspire his next new work!

Send postcards to:
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