

PITTSBURGH BALLET THEATRE

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

Bell Work Ideas!

10-minute activities for the beginning or end of class to familiarize your students with the ballet.

1. Listen to the music! Check out the music links / activities in the Teacher Guide. You can simply play the music as background music and have students do one of the activities. Or play all of the music and have students write down five words that describe the emotions each piece conveys.
2. Reorder the words of *Beauty and the Beast* to *The Beast and Beauty*. Write a couple sentences about why the title is the first way and not the second. After reading the synopsis, what other titles might also work for the story?
3. Charades! Pick a word out of a hat that is important in the ballet and try to get the rest of the class to figure out what the word is through gestures and movement ONLY. Possible words include: forest, lost, beast, rose, throne, angry, frightened, ballet, audience, music.
4. Imagine standing like a statue through one whole scene of the ballet. This is what the guards have to do. Let's see YOU do it. Jump up and down or hop on one foot. When I say "Freeze!" let's see how long you can hold that position.
5. The most important prop in the *Beauty and the Beast* ballet is a rose. As a cooperative activity, have the class come up with as many different flower names as they can. As a competitive activity, see how many each student can name within two minutes. Or, each student writes a haiku about a rose.
6. Read the synopsis. In *Beauty and the Beast*, the main characters live happily ever after. Write a different ending for the story.
7. The main character in the ballet is named Beauty; in the Disney movies, her name is Belle, which means "beautiful" in French. Create a list of synonyms for beautiful or beauty in English. Translate the word beauty or beautiful into other languages. Repeat the activity for the word "beast."