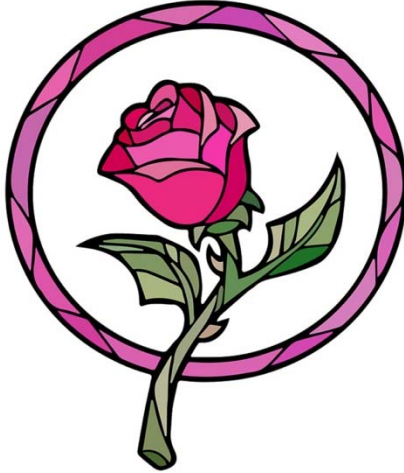


Name \_\_\_\_\_



## The Enchanted Rose

Once upon a time, in a quaint village, there lived a kind and humble merchant named Thomas. He had three daughters, but it was his youngest, named Belle, who was the most special. Belle had a heart full of kindness, a love for books, and a spirit that shone brighter than any star in the sky.

One day, Thomas set off on a journey to trade his goods in a distant city. Before leaving, he asked his daughters what they would like as a gift upon his return. While her sisters requested beautiful dresses and expensive jewelry, Belle simply asked for a rose. Not just any rose, but a rose from the heart of a mysterious, enchanted forest that lay near their village.

As the merchant journeyed to the distant city, he encountered a storm that left him lost and disoriented. Hungry and tired, he stumbled upon a magnificent castle hidden deep within the forest. It was a castle unlike any other, with walls made of roses and a grand entrance guarded by stone statues that seemed to come to life.

The merchant entered the castle, hoping to find shelter and food. To his surprise, he was welcomed by a feast fit for a king. But the castle's master, a fearsome Beast, soon appeared, accusing Thomas of trespassing. The Beast demanded that the merchant stay in the castle forever as punishment.

Thomas pleaded with the Beast, explaining that he had a family waiting for him. The Beast agreed to release him on one condition: he must send one of his daughters to live in the castle in his place. Trembling with fear, Thomas agreed, promising to return with one of his daughters.

As Thomas returned home, he told Belle of his encounter with the Beast and the promise he had made. Belle, with her heart full of love for her father, decided to go to the castle in his place. She arrived at the enchanted castle and soon discovered the Beast's gentle and kind-hearted nature beneath his fearsome exterior.

As time passed, Belle and the Beast formed a deep bond. Belle's kindness and compassion began to break the curse that had turned the Beast into a creature, and she learned to see beyond appearances. The rose she had requested from her father's journey played a significant role in their story, for it symbolized the love and sacrifice that could break the enchantment once and for all.