

THE QUEENSLAND READERS  
澳大利亚语文



AUTHORIZED BY  
THE MINISTRY OF  
EDUCATION

WILEY-BLANKENHORN  
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西方家庭学校原版教材与经典读物

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## LESSON 1

# BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

### I

mer-chant	jour-ney	dis-ap-point
fra-grant	pal-ace	ter-ror
wealth-y	daugh-ter	beau-ty

1. Once upon a time, there lived in **India**<sup>1</sup> a rich merchant named Omar, who had three daughters. It was the merchant's custom to visit a distant city once a year to buy goods for his store; and, before leaving the city, he always bought a present for each of his daughters, as a **token**<sup>2</sup> of his love for them.

2. During one year no rain had fallen for many months, and food was very scarce. Few people could afford to buy goods from Omar, so that he had but little money to spend on new **stock**<sup>3</sup>. When the day came for him to set out upon his journey, he, as usual, asked each of his daughters to tell him what present he should bring her from the city.

3. The eldest girl said that she would like a silk robe; the second asked for a pretty ring; but Beauty, the youngest, thinking that her father would have little money to spare for presents, said, "Dear father, bring me a bunch of roses. I do so long to see some flowers again."

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1 India: *A large country in Asia.*

2 token: *Sign.*

3 stock: *The goods he dealt in.*

4. The merchant set out on his journey with two horses. When he reached the city, he bought all that he wanted for his store, and then went to buy the presents for his daughters. He first bought a robe of the finest silk, and then a ring of **chased**<sup>1</sup> gold; but, when he sought to buy a bunch of roses for Beauty, he could not get one, for that country, too, had suffered from the drought.

5. The merchant was very sorry to disappoint his youngest child; but, as there were no roses to be had, he started back without them.

6. Omar took a different road on his return, and chose one which led through a range of wooded hills. Passing through a shady valley, he came in sight of a palace, around which was a lovely garden. In this garden, watered by a spring from the hills, grew many rose-trees, each of which was loaded with great bunches of **fragrant**<sup>2</sup> blossoms.

7. The merchant tied his horses in the shade of a large tree, and, taking with him a purse of gold, went up to the palace to see if the owner would sell a bunch of roses. All the doors of the palace were wide open; but, though Omar knocked loudly again and again, no one came to see what he wanted.

8. He then went into the palace to seek for the owner, but no one could he find. He knew that the palace must belong to a rich man, for everything within it was of the very best. He again entered the garden and looked around for the owner, but without success.

9. "Well," said the merchant to himself, "the wealthy prince who lives here will surely spare me a few flowers for my little girl; and, as I cannot find him, I will pluck a bunch for myself."

---

<sup>1</sup> chased: *Engraved*.

<sup>2</sup> fragrant: *Sweet-scented*.

## LESSON 2

# BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

## II

savage

growled

fare-well

sure-ty

sen-si-ble

de-clared

1. Hardly had Omar plucked the roses, when he was **startled**<sup>1</sup> by a savage roar close by, and, looking round in terror, he saw a huge bear at his side. While Omar shook with fright, the bear growled, “Who are you that dare to rob my garden? **Prepare**<sup>2</sup> at once for death, for all who steal my flowers must die!”

2. The merchant begged for mercy. “Good beast,” said he, “I wished to ask for leave to pick a bunch of flowers, but could see no one. I plucked these roses for my dear daughter, Beauty, who is longing for some flowers. I am willing to pay for them. See, here is much gold for your roses.”

3. “Put up your purse!” roared the beast. “My flowers are more precious to me than all the gold in India. If you have nothing more to offer, you must surely die!”

4. Omar begged that, at least, he might go home and bid his daughters farewell. “At your gate,” said he, “are horses laden

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<sup>1</sup> startled: *Caused to start with fright.*

<sup>2</sup> prepare: *Make ready.*

with all my wealth. I will leave them with you as a **surety**<sup>1</sup> for my return.”

5. Moved by Omar’s tears the bear replied, “I do not want your goods. You may go and bid farewell to your children, but fail not to return lest you and they perish. But, if you wish me to spare your life, bring with you the daughter, Beauty, for whom you plucked the roses. If she will stay and serve me for one year, you shall both be free.”

6. Omar took the roses, and with a heavy heart went on his way. As he drew near to his home, his daughters came to meet him, threw their arms around his neck, and kissed him with great joy.

7. On seeing the lovely roses, Beauty cried out with delight, and kissed her father again and again. When she saw that he did not smile, but only sighed, she said, “Why are you so sad, dear father? I am afraid that you must have met with some great trouble upon your journey.”

8. “Ah, my dear!” replied her father, “those roses have been **dearly**<sup>2</sup> bought.” He then told her of his visit to the beast’s garden, and of all that had taken place there, except that he said nothing about the beast’s wish for her service.

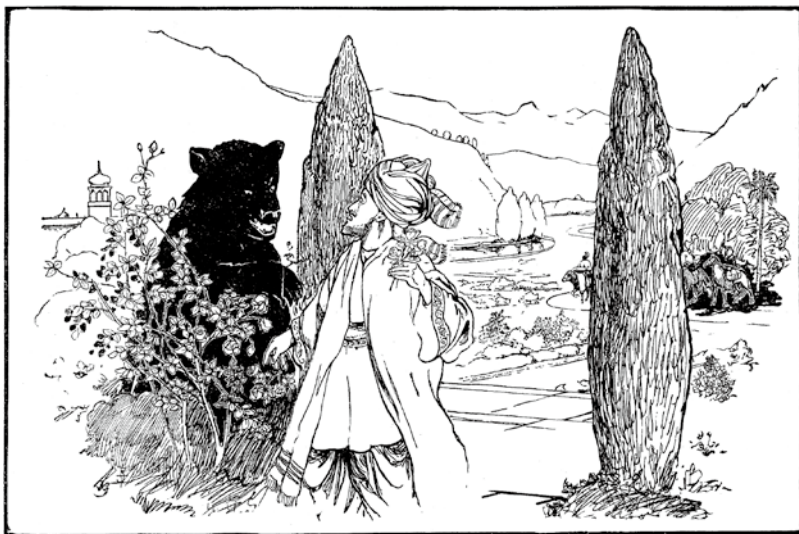
9. Her sisters blamed Beauty for the trouble that had come upon them. “Had you not asked for the flowers,” said they, “our father would never have gone into that horrid beast’s garden. Why did you not ask for something sensible?” With many tears

---

1 surety: *Pledge.*

2 dearly: *At a great cost.*

they begged Omar not to return to the beast.



*“ HE WAS STARTLED BY A SAVAGE ROAR. ”*

10. “My dears,” said he, “I have given my word to go back, and go I must, lest a worse evil come upon all of us.”

11. Beauty then declared that she would go with him, and add her prayers and tears to his, so that the beast might have mercy upon them. “Ah!” said her father, “Beauty, you must not go,” and then he had to tell her of the beast’s wish.

12. “Dear father,” said Beauty, “if I can thus save you I will surely go; and, if you will not take me, I must find the way for myself.”

## LESSON 3

# BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

### III

night-fall

hand-some

dain-ti-est

hap-pi-ly

jew-els

gen-er-al

1. Beauty's father at last agreed that she should go with him, and, after a sad farewell, the two set off for the beast's palace. When they reached the garden, the bear was there to meet them. He took them into the palace, where a great feast was spread, and treated them as his **guests**<sup>1</sup>.

2. When the time came for Omar to depart, the beast said, "Have no fear, honest merchant; no harm will come to your daughter, for I shall watch over her, and all will be well when you return next year."

3. The beast **was as good as his word**<sup>2</sup>. Beauty had but to **express**<sup>3</sup> a wish, and her wish was at once granted. She was treated with the greatest kindness, but, from dawn to nightfall, the bear was always with her. Although she never saw anyone else, she knew that there were many to wait upon them, for the palace was always in order; and when she and the bear sat down

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1 guests: *People asked to a feast.*

2 was as good as his word: *Kept his promise in full.*

3 express: *Utter; speak.*

at table, the food was of the **daintiest**<sup>1</sup> kind, and the sound of sweet music filled the air.



“ THE FOOD WAS OF THE DAINTIEST KIND.”

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<sup>1</sup> daintiest: *Choicest.*

4. As the year drew to a close, the bear became very sad, and often gave deep sighs. Beauty felt sad too, for the beast had been so kind to her that she could not help liking him.

5. At last, on the day before her father was to come for her, she threw her arms round the bear's neck, and said, "Poor bear, do not be so sad. I will ask my father if I may stay with you for another year, if that will please you."

6. Hardly had she spoken before a great change took place. The bear's skin grew loose upon him; there was a sound of tearing, and forth from the torn skin stepped a handsome youth.



" FROM THE TORN SKIN STEPPED A HANDSOME YOUTH."

7. "Dearest child," said he, "you have saved me from a great danger. **By magic art**<sup>1</sup> an enemy of mine changed me into a

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<sup>1</sup> by magic art: *By the aid of charms.*