



Hampstead Stage Company
Beauty and the Beast -Educational Materials
Created by Amanda Pawlik, Education Director

The Real Me

Summary:

- This interactive workshop guides students in writing their own “I AM” poem and illustrating it with their unique hand print.
- An optional extension activity is provided with suggestions for how to display handprints as a community art project, with tie-ins to “Build a Better World” summer reading theme.
- Perfect for a rainy-day activity or story time

Ages: 5+

Time: 45-60 minutes

Materials:

- Copies of “I Am Poem” outline (available in Appendix)
- Pens or pencils for writing
- Paper of various colors for handprints
- Additional colored paper, markers, crayons, buttons, feathers, glitter, etc. for decorating handprints as desired

Introduction (5 minutes):

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(Note -this workshop outline assumes students have seen Hampstead Stage Company’s production of Beauty and the Beast, though it may be used as a preshow or standalone activity, simply adjust the following introduction as needed.)

We recently saw Hampstead Stage Company’s performance of Beauty and the Beast. Today we are going to create a project inspired by the show’s two main characters, Beauty and Beast.



Discussion questions:

- What are some words we would use to describe Beauty? Beast?
- What did these two characters have in common?
 - Students may pick up that both characters liked gardening. They may also pick up that both characters started the show by judging others on outward appearance and assuming they would also be judged on their outward appearance. If students do not remember this, help guide them to this point.
- *In the story, Beauty hides that she likes to read and likes to garden because she thinks they make her “un-lady like” instead, she focuses only on her outward appearance. By raising hands, have any of you had something that you really enjoyed doing that you felt like you did not want to share for fear of being judged?*
- Today, we are going to write “I Am” poems. These are ways for us to share who we are in a safe space. After we write our poems, we will then create a “self-portrait” hand print to further share our own unique personalities.

Part 1: Students Write “I Am” Poems (20 minutes)

- Hand out copies of “I AM” poem #1 or #2 and pens/pencils. Note that #2 allows students to share about themselves more in-depth, therefore, it may be best suited for groups of students that are familiar with each other.
- Remind students that they should only share what they are comfortable sharing.
- Give students time to write out their poems. If desired, students could write a first draft on scrap paper before filling in the final draft on the handout, or they could use the handout for a first draft and re-write everything in their own handwriting on a separate paper of their final draft.

Part 2, Students Create a “Self Portrait Handprint” (20 minutes)

- On a separate piece of paper, students should trace their hand and cut out their handprint. (Workshop leader may help as needed).
- Once students have their handprint cutout -they should decorate it like it is their “self-portrait”. For instance, they could paint it their favorite color, draw pictures of their favorite things, or collage it using materials that inspire them.
- If necessary -build in time for the materials to dry.



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Part 3, Students Share their Work (10 minutes)

- At the end of the workshop, if desired, students may read their poem aloud to the group and share their handprint self-portrait.
- **Optional Extension:** Depending on the program, handprints and poems could be displayed as if in an “art gallery” or workshop leader or student helpers could draw a tree trunk and branches and glue the handprints on to the branches like “leaves” and display the prints in a community space.
 - **If using this extension and following summer reading theme, “Build a Better World”,** group could discuss how sharing their true selves and talents can contribute positively to our world as well as how we can use art to brighten community spaces.



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Appendix

I Am Poem #1

I am _____.

I see _____.

I feel _____.

I hear _____.

I am _____.

I am _____.

I wonder _____.

I dream _____.

I question _____.

I am _____.

I am _____.

I love _____.

I try _____.

I hope _____.

I am _____.



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I Am Poem # 2

When you see me, you see:

But, if you really knew me, you'd know: