

Lesson
32

Beauty and the Beast

Vocabulary

All the words in this lesson may be associated with appearance.

askew (uh SKYOO) ADJ. crooked; out of line *(Several of the portraits on the wall were askew.)*

composure (kuhm POH zhur) N. calmness and dignity maintained by self-control *(No matter how nervous Josie felt, she kept her composure.)*

countenance (KOWN tuh nuhns) N. appearance, especially facial expression *(I saw a troubled countenance in the mirror.)*

decrepit (di KREP it) ADJ. weakened by old age, illness, or overwork *(It is amazing that such a decrepit old car can still run.)*

disfigure (dis FIG yur) V. to spoil or damage the appearance of something *(Although the cut is deep, it will not disfigure your face.)*

emaciated (i MAY shee AY tid) ADJ. having become extremely thin from starvation or illness *(Many of the emaciated victims of the famine have been relocated.)*

ethereal (i THEER ee uhl) ADJ. marked by unusual delicacy or refinement; heavenly *(In her angel costume, the girl had an ethereal look.)*

garish (GAIR ish) ADJ. excessively bright or offensively colored *(Flashing neon signs provided a garish illumination for the storefront.)*

gaudy (GAW dee) ADJ. tastelessly ornamented; overdecorated *(The actress's gaudy costume included two bracelets and three rhinestone necklaces.)*

glossy (GLAW see) ADJ. having a shiny, lustrous surface *(The cowboy rubbed and buffed his boots until their glossy surface mirrored his smile.)*

grimace (GRIM is) N. a contorted facial expression of pain or disgust *(Every smile was transformed into a grimace at the bad news.)*

grotesque (groh TESK) ADJ. characterized by ludicrous or bizarre distortion, as of

appearance or manner *(Sitting calmly before me was a grotesque little alien.)*

guise (gyz) N. false appearance or pretense *(One man showed up in the guise of a mild-mannered newspaper reporter.)*

haggard (HAG urd) ADJ. appearing worn and exhausted *(Each of the vagabonds' haggard faces showed signs of relief at the approaching spring.)*

immaculate (i MAK yuh lit) ADJ. pure; stainless; spotless *(After dinner everyone scoured and scrubbed until the kitchen was immaculate.)*

metamorphosis (MET uh MOR fuh sis) N. a dramatic transformation in appearance, structure, or character *(A caterpillar's transformation into a butterfly is an example of metamorphosis.)*

placid (PLAS id) ADJ. showing a calm exterior *(The placid surface of the lake did not suggest the active aquatic life that existed below.)*

prim (prim) ADJ. formal; proper or prudish *(The prim couple sat so rigidly straight in their chairs one could imagine them in a formal Victorian drawing room.)*

unkempt (uhn KEMPT) ADJ. untidy; messy; in disarray *(With knee-high weeds and uncut grass, the yard had an unkempt look about it.)*

wan (wahn) ADJ. unusually pale as from fatigue, illness, or emotional distress *(The little boy had a sad, wan face due to his bout with the flu.)*