Beauty and the Beast AND THE Online Trolls



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illustrated by Kelly Caswell

Words to Know

Before we "log in" to our story, let's learn a few important digital words. These terms will help Beauty and the Beast (and you!) handle bullies on the internet.

block: to stop someone from messaging you online

cyberbullying: when someone uses technology (like phones or computers) to hurt or upset others

moderator: a person who helps keep online spaces safe by removing mean or harmful posts

post: to share something on the internet, including pictures, messages, videos, etc.

report: to tell someone in charge about a problem

troll: a person who posts mean or unkind messages online just to upset others

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Now, let's begin our tale . . .

Beast loved posting things online.

He shared adventure stories,



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quirky recipes,

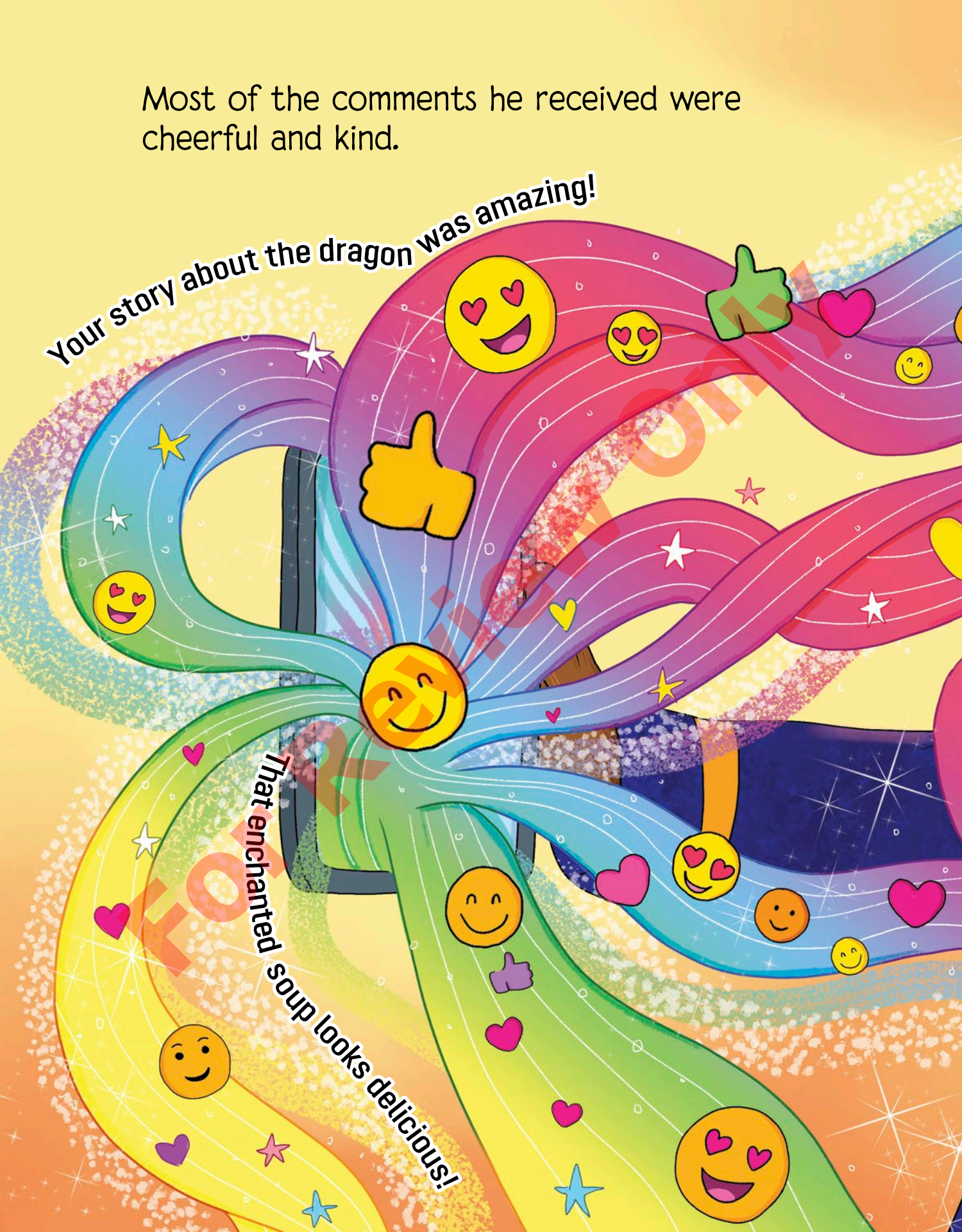


and behind-the-scenes glimpses of castle life.



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Most of the comments he received were cheerful and kind.

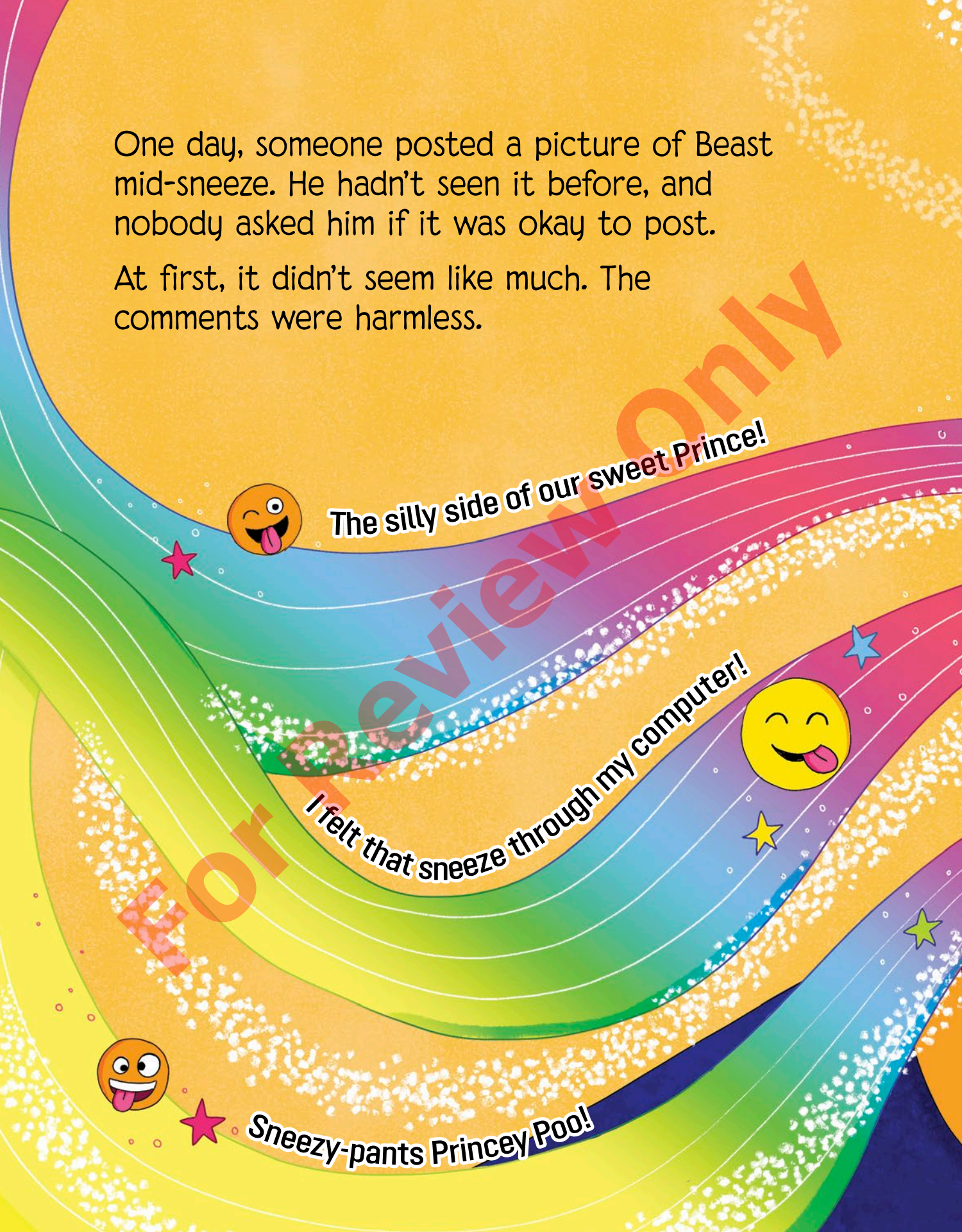


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You're hilarious! More jokes, please!

One day, someone posted a picture of Beast mid-sneeze. He hadn't seen it before, and nobody asked him if it was okay to post.

At first, it didn't seem like much. The comments were harmless.



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But it didn't take long for the comments to change, and Beast couldn't stop reading them.



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Beast turned his phone off. He tried to stay busy, but he couldn't stop thinking about the messages.

It had been a few hours. Maybe it was old news by now?



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Beast's Tips for Staying Happy Online

- If someone says something unkind online, talk to a grown-up.
- Use report and block tools to stop cyberbullying.
- Remember: What people say online isn't always true, so stop and think before sharing.
- Be a champion for kindness! A nice message can make someone's day.

Talk About It

1. What did the author mean when he said that Beast felt heavier and heavier?
2. What steps did Beast take to handle the cyberbullying?
3. How did Beauty help Beast with his problem?
4. What does it mean to block someone online, and when should you do it?
5. What kind of comment would you send to someone who's feeling left out or hurt?

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