

## **The Questing Beast synopsis**

Based on the Arthurian tales by Sir Thomas Malory and T.H. White, and inspired by the pantomimic humour of Monty Python's *Holy Grail*, *The Questing Beast* tells the story of King Pellinore of Listenoise (Anthony Botelho), who was tasked by his father to hunt for the elusive Questing Beast. Describe as having the neck of a serpent, the hindquarters of a lion, the feet of a deer, and the body and spots of a leopard, Pellinore's family has been seeking the creature for generations. But when Pellinore and his Fool (Kristina Roberts) meet Grummore Grummersum (Christoph Ibrahim), they are offered a warm bed and the temptation to give up their quest. When Grummersum points out that Pellinore has nothing but his father's word that the Beast exists, Pellinore resolves to stay with his friend.

As Pellinore adapts to life in a castle, he is surrounded by new friends - Sir Lucan (Chris MacCallum), visiting direct from Camelot; Sir Bors (Lee-Orr Orbach), the cousin of the famed Lancelot; and Sir Polly Oliver (Taylor Tofflemire), who bears a striking resemblance to Lord Grummersum's serving lady. However, giving up his family's quest after so many years doesn't come easily to Pellinore. In true Shakespearean fashion, he begins to see his father's ghost before his eyes, feels compelled to soliloquize, and loses his passion for life entirely.

Pellinore's new friends attempt to cheer him up, by building a contraption that emulates their idea of the beast. Unfortunately it is very flimsy and falls apart upon its reveal to Pellinore. And yet, following a strange keening sound through the woods, Pellinore and company find out that the creature is indeed real - and injured!

The Beasts is brought back to the castle, and after some soul-searching and a conversation with Grummersum's serving lady, who looks strangely like Sir Polly Oliver, Pellinore resolves to kill it. But once face-to-face with the creature, he finds he can't go through with the deed. He realises that his purpose in life was never to hunt and kill the Beast, but instead to chase it forever, like an eternal game of hide-and-seek. The quest was never about the finding, as that just ends the game for both of them; but instead about the thrill of the chase. Vigour renewed, Pellinore sets the Beast free and heads back out on his quest.