**Characterisation: Challenging Conventional Gender Roles in the Gothic**

**Beauty:**

The colour connotations here are clear. Carter begins her rewriting of Beauty and the Beast deliberately utilising the conventional imagery of fairy tale for the heroine character, thus making her change more dramatic.

Angelic, virtuous characteristics are emphasised through imagery used to reinforce the conventional Gothic and fairy-tale gender stereotype of female as pure, virginal and innocent.

“This lovely girl whose skin possesses that same, inner light so you would have thought she, too, was made all of snow, pauses in her chores in the mean kitchen to look out of the country road” p45

The only hint at this point that Carter may challenge or reinterpret these conventional representations is that this narrative unusually gives focus to the female, thus rendering her more powerful.

Carter initially associates the heroine with the gendered stereotypes of fairy tale and Gothic literature by placing Beauty in the domestic sphere.

Simplistic adjectives employed to describe Beauty emphasises her innocence and youth.

“the road is white and unmarked as a spilled bolt of bridal satin” p45

“his beauty, his girl-child, his pet” p45

“she felt herself to be Miss Lamb, spotless, sacrificial” p48

“Do not think she had no will of her own” p48

“She smiled at herself with satisfaction. She was learning, at the end of her adolescence, how to be a spoiled child” p52

“I’m dying Beauty...since you left me” p54

**The Beast:**

“This leonine apparition shook beauty’s father until his teeth rattled and then dropped him sprawling on his knees” p46

“head of a lion; main of a lion and mighty paws of a lion; he reared on his hind legs like an angry lion yet wore a smoking jacket” p47

“but he, hesitantly, as if he himself were in awe of a young girl”

“he lay, sadly diminished, his bulk scarcely disturbing the faded patchwork quilt” p54

**The Father Figure:**

**Extension:** Find two quotations that supports Chaplin’s idea that postmodern gothic literature addressed the fear of the father figure being unable to protect his family. You may also find a quotation that shows how Beauty’s father objectifies women.