

SHREK

DISCUSSION GUIDE

PLOT

Shrek turns fairy tale convention on its head: the handsome prince is a diminutive twit; the beautiful princess is more than capable of rescuing herself; and the knight in shining armor turns out to be an ogre.

The height-challenged Lord Farquaad, in order to perfect his magical kingdom of Duloc, has ordered all fairy tale "creatures" to be rounded up and relocated to designated areas outside the turnstiles of the city gates. This decree disrupts the solitude of the swamp where Shrek, a ghastly green ogre with a semisweet disposition, makes his home. Wanting only to be left alone, Shrek makes a deal with Farquaad. If he rescues the lovely princess Fiona from the dragon-protected tower where she is being held and returns her to Farquaad so he can marry her and finally become a true king, Shrek's swamp will be cleared of all blind mice, women living in shoes, wolves dressed as grannies, etc...

Shrek and his annoying new "friend," Donkey, set out to rescue the princess and deliver her to the hand of Farquaad but things do not go exactly as planned. This adventure takes a few odd turns before it reaches the happily-ever-after ending.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Chapter 1

The movie begins with story of a princess who needs true love's kiss.

- What is true love?
- What are the characteristics of love?
- How do fairy tales portray love?

Chapter 2

Donkey says he has no friends

- What is a friend?
- Donkey says "you don't know what it's like to be a freak"
- Have you ever called someone a freak? Have you ever been called a freak? How does that make you feel?
- Donkey begins to look for common ground between himself and Shrek. How important is it to be around people who have things in common with you?

Chapter 6

Ogres are like onions, they have layers

- How does this relate to people?
- How can this be used to get to know other people?
- Is there more to people than just what you see on the outside?

Chapter 8

- What are Fiona's expectations of Shrek when he rescues her?
- How do Shrek's expectations differ from Fiona's?
- How does this affect their first meeting?

Chapter 9

Donkey asks how you tell someone that you don't like them in a romantic way.

- What is the best way to tell someone?
- Fiona says he should say that she isn't his true love. Is this the right approach?



**The Dibble
Institute**
Relationship Skills
for Teens

SHREK

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Chapter 10

Why did Shrek want to build a wall around his swamp?

- Think of school. Think of someone that people treat badly because of their looks or the way they dress. This is a reality. But is it fair? Why or why not?
- What are some ways that people judge each other today?

In the clip, Shrek admitted that Donkey didn't think he was "a big, stupid, ugly ogre" when they first met.

- Would you rather have a friend that judges outward appearances or someone like Donkey- someone that doesn't judge others by their outside appearance? Why?

Chapter 11

Shrek tells Fiona that she's different than he expected, her reply is that he shouldn't judge people before getting to know them.

- Is it better to get to know someone before passing judgment on them or is it ok to judge them based on their first appearance? Why?

Chapter 12

Shrek loses his nerve to ask Fiona out.

- Can you relate to that?

Chapter 13

Fiona's curse causes her to turn into an ogre at night. She is embarrassed about her appearance.

- Is this normal?
- Do people often have things they are embarrassed about that they hide from their friends?

Shrek overhears Fiona describing herself as an ugly ogre and thinks that she is talking about him.

- How does this miscommunication affect Shrek? Should she have told him the truth?

Chapter 14

Shrek and Fiona argue about the things she said.

- How does this encounter illustrate the importance of clear communication?

Chapter 16

Shrek asks Donkey if he was so mean why Donkey came back. Donkey replies "that's what friends do, they forgive each other."

- How important is forgiveness in relationships?
- Can forgiveness heal a relationship?

Chapter 18

When Fiona realizes her true form is an ogre, she accepts it.

- What can this tell us about accepting the flaws that we see in ourselves?
- What does the movie show us about judging based on appearances?
- What does the movie show us about expectations vs reality?



Funding for this project was provided by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Grant Number: 90-FE-0024.