



# Shrek

## Lesson 1

### Disability Equality Learning Objectives

- To understand that other people's attitudes can contribute to the poor self-esteem of disabled people;
- To understand that ignorance can perpetuate negative opinions of people who are different.

### Film Learning Objectives

- To examine openings and endings;
- To identify how characters are introduced.

### Curriculum Objectives – Literacy

- To write story openings and endings;
- To write in different styles, for different audiences.

### Activity 1

Teaching and Learning activity	Essential notes
<p>Watch the opening five minutes of <i>Shrek</i>.</p> <p>Discuss what you know about Shrek's character and his qualities.</p>	<p>Shrek is shown to have disgusting habits but is also set up to be the main character, the 'star', so the audience is immediately on his side, rather than ridiculing him as a 'freak'.</p>

### Learning Outcomes

- Children appreciate an individual's qualities and see a person for who they are.

### Activity 2

Teaching and Learning activity	Essential notes
<p>Children imagine that they are one of the townspeople. They write an account describing the first time they saw 'the monster' and why they felt he should be chased out.</p>	<p>Emphasis should be on descriptive language about the monster.</p>

### Learning Outcomes

- Children think about how prejudices begin.

### Activity 3

Teaching and Learning activity	Essential notes
<p>Children create a 'sensationalist' article focusing on the 'first sighting' of Shrek in the village.</p> <p>To compare style and think about different opinions, children could write letters to the newspapers, complaining about the treatment of the ogre. They should back up their opinions with reasoned arguments.</p>	<p>Refer to <u>Stereotypes</u> on the bfi website: <a href="http://www.bfi.org.uk/disablingimagery?for">www.bfi.org.uk/disablingimagery?for</a> information</p> <p>Use headlines from existing newspapers to think about styles of writing.</p>

### Learning Outcomes

- Children think about how disabled people are viewed in society and how that shapes people's opinions.
- Children understand that negative opinions of disabled people can and should be challenged.

### Extension

- Look at other traditional stories in similar ways, eg The Giant in *Jack and the Beanstalk*, *Rumpelstiltskin*, the Seven Dwarfs in *Snow White*.
- Taking the idea of the 'Wanted' poster in the scene at the beginning of *Shrek*, children could create 'crimes' they have committed or write exaggerated descriptions of the characters to emphasise their different characters and special qualities.



## Lesson 2

### Disability Equality Learning Objectives

- To appreciate that disabled people have relationships and friendships with disabled and non-disabled people.

### Film Learning Objectives

- To explore the relationship between characters.

### Curriculum Objectives – PSHE

- To learn how close relationships can overcome obstacles and negative opinions;
- To understand the value of friendship.

### Activity 1

Teaching and Learning activity	Essential notes
Watch scenes in the film where Shrek's relationship with Fiona is shown. What visual clues are there telling us what their relationship is like?	

### Learning Outcomes

- Children appreciate that relationships are based on personal qualities not prejudice or pre-conceptions.

### Activity 2

Teaching and Learning activity	Essential notes
<p>How is Fiona different from most princesses? How is Shrek different from other ogres?</p> <p>Draw two large outlines of the characters and write words to describe their qualities inside them. Outside, write words which describe other people's opinions of them.</p>	<p>It is interesting to compare different people's opinions of Shrek at different points in the story. Some characters, such as the soldiers, have fixed ideas, others change.</p> <p>Also think about how Shrek's opinions change. It is not just about other people's opinions of him but how he feels about himself: 'Look at me... what am I? An ogre'.</p>

### Learning Outcomes

- Children understand that 'difference' is not a negative thing.
- Children recognise that negative opinions are often based on ignorance.

### Extension – History

Shrek is considered to be a 'freak', as is the character of the Donkey.

Explore where this phenomenon came from and how many disabled people were once treated as objects of amazement and wonder, as exhibits in circuses or fairground shows. Other films support this notion, eg *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (Disney) and *The Elephant Man*.

#### [www.thegalopper.com](http://www.thegalopper.com)

This website gives a potted history of the rise and fall of freaks as objects of public curiosity in the context of fairground entertainment.

#### [www.shef.ac.uk](http://www.shef.ac.uk)

This Sheffield University website includes access to the National Fairground Archive.

#### [www.channel4.com](http://www.channel4.com)

Born Freak outlines how in film, performers with disabilities have mostly been confined to the roles of villain, victim or freak.



### Lesson 3

#### Disability Equality Learning Objectives

- To learn that people who are different can believe hurtful, negative things that are said about them;
- To appreciate that people who are physically or mentally different often learn from others' negative reactions not to trust people and to feel bad about themselves.

#### Film Learning Objectives

- To identify characteristics from characters' behaviour;
- To understand using humour to make a point.

#### Curriculum Objectives – PSHE

- To reinforce that bullying and insulting people is wrong (See [Introducing disability in class](#) on the bfi website: [www.bfi.org.uk/disablingimagery?](http://www.bfi.org.uk/disablingimagery?))
- To understand positive ways of behaving to allow people's self-esteem to grow.

#### Activity 1

Teaching and Learning activity	Essential notes
<p>Write up several quotes from the characters in the film and ask the children to decide who they think said them, eg:</p> <p>'You don't know what it's like to be considered a freak...' (Donkey)</p> <p>'Look at me... what am I?' (Shrek)</p>	<p>Children should have seen the whole film to do this but, if not, use the first 15 minutes or so.</p>

#### Learning Outcomes

- Children understand that people's feelings about themselves are affected by others' behaviour.

#### Activity 2

Teaching and Learning activity	Essential notes
<p>Create and write down positive sentences.</p> <p>Mix these up as a class, draw them out and identify which character could have said them.</p>	

#### Learning Outcomes

- Children learn to write in an appropriate style.
- Children consider the positive things about people.