Shrek
A Guided Viewing

“Once Upon a Time”

1. What is the tone of the opening sequence? How is it created?
Romantic through the tone of voice reading and song

2. What does the opening sequence lead us to expect?
A standard fairy tale

3. What is ironic about Shrek’s hand coming and him saying, “Like that’s ever gonna happen”?
It is the opposite of what you expect. You expect the story to continue like fairy tales always do.

4. How does the tone change as Shrek comes out of the outhouse? How is it created?
Sarcastic, music and lyrics

5. What is stuck to Shrek’s foot as he walks out of the outhouse? Why?
Paper—he is stepping on the story sort of disrespectful

6. What is the setting as seen in the opening song sequence? [time, place, way of life of characters]
Swamp, agrarian life style, villagers hunting ogres

7. Based on the opening song sequence, how would you characterize Shrek?
He is not your normal ogre. He bathes, brushes his teeth, sings etc.

8. Why does Shrek play into their stereotypes of ogres?
To create suspense

9. As Shrek confronts the mob, how do the filmmakers play the scene humorously rather than scarily?
Shrek smiles, jokes, close up of Shrek’s mouth, quiet asides

“A Flying, Talking Donkey”

10. What allusions can be seen in the reward sequence? (There are a lot!)
Pinocchio, Snow White, wizard of Oz, 3 Bears, Peter Pan, 3 Little Pigs, Superfly
11. What are the filmmakers saying about society in this scene? Consider the knight calling Pinocchio a possessed toy. That we are bigoted and biased against things or people not like us.

12. Why does Lord Farquad wish to move the fairytale creatures to a “resettlement facility”? So his “kingdom” will be perfect—no disfigured things.

13. How would you characterize Donkey? Everyman’s conscience

“What Are You Doing in My Swamp?”

14. What is the tone of the sequence with Shrek eating dinner? Loneliness

15. What is ironic about Shrek’s dinner? It is eyeballs, ear wax candles, not what you expect from a “nice” ogre.

16. Name as many more allusions as you can in the invasion of Shrek’s swamp. 3 blind mice, Snow White, Red Riding hood, Hansel and Gretel, Pied Piper, Cinderella, Sleeping Beauty

17. What conflict does having the fairytale creatures in Shrek’s swamp create? Man v. Man, Shrek cannot have his isolation

“Lord Farquad”

18. What is the tone at the beginning of the scene? How is it created? Scary, domineering, larger than life—dark music, drums

19. To what does the tone shift? How is this done? Ironic—when Farquad is seen against the dungeon door

20. Who is being tortured? Why? The gingerbread man. To find the “perfect” princess

21. What object is found, and to what does it allude? Magic mirror, Snow White

22. What allusions are seen in the dating sequence? Dating game, Cinderella, Snow White
KEY

23. What **dramatic irony** occurs as Farquad chooses Princess Fiona? He doesn’t listen to the warning about Fiona. The audience knows something ominous is coming.

“The Kingdom of Dulac”

24. The entire opening scene has a **sarcastic tone**. At whom is the **sarcasm** directed? How do you know? The people who mindlessly follow the crowd—the Disney corporation. The town looks like Disneyland.

25. Why do the filmmakers **parody**, or make fun of, this company? Disney make traditional fairy tale movies.

26. What is **ironic** about Farquad looking for a champion for Fiona? The fairy tales say that Princess will be rescued by her true love not his helper.

27. What is understood by the showing of the man with the “Applause” sign? That the audience does not participate by choice.

28. What is the **allusion** as Shrek fights the knights? Camelot.

29. Why does Farquad make Shrek the champion? He thinks Shrek will die on the challenge.

“Ogres Are Like Onions”

30. In the **simile** that ogres are like onions, how is Shrek like an onion? Underneath the smelly exterior is a sweet man.

31. How does this illustrate a **theme** for the film? You are more than just how you look.

32. How does the **tone** change as Shrek and Donkey come over the mountain and see the dragon’s keep? Shrek is less mean and Donkey is less gregarious.

33. What do Shrek’s actions on the bridge reveal about his **character**? He cares more about other people that he lets on.
**“Rescuing the Princess”**

34. What does Fiona expect as she lies in bed? What does that make Shrek’s actions? It is Ironic. She is expecting Prince Charming

35. What is Shrek supposed to do with the handkerchief? Accept it as a token of her love

36. What does Shrek’s handling of the dragon reveal about his **character**? He doesn’t kill just to kill

37. Describe the **music** in this scene. How does it aid the setting? Very dramatic—deep notes. It helps the audience know that this is a serious search. Romantic—in the bed chamber

**“Campfire”**

38. What was Shrek going to do with the rock? Lock her into the cave

39. Again, as Shrek looks at the stars, what two sides of his **character** do we see? The ogre and the storyteller

40. Discuss “sometimes things are more than they appear.” You are more than your looks

41. Why does Shrek want to keep everyone out? He is ugly and scary looking and thinks people only see the outside. He won’t get hurt.

42. We get a **POV shot** over Fiona’s shoulder. Why? It hints at what Fiona actually is

43. Who is “Gabby, the small and annoying”? Donkey

44. What is happening to the **relationship** between Shrek and Donkey? They are becoming friends

**“Merry Men”**

45. Who is the man in green who takes Fiona? “robin hood”
46. Who is the true “green . . . beast”? Why?
Robin hood—he takes Fiona without asking if she wants to be rescued.

47. Why is he French? What are the common stereotypes of French people?
The French are stereotyped as obnoxious and self-centered

48. What allusions are seen this section?
Robin hood, River dance, Bruce Lee films, matrix

49. What is ironic about Donkey and the flowers?
Donkey has no hands to pick the flowers, pointless errands, Donkey is color blind

“ Weedrat Dinner”

50. What is the point of the section where the song plays? How is this accomplished?
Dinner music, Romantic date, sunset, discussion of future

51. Why do both Shrek and Fiona stall for time?
They are falling in love

“ You Ate the Princess!”

52. What is the tone as Donkey looks for Fiona? How is this created?
Scared. Long shadows, dust

53. What allows us to accept that Fiona is an ogre?
Her kindness and she apologizes to Donkey

54. What are the conditions of the spell?
By day a princess, by night an ogre, until loves first kiss

55. What is the dramatic irony as Shrek listens at the door? What does this create for the viewer?
He only hears part of the conversation. The audience knows how the story “should” end.

“The Proposal”

56. What is going on in the conversation between Fiona and Shrek?
They insult each other because they think the other one is dishonest and mean.

57. What is humorous about the “perfect” bride and groom?
Farquad is very short and not “perfect”
“The Wedding”

58. Why are the men holding up the signs?
The audience is not there by choice

59. What do the people do as Shrek comes in?
They shrink back

60. As everyone realizes that Shrek loves the princess, to what fairytale is it compared?
Beauty and the beast

“Love’s True Form”

61. What is not believable as the knights attack Shrek and Fiona? Why not?
It takes all of them to hold the ogres back. The ogres win

62. Why do the people clap? To what old movie is this similar?

63. What do we expect to happen after Fiona transforms? Why doesn’t it?
We expect her to be a princess. Her true form is ogre

“I’m a Believer”

64. What final allusions are seen?
Puss in boots, Dickens

65. The book says that it’s “The End”, but what has Hollywood taught us?
There is always a sequel

Review the Story Elements

1. **Plot**: What is the major conflict(s) of the story and how is it resolved? What are the minor conflicts of the story and how are they resolved?

2. **Characterization**: Who are the major characters of the story? Are they static or dynamic? round or flat? Discuss.

3. **Setting**: What is the setting (ALL of the elements)? How is it important?
4. **Point of View:** What point of view do the filmmakers choose? Why?

5. **Irony:** Find one example of each of the different types of irony and discuss how they are ironic.
   - Dramatic-
   - Verbal-
   - Situational-