

▣ ABOUT THE MOVIE ▣ (subtitled version)

TITLE	Shrek
DIRECTOR	A. Adamson, V. Jenson
YEAR AND COUNTRY	2001/USA
GENRE	Cartoon
ACTORS	Voices: Shrek (Mike Myers), Princess Fiona (Cameron Diaz), Donkey (Eddie Murphy), Lord Farquaad (John Lithgow).



PLOT

Shrek is an endearing ogre* who goes on a quest to rescue feisty Princess Fiona and win back the deed to his beloved swamp from scheming Lord Farquaad. This is an enchantingly clever fairy tale (fascinating for all ages because of its brilliant irony and irreverence) where the usual stereotypes get reversed. The prince is a cowardly fraud, the ogre has the nicest, most humane character, the princess is a karate champion and the donkey is a loyal, if pestiferous, friend with whom a romantic she-dragon falls in love. This film lampoons everything in an unconventional way, but just like every self-respecting fairy tale, it has a message: don't judge someone before you know him/her. Just because someone is ugly, different, even dirty, and lives in a swamp, it does not mean s/he is to be despised. The movie also pokes sly fun at musicals when the characters burst into song at inappropriate moments, and mocks mindless crowds, as in the wedding scene where the spectators have to be shown posters telling them how to act and react.

*In fairy tales, ogres were huge, malevolent beings with supernatural powers.

LANGUAGE

Shrek as the ogre uses ordinary but very direct language and lots of colloquialisms. He has an Irish accent. The Donkey talks with a typical lower-class New York accent and uses a lot of slang, and vulgar expressions. Princess Fiona has an educated American accent and speaks like a classical fairy-tale princess (she even uses obsolete forms like "thou dost", "thy", etc.) until she shows her true colours when she falls for Shrek. Lord Farquaad's accent is a cultured upper class British one and his language is sophisticated and refined.

VOCABULARY

A slime-covered toadstool: a mushroom covered with muck/ooze.	Men of his stature are in short supply. Double meaning here: there aren't many men as important/ as short as he is.
Smelly ogre: stinky monster.	To think little of him. Double meaning here: to underestimate him/ think he is little.
A quest to get my swamp back: an attempt/expedition to regain my marsh/ bog.	To measure up to him: to equal him (but here the underlying meaning is: to measure his height).
Freaks: monstrosities of nature.	Flatulent stench: gassy, terrible smell.
Slayers, to slay: killers, to kill.	Groom-to-be: future husband.
To throttle someone: to strangle/choke someone.	Preposterous: unbelievable.
You cut me deep: you offended me.	To dig (on) each other: to like, understand one another.
Gabby: talkative.	To wear your heart on your sleeve: to show your feelings.
Slobbering: dripping saliva.	Boulder: huge stone.
Needy: poor.	Chatterbox: big talker.
Greedy: rapacious.	Boneheaded dolt: terribly stupid person.
Saucy/sassy: impudent, impertinent.	I ain't the sharpest tool in the shed: I'm not the most intelligent person around.
Lampooning: making fun of.	Live wire: very energetic person.
Beast of burden: an animal that carries loads.	Nobody likes to kiss ass: no one likes having to flatter others.
You sure as heck ain't no coward: you certainly are brave.	On the edge: about to go mad.
Butt: behind, rear end.	I've got my head on straight: I reason correctly.
Reeking of femininity: oozing femaleness from every pore.	To bear witness: to testify.
Steed: an uppity term for a horse (often used with "noble").	