



NOW YOU'RE
SEVEN, SO IT'S
TIME TO GO
AWAY...

FEELINGS

INTRODUCTION

While the Grimm Brothers' fairy tales evoked adventure, glamour, and virtue, they also seethed with some pretty bad behaviour on the part of the adults. Themes of cruelty to children, violence and revenge were common. In the earliest versions of the folktale on which *Hansel and Gretel* is based, both parents participated in the decision to abandon the children. The first scene of **SHREK THE MUSICAL** seems lighthearted enough, until we realise that his parents are essentially pushing him out of the house to fend for himself in a pretty cruel world for those who are different.

IT'S A BIG BRIGHT, BEAUTIFUL WORLD

Provide students with the lyrics to "It's a Big, Bright, Beautiful World" (see photocopiable worksheet). Ask them to read through the song and then, in small groups, to discuss how they think Shrek feels at this point in **SHREK THE MUSICAL**. Ask them to write a letter, from Shrek to his parents, explaining how he feels at having been sent away and told that he's a freak. How is he going to come to terms with it? How does he feel about his parents for making this decision?

I'M LIKE A CRACKPOT MAGNET!

If *Grimms Fairy Tales* were real life, these days the characters from them would probably end up on a talk show, airing their dirty laundry in public. Ask students to select two or three characters from **SHREK THE MUSICAL**. They should be the most dysfunctional pairings possible: Shrek and Fiona; Shrek and his parents; Donkey and the Dragon; Pinocchio and Farquaad; Farquaad, Fiona and Shrek. They should now place these characters into a talk show scenario, such as *Jeremy Kyle* or *Jerry Springer*. They will need a presenter to ask the questions. Before they start to rehearse their talk show, ask them, as a group, to consider carefully the questions that would be appropriate to ask, in order to get the most vocal response and make the best television! They should plot the course of the show, as they would plan a piece of writing, before rehearsing, to make sure that there is some depth and quality to their drama when they perform it. Perform in front of the rest of the class, who can act as the (usually loud) studio audience!

BEAUTIFUL ISN'T ALWAYS PRETTY

Most of the Fairy Tale Creatures in **SHREK THE MUSICAL** have some sort of hang-up. Pinocchio wants to be a 'real boy'; Peter Pan doesn't want to grow up; the ugly duckling is, well, ugly. Ask your students to create a magazine problem page with the title "Dear Shrek", in which a selection of the Fairy Tale characters write to Shrek about their hang-ups and ask for his advice. They should research the codes and conventions that apply to *Agony Aunt* problem pages by looking at examples. What does their page need to look like to be authentic? How can they tailor it to Shrek (as he is playing the part of the *Agony Aunt*)? And which Fairy Tale Creatures' problems will be the best ones to print? They should write the letters from the point of view of the characters that they have chosen, and then decide on the words of wisdom that Shrek will publish on their page by way of an answer!



RESOURCES

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