

## Mid Stage 5 English student work sample – Grade B

The ~~Shrek~~ film, "Shrek" is a fairytale which defies all fairytales. Despite the numerous conventions it has broken, this film does possess a very powerful theme - ~~best~~ beauty comes from within.

The prelude begins with a touch of serene melodies, accompanied by a page-flipping story book about a beautiful princess trapped in a dragon guarded castle, <sup>waiting for a bold knight to rescue her.</sup> Our first impression to this film will most likely be a fairytale, but this perception is ruined as the page being read is torn from the book and used as toilet paper. Then the soft, calm instrumental ballad halts, pop-rocky music kicks in, and we are given a rather gruesome insight to Shrek - the anti-hero of the film.

Shrek obviously isn't a bloodthirsty, battle-hungry war ogre like its stereotype. His peasant-like clothing, obese physique, humorous personality and grouchy Scottish accent portray this particular ogre in a non-threatening type of way. But Shrek is ~~no~~ not the only one who betrays his race, his loudmouth sidekick - Donkey, adopts the traits of a dog, which is visible in his personality and the wagging of his tail.

Then there is the usual bad guy, which in this case is the powerful but not <sup>quite</sup> yet King of the Kingdom, Lord Farquaad. In this ~~no~~ film his intention is quite clear, he wants to be King of Duloc and rule a perfect, unpolluted, unspoilt, 'creature'-free kingdom. In order to do this he becomes ~~captor~~ the captor of many fairytale creatures we know and love, such as the three little pigs, Pinocchio and many more. ~~He~~ The evil Lord Farquaad banishes these fairytale creatures into the murky swamp - which <sup>coincidentally</sup> happened to be Shrek's domain. This results in the outraged Shrek setting out on a journey with his willing sidekick, Donkey to pursue Lord Farquaad and regain his beloved territory.

The costuming in this film indicates ~~Shrek~~ "Shrek" is set in the age of kings, kingdoms and castles. Peasants keep their poor, ragged looks while knights retain their noble appearance with their shining silver armour. Special effects and sound effects are the whole movie but it is within the characters facial expressions and synchronized voice to mouth movements it truly excels. Music is also wonderfully composed; emptiness in the cello can be felt as it plays while Shrek is having dinner alone, and pride can be sensed as Lord Farquaad struts towards the ~~to~~ torture room to the chanting of the loud, proud <sup>and</sup> noble organ. This film definitely knows what music to play, ~~and~~ more importantly, when to play it. Camera angles are <sup>exact</sup> ~~exact~~ and just about perfect for every scene, for example, ~~a long shot has been taken~~ in the scene where Shrek comes out of his home to realize it has been dominated by fairytale creatures, a long shot has been taken to show the ~~great~~ <sup>vastness</sup> ~~variety~~ and diversity of ~~the fairytale creatures.~~

the fairytale creatures. → cont...

Strong personal style

Clear and engaging language

Effective analysis of techniques

The storyline is established gradually and it won't totally bore you to death but for the patient viewers out there, you're in for a 'nice' twist near the end. ~~Since the humour is directed at both adults and children, young or old, I recommend to this funny fairytale to anyone. Although it totally disregards the use of any traditional conventions, it does~~

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 Although this film totally disregards the use of any traditional conventions, it does send its main theme to the audience superbly. Since the humour is directed at both children or adults, young or old, I recommend this ~~is~~ film for anyone, but ~~especially those~~ for those of you who always judge a book by its cover - sit back, watch, and you might even learn something.

## Grade Commentary

Jordan has used a thorough knowledge of film techniques to analyse elements of a film. Techniques have been identified but the analysis is simplistic at times. Techniques and plot have been combined and a range of views and generalisations have been presented. A confident personal style is evident with a clear use of language that engages the audience.

Jordan's response demonstrates characteristics of work typically produced by a student performing at a grade B standard midway through Stage 5.