

What French can Shrek teach us?

Donkey and Princess Fiona in the cave

1. Écoutez bien!

How many of these words and phrases can you hear in this scene?
Tick them as you listen.

Princesse, où êtes-vous?

Calme-toi! Je suis la princesse.

Quelle horreur! Tu as avalé la princesse!

C'EST MOI!

Je suis laide, je sais.

Je ne comprends pas.

C'est une malédiction.

Je me transforme...

Je dois épouser Lord Farquaad demain avant le coucher de soleil.

Je deviens cette horrible bête.

Moi. Je ne dirai rien. Vous, vous devriez.

2. Who said what?

Now go back and write *l'âne* (donkey) or *princesse* beside each phrase.

3. Dictionary work

Use a dictionary to help you write out the phrases on a separate sheet.

La malédiction / The spell

This was cast by a witch (une sorcière) when Fiona was a baby.
Write any words you know underneath.

Le jour sourira,

La nuit pleurera

Au gré tristement

Un baiser recevra

Et ce jour tu seras belle

Aux yeux de l'amant.

Later on at the wedding ceremony Fiona remembers the spell.
She thought she was supposed to be beautiful, not ugly, when she was
kissed by her true love.

FIONA: C'est étrange. Ce baiser devait me rendre belle.

SHREK: Mais vous êtes belle, princesse.

How does this conversation show that the spell had come true?

Messages of Shrek

The film tries to explain some ideas about appearances.

Princess Fiona is both *jolie* ----- and *laide* -----

Shrek can see her beauty as the pretty princess and as an ogress.

Can Lord Farquaad understand her *beauté*?

Shrek is ugly on the outside, but Fiona sees his beauty on the inside.

Donkey seems stupid and irritating, but he turns out to be a good friend.

Think about fairy tales. What do we expect from them? How does the film show us a different type of fairy tale story?
