

Reading #1

SHREK

WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN MY SWAMP?!!!

(They gasp. Uh-oh, now what?)

PINOCCHIO

Well gosh, we were *forced* to come here.

SHREK

Forced? By *who*?

PIG #2

Lord Farquaad! He hoofed und he poofed, und he signed an eveection notice.

SHREK

Huh. Well, not my problem. Now you all need to turn around and go back where you came from.

MAMA BEAR

Go back?! We can't go back!

PIG #1

Farquaad vill turn us into bratvurst!

WOLF

The guy's bad news.

SUGAR PLUM FAIRY

(Russian accent)

Hey, maybe *you* could talking to him.

ELF

Yeah, he'll listen to *you*! You're big and scary.

SHREK

I'm also an ogre, which means I stay on my swamp and avoid large crowds.
Or haven't you read the stories?

WOLF

You mean those stories that say I'm a big "bad" wolf?

WITCH

And the ones that say I'm a "wicked" witch?

(They all laugh uproariously.)

PINOCCHIO

Or the ones that say I'm a "wooden" boy!

(off their uncomfortable silence)

What? I'm *not* a wooden boy.

(nose grows - bwooooop)

I have a glandular condition.

WITCH

Look here, ogre, I'm gonna spell it out for ya. We don't want us here any more than *you* do. But you're the only one tough enough to stand up to that no-good flim-flammer Farquaad.

SHREK

Tough enough? You don't even *know* me.

DONKEY

Can I just say? That was *incredible*. Man, they were trippin' over themselves to get away from you. I *liked* that.

SHREK

(nose in the map)

Oh good, I'm glad, now why don't you go celebrate your narrow escape with your friends.

DONKEY

But I don't have any friends.

SHREK

Now there's a shocker.

DONKEY

(chuckles)

Heh-heh. Say, you lost or something?

SHREK

No, I'm just trying to figure out the best route to Duloc.

DONKEY

Oh Duloc! I know Duloc! You gotta let me show you the way, because I am like a GPS with fur!

SHREK

(barely acknowledging him)

I'll be fine on my own, thanks.

DONKEY

But nobody's fine on their own! Not when you look like we do!

(realizes he's losing him)

Hey! Didn't you hear what they said? Man this place is goin' Stepford! We gotta join forces! Otherwise they're gonna lock me up! And I can *not* go back in a cage! I don't know if I mentioned it or not, but I did six years in solitary for impersonating a piñata.

SHREK

(finally fed up)

ROOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOAAAAAAAAAAR!

DONKEY

Whoa, that was really scary. And if you don't mind me saying, if *that* don't work your breath'll certainly get the job done.

SHREK

Listen, little Donkey, take a look at me. What am I?

DONKEY

Ahhh...really green?

SHREK

No! I'm an ogre! You know – grab your torch and pitchforks! Doesn't that bother you?

DONKEY

Nope.

SHREK

Really?

DONKEY

Really really.

SHREK

Oh....?

DONKEY

Man, I like you. What's your name?

SHREK

Shrek.

DONKEY

Shrek? Huh. Well, you know what I like about you, Shrek? You got that whole, "I don't care what anybody thinks of me" thing. I like that, I respect that, Shrek. You all right.

SHREK

Oh good. Goodbye.

(moves to go but Donkey stops him)

FARQUAAD

I'm not the monster here, *you* are. You and the rest of that fairy tale trash poisoning my perfect kingdom.

GINGY

It's *not* a kingdom! Because you're not a king!

FARQUAAD

Oh, but I will be. Just as soon as I find a princess to marry. And I hear you know of one. Tell me where she is!

GINGY

Eat me!

(spits in Farquaad's face)

GUARDS

Ahhh!

(Farquaad's guards all pull out torture devices - a rolling pin, a giant spatula, an egg-beater, a carton of milk, etc..)

FARQUAAD

(through clenched teeth)

No! I've tried to be fair to you creatures, but now my patience has reached its end!

GINGY

(stalling)

Uh-uh, uhh, okay, well, maybe I have heard *tell* of a princess.

FARQUAAD

From who?

GINGY

Do you know the Muffin Man?

FARQUAAD

The Muffin Man?

GINGY

The Muffin Man.

FARQUAAD

Yes. I know the Muffin Man. Who lives on Drury Lane?

GINGY

Well, I heard it from the Muffin Man.

FARQUAAD

The Muffin Man?!

GINGY

The Muffin Man!

FARQUAAD

(thoughtful, to himself)

He heard it from the Muffin Man...

GINGY

Can I go now?

FARQUAAD

You haven't told me where she is!

GINGY

I can't!

FARQUAAD

You must!

GINGY

I won't!

FARQUAAD

Tell me or I'll—!

(reaches for Gingly's buttons)

GINGY

No! Not the buttons! Not my gumdrop buttons!

FARQUAAD

Then where is the princess?!

GINGY

(broken)

Okay...I'll tell you. She's a day's walk from here. In a dragon-guarded castle, surrounded by hot boiling lava.

FARQUAAD

Well that sounds dangerous.

GINGY

Ya want a princess or not?!

FARQUAAD

Go on.

GINGY

In the highest room in the tallest tower, you'll find a fiery red-head named Princess Fiona.

FARQUAAD

Ooo, Princess Fiona. She's sounds perfect.

(thinking)

Except for that dragon and lava thing. I'll have to find someone else to go...

GINGY

(to himself)

Big surprise.

FARQUAAD

(in his own revelry)

I shall make Fiona my Queen, and Duloc will finally have the perfect King!

(to his underlings)

Captain, round up your men, summon the citizens, and bring that cookie to the swamp!

GINGY

Swamp?! That's the thanks I get?!

FARQUAAD

Thelonius, tell the Royal Coiffuer I need to get my hair pressed. We're going to get a queen!

(They exit. During the transition, the guards march out in formation, just as they first entered.)

Reading #4

FIONA

Fiona is skipping about like the overjoyed princess she is. Shrek and Donkey are winded.)

You did it! You-did-it-you-did-it-you-did-it. You're amazing, you're wonderful, you're...a little unorthodox I'll admit but—

(regains her composure)

Thy deed is great, and thine heart is pure. I am eternally in your debt.

(Shrek enjoys the attention. Donkey, however, feels slighted.)

DONKEY

Ahem.

FIONA

And where would a brave knight be without his noble steed?

DONKEY

Alright! I hope you heard that. She called me a "noble steed!" She think I'm a steed.

FIONA

Well, Sir Shrek, the battle is won. You may remove your helmet.

SHREK

Ahhh...no.

FIONA

Why not?

SHREK

I...I have helmet hair.

FIONA

(cooly)

Please, I wouldst look upon the face of my rescuer.

SHREK

Oh no, you wouldn't...tst.

FIONA

(giggles)

But—how will you kiss me?

SHREK

What? That wasn't in the job description.

DONKEY

Maybe it's a perk.

FIONA

No—it's destiny. "A princess is rescued by a brave knight and then they share true love's first kiss."

DONKEY

With Shrek?! You think that *Shrek* is your true love? Hahahahaha!

FIONA

What is so funny?

SHREK

(also laughing)

Well, let's just say I'm not your type, okay?

FIONA

(losing patience)

Of course you are. You're my rescuer! Now remove your helmet.

SHREK

Look, I really don't think that's a good idea.

FIONA

Just take off the helmet.

SHREK

I'm not going to.

FIONA

Take it off!

SHREK

No!

FIONA

NOW!

SHREK

Okay! Easy. As you command, Your Highness...

(Shrek removes his helmet. Fiona stares at him blankly, confused but not frightened. Shrek smiles.)

FIONA

You're...an ogre?

SHREK

(...of course)

Oh, you were expecting Prince Charming?

FIONA

Well...yes actually. Oh no. I'm supposed to be rescued by my true love! Not by some ogre and his...*pet*.

DONKEY

Well so much for noble steed.

FIONA

You're not supposed to be an ogre.

(He sighs, irritated.)

SHREK

Princess, I was *sent* to rescue you by Lord Farquaad, okay? He's the one who wants to marry you.

FIONA

Oh. Then why didn't *he* come rescue me?

SHREK

Good question. You should ask him that when we get there tomorrow.

FIONA

(stops)

Tomorrow?

(suddenly realizes)

Oh my gosh, it's almost sunset!

SHREK

So?