



Resource Guide | for Educators and Audiences

We include information about our production along with creative activities to make connections both before and after the show. For educators, all activities are aligned to the Common Core Standards and North Carolina Essential Standards. Look for the symbol below throughout the guide.



NCES-TheaArts.(K-5).TA.A.1: Analyze literary texts and performances. NCES-TheaArts.(K-5).TA.A.1.1: Recall the basic parts of a story, such as characters, setting, and events.

Mainstage production
Recommended for all ages



Directed by Adam Burke

Based on the DreamWorks
Animation Motion Picture and
the Book by William Steig

Book and Lyrics by David Lindsay-Abaire

Music by Jeanine Tesori

Originally produced on Broadway
by DreamWorks Theatricals and
Neal Street Productions

SHREK THE MUSICAL-TYA VERSION is
presented through special arrangement
with Music Theatre International
(MTI). All authorized performance
materials are also supplied by MTI.

www.mtishows.com

Summary of *Shrek the Musical*

Get ready to raise 'em high as we join Shrek and his lovable sidekick Donkey for a musical adventure. Journey beyond the swamp in this fun-filled story about acceptance and love. It's a celebration that will have you singing along, "What makes us special makes us strong!"

Audience expectations

You may wish to have a discussion with your students about their role as an audience member. Live theatre only exists when an audience is present; their energy and responses directly affect the actors in performance.

Younger audiences should know watching live theatre isn't like watching more familiar forms of entertainment: there is no pause or rewind button, there are no commercials for bathroom breaks, and they can't turn up the volume if someone else is talking. Encourage your students to listen and watch the play intently, so they may laugh and cheer for their favorite characters when it is appropriate. At the end of the play, your applause is an opportunity to thank the actors for their performance. Here are some other guidelines to remember as well:

- Respect others audience members. Stay seated and keep your hands to yourself.
- Please turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices during the performance.
- Photography and recording of the performance is prohibited by copyright law.
- We do not permit food and drinks in the theatre.



NCES-TheaArts.(K-5).TA.CU.2: Understand the traditions, roles, and conventions of theatre as an art form. NCES-TheaArts.3.TA.CU.2.1: Illustrate theatre etiquette appropriate to the performance situation.

The BIG QUESTIONS about the show

1. Shrek asks us to look at beauty in a new way. What is beautiful to you? Can someone be beautiful on the outside and not beautiful on the inside? Can someone be beautiful on the inside which makes them more beautiful on the outside? How does who the person is change how you see their beauty?
2. The story of Shrek is told as a fairy tale and uses many familiar fairytales throughout. What different fairytales can you identify? How did Shrek change the view of those familiar fairytales? What changed in each in this re-telling?
3. It was difficult in the story for Shrek to express his feelings to Fiona. Why? Have you ever had a time where it was difficult for you to tell someone how you feel? Why do you think it was difficult for you?



CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.(K-5).2: Ask and answer questions about key details in a text read aloud or information presented orally or through other media. NCES-TheaArts.2.TA.A.1.2: Analyze the relationships between events, characters, and settings.

Themes explored
friendship, acceptance, individuality

Synopsis of Shrek

Set in a mythical “once upon a time” sort of land, *Shrek the Musical* is the story of a hulking green ogre who, after being mocked and feared his entire life by anything that crosses his path, retreats to an ugly green swamp to exist in happy isolation. Suddenly, a gang of homeless fairy-tale characters (Pinocchio, Cinderella, the Three Pigs, you name it) raid his sanctuary, saying they’ve been evicted by the vertically challenged Lord Farquaad. So Shrek strikes a deal: I’ll get your homes back, if you give me my home back! But when Shrek and Farquaad meet, the Lord strikes a deal of his own: He’ll give the fairy-tale characters their homes back, if Shrek rescues Princess Fiona. Shrek obliges, yet finds something appealing—something strange and different—about this pretty princess. He likes her. A lot. But why does she always run off when the sun sets?

Recommended Reading

If you enjoyed the show, check out these books at your local Charlotte Mecklenburg library branch. Check availability at cmlibrary.org.

Shrek! by William Steig.
New York: Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1990.

Shrek: The Essential Guide by Stephen Cole.
New York: DK Publications, 2004.

The Truth About Ogres by Eric Braun.
Mankato, MN: Picture Window Books, 2011.

What Makes You Cough, Sneeze, Burp, Hiccup, Blink, Yawn, Sweat, and Shiver? by Jean Stangl.
New York: Franklin Watts, 2000.

THEATRE CORNER

Every play Children’s Theatre of Charlotte produces is created by a talented team of designers, technicians, actors and a director. As a class, discuss what you experienced when you saw the performance.

1. Name three things you noticed about the set. Did the set help tell the story? What sort of set would you have designed?
2. What did you like about the costumes? Did the costumes help tell the story? What sort of costumes would you have designed?
3. What role did lighting play in telling the story? How did the lights enhance what you were seeing?
4. Talk about the actors. Were there moments you were so caught up in the story you forgot you were watching a play?
5. Were there any actors who played more than one character? What are some ways you can be the same person but play different characters?



NCES-TheaArts.(K-5).TA.A.1: Analyze literary texts and performances. NCES-TheaArts.(K-5).TA.AE.1.2: Understand how costumes [and technical elements] enhance dramatic play.

For more activities and content surrounding this show, [click here](#) to access Children’s Theatre of Charlotte’s Pinterest boards.



Write to Us!

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CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.(K-5).1: Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.