

Personality Assessment: the Character of Shrek

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Every day people get the opportunity of meeting others. Almost always, humans unintentionally form an impression about others they meet. They get the sense of the kind of personality others possess. Consequently, they decide to treat them or even judge them according to the preconceived notion about their personality. Therefore, how people perceive others also affects how they treat them and whether or not they decide to associate with them. According to Funder (1997) “an individual’s personality consists of characteristic patterns of behavior, thought or emotional experience that exhibit relative consistency across time and situation” (p. 140). Moreover, the author suggests that there are other variables such as motives, intentions, goals and other subjective perceptions that ultimately affect how humans assess personality; personality assessment is subject to a thorough research including various topics in personality, social psychology and development of the individual.

To get a better understanding of how people form certain impressions regarding others they meet, in the following paragraphs the personality of Shrek will be analyzed and dissected. This analysis will be conformed to the definition that was mentioned above by Funder (1997). The patterns of behavior will be observed and analyzed, as well as the emotional and thought experience that the character of Shrek displays throughout the movie. Shrek is a 2001 American animated movie based on William Steig’s fairy tale book.

Shrek is a green ogre who likes to live in solitude in his swamp and who appreciates the comfort that he finds in his home. Shrek does not like to be interrupted and hence comes across as grumpy. From the beginning of the movie, one thing is clear as it pertains to the character and personality of Shrek and that is that Shrek has an attitude. His attitude is almost like his mask whereby he hides and does not appreciate to be bothered. Furthermore, his attitude reflects that

he does not want anyone coming and bothering him; Shrek feels like he does not want anyone and better yet that he does not need anyone in his life. One also gets the feeling that Shrek uses his attitude as a shield to hide behind his insecurities and fears.

Shrek's behavior also stems from his attitude whereby he pushes others away and does not even give them an opportunity to know him. Moreover, Shrek excludes himself from the same privilege of having the opportunity to know and meet others around him. He pushes every one away before he gets to know them. However, as the story of Shrek unfolds the viewer finds out that the personality of Shrek is tremendously affected by his insecurities and his fears that he has about others perception of him. Shrek uses his attitude as a mask whereby he reflects that he is grumpy and pretty much hates everyone around. The reality shows otherwise. Shrek covers his insecurities through his attitude because he feels like everyone loathes him and consequently would be afraid to acquaint with him.

Other characteristics of Shrek include peacefulness in his heart. As odd as that might seem, Shrek has a peaceful personality as long as he gets to live alone and is not bothered by others. When Shrek gets bothered by others, another layer of his personality displays which is his cranky personality; Shrek becomes cranky when he is bothered and his solitude is compromised. Moreover, Shrek is described as a careful personality whereby he would not hurt anyone nor does he have the will to do such a thing. As mentioned above Shrek is a loner and is also kindhearted. Shrek would love to help others if only they could understand him and the struggles that he is going through.

Shrek is described in the movie to have both good skills and bad ones as well. Throughout the movie, Shrek has a physical presence about himself whereby he uses it to perfection when the time comes for him to scare off villagers or others that bother him. He does

this by roaring at them. Through his physical attributes also come his skills as a fighter. He has good skills at fighting and protecting himself from others. On another note, he is also good at cooking especially the weed rat stew that is shown in the beginning of the movie. On the other hand Shrek possesses bad skills like with his ability to making friends. Shrek is a terrible acquaintance and that has a lot to do with his attitude and behavior that ultimately scares others off. Moreover, Shrek is described as bad using his manners. He can be odd at times without realizing it.

As it pertains to developing relationships, Shrek bonded by his deficiencies and insecurities struggles immensely to develop real relationships. Throughout the movie, Shrek develops a bond with the donkey who ultimately becomes one of his best friends and also his sidekick in his adventurous journey. The second relationship that Shrek manages to develop is the one with Princess Fiona. As odd as that seems considering the perception that Shrek has about himself, he develops a relationship with Princess Fiona when he meets her at the castle while rescuing her. With the adventure of Fiona, the kindhearted comes out Shrek where he falls in love with her and ultimately marries her.

When pondering about the personality of Shrek, one comes to the realization that the author above mentions as far as the thought and emotional experience. On the first glance Shrek reflects a grumpy, mean, unapproachable character. However, as Shrek's story is unfolded, many original understandings begin to change. There is something underneath his smelly and green personality. Inside of him there is a thoughtful and emotional experience. This is really cool because we come to understand Shrek better for who he really is. This shows that it might be good not to judge people based on the first impression because the first impression might not be true.

References

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