

## Elementary

**Today you are going to read about a movie with the title Shrek. I'm sure everyone has seen it. It's a nice tale, watch it and you will laugh and cry a lot.**

Read the story and complete it with the words from the list.

LIKE / BRINGS / FLOWERS / LOVE / MARRIAGES / ROMANTIC / PRINCESS / NEXT / KISSES / HORSE / GIRLFRIEND / BEAUTY

Shrek lives a quiet and lonely life in his small swamp (mocsár), until his peace is disturbed because a lot of "fairytale creatures" (like the Gingerbread man and Pinnochio), because the ruler (uralkodó) exiled (száműzni) them from the nearby dominion Duloc because they want to rid (megszabadítani) Shrek's swamp of the intruders (betolakodó). After defeating many of Duloc's knights in a tournament, Shrek accepts a bargain wherein Farquaad agrees to remove the creatures if Shrek rescues and 1. \_\_\_\_\_ to him Princess Fiona, a princess who is imprisoned in a castle guarded by a dragon, awaiting the knight who will rescue her. Only if Farquaad is able to marry a 2. \_\_\_\_\_ can he get the title of King.

After many (mis)adventures in which Shrek is annoyed (idegesít) by the friendly but too talkative Donkey, Shrek and Donkey reach the dragon's castle. While Donkey is trying to save his life he sweet-talks Dragon (compliments (dícsér) her hygiene), so the dragon falls in 3. \_\_\_\_\_ with him. After listening to him say the relationship will not work between them, she carries him by the tail in her teeth (after he turns around and calls for Shrek).

Meanwhile, Shrek rescues Fiona from Dragon's keep. She complains that he's not doing it right, saying that he should come in on a 4. \_\_\_\_\_ with a sword (kard), like a proper (rendes) knight - like all the other knights who have attempted to rescue her did. As he opens the door, he sees Dragon with Donkey. The Dragon has Donkey seated comfortably in her tail and is charming him. Just as Dragon is about to kiss Donkey, Shrek knocks him out of her arms, and she 5. \_\_\_\_\_ Shrek on the butt (hátsó fertály) instead; the dragon becomes very angry, she chases(üldöz) them through the castle. Shrek, Fiona and Donkey then escape from Dragon.

Shrek and Fiona first dislike each other--Fiona is angered that her rescuer is an ogre and not the expected Prince Charming; however on the journey back they begin to 6. \_\_\_\_\_ one another. Fiona shows that she is more than just a pretty face; when the trio is attacked by a French-accented Robin Hood (who thinks that the ogre has kidnapped (elrabolni) Fiona), Fiona shows that she can fight and single-handedly (egyedül, egymaga) defeats the attackers. Shrek, despite his tough (kemény) and non-caring (nemtörődöm) exterior (külső), starts to have 7. \_\_\_\_\_ feelings for Fiona.

On the way back, Donkey discovers that Fiona is under a curse (átok) which causes her to turn into an ogre every night at sunset (and then turn back again the 8. \_\_\_\_\_ morning). The only way to break the curse is to receive "true love's first kiss". While Fiona complains (panaszkodni) to Donkey that she is ugly, Shrek (who having finally made up his mind (eldönteni) to propose (megkérni a kezét) is bringing 9. \_\_\_\_\_ to her) overhears the conversation and thinks that Fiona is calling *him* ugly.

The misunderstanding causes a bitter change. Shrek and Donkey go back to the Swamp while Fiona and Farquaad make wedding arrangements, with Fiona wanting to be married before that evening's sunset so that Farquaad will never see her in her ogre form. Donkey follows Shrek back to his swamp; after an argument, Donkey informs Shrek that she was not calling him a "hideous (visszataszító), ugly beast". Together, they travel on the back of the beautiful Dragon they fought (who is now Donkey's 10. \_\_\_\_\_) to Duloc and crash the wedding (though not in time to prevent the vows (eskü) from being taken (tenni)). Farquaad and the guests laugh at the notion of the ogre marrying the lovely Fiona. At that moment, the sun sets, and Fiona shows her curse to all the guests. Farquaad, repulsed (visszataszít) at Fiona's ogre form, orders her carried away. A struggle (küzdelem) starts, and Dragon crashes through the palace windows. Donkey makes the cheeky remark, "Celebrity 11. \_\_\_\_\_! They never last, do they?"



Shrek and Fiona then tell each other how much they love each other, and he kisses her, but instead of this turning her back to a human being, she turns permanently (véglegesen) into an ogre. When Fiona says that the kiss should turn her beautiful, Shrek says that she is beautiful. This ending stresses (kiemel) the relativity of 12. \_\_\_\_\_, thus giving the allegory its moral (tanulság).

After the wedding, the song "I'm a Believer" is played while all the magical creatures visit.

*Now answer some questions.*

1. What disturbs Shrek's quiet life?
2. Why do they go to the swamp?
3. How does Farquaad promise to clear the swamp?
4. Who keeps the Princess in the castle?
5. What happens between the Donkey and the Dragon?
6. Is the Donkey a quiet animal?
7. Do Shrek and Fiona like each other from the beginning?
8. Why did Fiona dislike the ogre?
9. What is Fiona's curse?
10. What is the misunderstanding between Shrek and Fiona?
11. Who helps them to stop the wedding?
12. What happens when Shrek kisses Fiona?
13. What can you learn from the story?

## Intermediate

***Today you are going to read about a movie entitled American Beauty. If you have not seen it, don't miss watching it, and of course in English.***

*Read the text and complete it with the words given.*

GAY / INTENSIVE / HAPPY / DEALER / LOSER / GUN / BALLOON / AMBITIOUS / COMFORTS  
/ EMOTIONLESS / EMBARRASSEMENT / GUNSHOT

Lester Burnham (Spacey) is a 42-year-old advertising executive living in suburban Chicago whose family life has fallen into disrepair. His wife Carolyn (Bening) is an 1. \_\_\_\_\_ and pretentious realtor with little on her mind but success, his daughter Jane (Birch) is a typically apathetic teenager who resents her father for his lack of support and contemplates breast implants despite obviously not needing them, and Lester himself is a self-described 2. \_\_\_\_\_ going through a mid-life crisis.

However, Lester receives motivation for transforming himself in the form of Angela Hayes (Suvari), Jane's best friend and classmate. Angela, a beautiful, confident, and supposedly promiscuous cheerleader who aspires to be a model, captivates Lester the moment he sees her perform a school dance routine, and he develops an obvious crush on her, much to Jane's 3. \_\_\_\_\_. Angela, however, finds Lester "sweet" and later comments to Jane that if he began exercising, she would "totally fuck him," which Lester overhears, leading to his beginning an 4. \_\_\_\_\_ workout regimen.

Meanwhile, a family consisting of the homophobic and austere Colonel Frank Fitts, (Cooper), his 5. \_\_\_\_\_ and possibly depressed wife Barbara (Janney), and their introspective and curious son Ricky (Bentley) moves next door to the Burnhams. Jane begins to notice Ricky, who, unbeknownst to his father, raises money as a marijuana 6. \_\_\_\_\_, videotaping her through her bedroom window, which secretly flatters her.



On his last day alive, Lester calmly confronts his wife about her affair, causing its end; Carolyn listens to a self-help tape that convinces her to "refuse to be a victim." She angrily drives home with her 7. \_\_\_\_\_ with the intent to confront her husband, believing him to have ruined her life. Lester then calls Ricky to the house for marijuana, raising the suspicions of Col. Fitts, who becomes convinced that his son is 8. \_\_\_\_\_ and subsequently forces him to leave the house, for which Ricky is happy to oblige. When Ricky and Jane plan to leave for New York City, Angela, who is visiting, accuses both of being "freaks," to which Ricky retorts that she is ugly, ordinary, and knows it. Angela bursts into sobs on the stairs, and Lester, after being confronted by a broken Col. Fitts — who, it is revealed, is actually gay himself — 9. \_\_\_\_\_ her.

However, Lester's attempt to seduce Angela derails when she reveals that she is, in fact, a virgin. He cannot bring himself to take her virginity and instead makes her a sandwich in the kitchen. For the first time in a while, Lester realizes that he is truly 10. \_\_\_\_\_. As Angela heads to the bathroom, Lester contemplates an old photo of his smiling family - unaware of Col. Fitts's gun levelled at the back of his head.

The movie ends with Lester's description of his life flashing before his eyes, interspersed with scenes of his family and others at the moment of the 11. \_\_\_\_\_. Looking back on these events from his vantage point as narrator, Lester is only content:

I guess I could be pretty pissed off about what happened to me, but it's hard to stay mad when there's so much beauty in the world. Sometimes I feel like I'm seeing it all at once, and it's too much; my heart fills up like a 12. \_\_\_\_\_ that's about to burst... And then I remember to relax, and stop trying to hold on to it. And then it flows through me like rain, and I can't feel anything but gratitude for every single moment of my stupid little life.

You have no idea what I'm talking about, I'm sure. But don't worry... You will someday.

*List the characters. What do we know about them?*

## Advanced

***Today you are going to read about a book entitled *The Hours*. Read it and watch its film adaptation as the characters use beautiful English and you will get to know an important piece of literature of the English language.***

*Read the text and complete it with the appropriate words.*

The book concerns three generations of women affected by a Virginia Woolf novel.

The novel begins with the suicide of Virginia Woolf in 1941 by drowning herself in the Ouse, a river in Sussex, England. Even as she is drowning Virginia marvels at everyday sights and sounds. Leonard Woolf, her 1. \_\_\_\_\_, finds her suicide note and Virginia's dead body floats downstream where life, in the form of a mother and child going for a walk, goes on as if Virginia is still taking in all the sights and sounds.

The novel jumps to New York City at the end of the twentieth 2. \_\_\_\_\_ where Clarissa Vaughn (Cunningham's modern Mrs. Dalloway) is thinking about buying flowers. She leaves her partner Sally cleaning their apartment and heads outside into a June morning. Walking to the flower shop, Clarissa enjoys the everyday hustle and bustle of the 3. \_\_\_\_\_. The sights and 4. \_\_\_\_\_ she encounters serve as jumping-off points for her thoughts about life, her loves and her past. The beautiful day reminds her of a happy memory, a holiday she had as a young woman with two friends, Richard and Louis. In fact, the flowers are for a party Clarissa is hosting at her apartment that night for Richard (now a renowned poet dying of AIDS) as he has just won the Carrouthers, an esteemed poetry 5. \_\_\_\_\_ awarded for a life's work. Clarissa bumps into Walter, an acquaintance who writes pulp fiction gay romances. Clarissa invites him to the party although she knows Richard abhors Walter's shallow interests in "fame and fashions, the latest restaurant". Clarissa herself appreciates Walter's "greedy innocence." Clarissa continues on her



way reflecting on her past, sometimes difficult relationship with Richard which she compares to her more stable but unspectacular relationship with her partner of eighteen years, Sally. She finally arrives at the 6. \_\_\_\_\_ shop. The novel then jumps to 1923 with Virginia Woolf waking one morning with the possible first line of a new novel. She carefully navigates her way through the morning, so as not to lose her inspiration. When she picks up her pen, she 7. \_\_\_\_\_: *Mrs. Dalloway said she would buy the flowers herself.*

The novel jumps to 1949 Los Angeles with Laura Brown reading the first line of Virginia's Woolf's novel 'Mrs. Dalloway.' ("*Mrs. Dalloway said she would buy the flowers herself.*") Laura Brown is pregnant with her second child and is reading in 8. \_\_\_\_\_. She does not want to get up despite it being her husband, Dan's, birthday. She is finding it hard playing the role of wife to Dan, and mother to her son Richie, despite her appreciation for them. She would much rather read her book. She eventually forces herself to go downstairs where she decides to make a cake for Dan's birthday which Richie will help her make.

The novel returns to Clarissa Vaughn who, having left the flower shop with an armload of flowers, decides to stop by Richard's apartment. On her way to Richard's she pauses at the site of a film shoot, hoping to catch a glimpse of a movie star. Eventually she leaves, having not seen the star, embarrassed at her own trivial impulses. Clarissa enters the neighbourhood she and Richard frequented as young adults. It is revealed Richard and Clarissa once had a failed experimental romantic relationship together despite it being obvious Richard's "deepest longings" were for Louis with whom he was already in a relationship. Clarissa still wonders what her life might have been if they had tried to stay together. Clarissa enters Richard's apartment building, which she finds squalid. She seems to associate Richard's apartment building with sense of decay and death. She enters Richard's apartment.

Richard 9. \_\_\_\_\_ Clarissa, calling her "Mrs. D" a reference to 'Mrs. Dalloway'. He calls her this because of the shared first name (Clarissa Vaughn, Clarissa Dalloway) but also because of a sense of shared destiny. As Richard's closest friend, Clarissa has taken on the role of a caregiver through Richard's illness.

Richard is struggling with what appears to Clarissa to be mental illness, brought about by his AIDS and discusses hearing voices with Clarissa. While Clarissa still enjoys everyday life, it seems Richard's illness has sapped his energy for life and the cleanliness of his apartment is subsequently suffering.

As Clarissa fusses about, paying attention to the details of Richard's life that he has neglected, Richard seems resigned. He does not seem to be 10. \_\_\_\_\_ forward to the party Clarissa is organising for him nearly as much as Clarissa is. Finally, Clarissa leaves promising to return in the afternoon to help him prepare for the party. Meanwhile, two hours have passed since Virginia began writing the start of 'Mrs. Dalloway.' Reflecting on the uncertainty of the artistic process, she decides she has written enough for the day and is worried that if she continues her fragile mental state will become unbalanced; the onset of which she describes as her "headache." Virginia goes to the printing room (her husband Leonard has set up a printing press, the renowned Hogarth Press which first published Sigmund Freud in English and poet T. S. Eliot) where Leonard and an assistant, Ralph are at work. She senses from Raph's demeanour the "impossibly demanding" Leonard has just scolded him for some inefficiency. Virginia announces she is going for a walk and will then pitch in with the work.

In parallel imagery to Virginia Woolf's, Laura Brown also goes about an act of creation: making Dan's birthday cake. Richie is helping her, and Laura passes through emotions of intense love for, and annoyance with Richie. Laura wants desperately to desire nothing more than the life she has as a wife and mother, to be making a cake, and sees both the cake-making and her present lot in life as her art, just as writing is Virginia Woolf's art.

Virginia Woolf is taking her 11. \_\_\_\_\_ while thinking of ideas for her novel. She already believes Clarissa Dalloway will 12. \_\_\_\_\_ suicide, now Virginia plans for Mrs. Dalloway to have had one true love: not her husband, but a girl Clarissa knew during her own girlhood. Her love of another girl will have represented a time when she was not afraid to go against the destiny laid out for her by society and family. Virginia plans for Clarissa to kill herself in middle-age over something quite trivial, a representation of what her life has become and what has been



repressed. As Virginia walks about Richmond she reflects on how Mrs. Dalloway's deterioration in middle-age represents how Virginia feels about being trapped in suburban Richmond when she only feels fully alive in London. She is aware she is more susceptible to mental illness in London, but would rather die 'raving mad' in London than avoid life (and perhaps prolong her years) in Richmond.

As Virginia returns home she feels, as did Laura Brown in the previous chapter, as if she is impersonating herself, as if the person she is presenting herself to be requires artifice. She puts on this 'act' to convince herself and others that she is 'sane' and so Leonard will agree with the idea of moving back to London. Virginia understands that there is "true art" in the requirement for women such as herself to act as they do. Feeling in control of her 'act' she goes to speak to the cook, Nelly, about lunch. However, Nelly, with her petty grievances and implicit demands that the daily life of running the house which is Virginia's domain, be observed, overwhelms Virginia. Nelly appears to have a matronly competence whilst Virginia does not seem to have a house-wifery bone in her body. Virginia decides to give her character, Clarissa Dalloway, the great skill with servants that she Virginia, does not have.

Having walked back home from Richard's, Clarissa Vaughn enters her apartment. Her partner Sally, a TV producer, is on her way out the door to a lunch meeting with a film star. Suddenly, left alone, Clarissa feels unmoored. She feels as if her home and its comforts are trivial in light of the impending death of her closest friend Richard; compared to a time when she felt most alive and had everything to hope for. Her apartment is just as much a "realm of the dead" as Richard's. Like the other characters in Cunningham's novel she questions the value of her present life and whether it isn't a negation via triviality of the life she could lead. Then the feeling moves on. Clarissa is disappointed but relieved to find her life is her own and that she wants no other. She holds onto the prospect of preparing Richard's party as affirmation and begins arrangements. To see what happens to the characters, either read the book or watch the movie.