Shrek Film Techniques
Film Language and Techniques

- Just like a book, a film has a story, characters, settings, themes and dialogue.
- Unlike a book, a film does not rely on words for description or to set the mood.
- It uses images instead.
• To describe a particular scene, a character, or a moment of tension, films rely on camera shots and angles, lighting and sound effects.

• Often we are unaware when watching a film, that each shot has been carefully crafted to manipulate our emotions and our responses to the film.
SHOT SIZES

THE LONG SHOT

- This shot is used to show the subject, as well as his/her body language and the relationship with their surroundings.
- You will see the entire body of the person/subject.
- You will also see background scenery.
- The subject/person is a long way away from the camera.
THE EXTREME LONG SHOT

- This shot shows even more than the long shot.
- Often used to show the audience the location or setting of the film.
- Shows characters from a distance and their surrounding environments.
THE MEDIUM SHOT

- This shot frames about one third of the subject/body, bringing the subject/person closer to the camera.
- Usually a frame of the subject from the waist up.
- Some background scenery is visible.
THE CLOSE UP

- This shot shows the subject in greater detail.
- Used to show expression or feelings.
- Usually only shows part of the body, such as the face.
- Can sometimes be used to make a character look more powerful.
The Extreme Close Up

• This shot frames only a small portion of the subject/character, forcing the viewer to concentrate on it.

• It is sometimes also used to distort the reality/size of the subject. Eg, an ant appearing larger to seem scary or threatening.
Aerial Shot
• Shows the subject from a bird’s eye view.
• Shows the setting/location.
• Can sometimes be used to suggest that the subject is under surveillance, ie. Being watched!

Question:
• Write or discuss your own examples of when we see things from an aerial view in ‘Shrek’.
• Why do you think the film makers have chosen this angle?
High Angle Shot

• Otherwise known as the oblique view
• The camera is positioned high above the subject, so that it appears to be looking down.
• Makes the subject seem weak, shy or vulnerable.
Low Angle Shot

• The camera is positioned low/ below the subject, looking up.
• Makes the subject seem dominant, strong and in control.
• Can make the audience feel threatened or inferior.
Eye-Level Angle Shot

- The camera is positioned at the same level as the subject/character.
THE END!