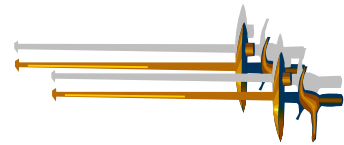




17. Stereotypes

A **stereotype** is an oversimplified conception, opinion, or image about a group of people. Anyone who appears to be a member of the group is expected to dress, behave and speak in a certain way. For example, the cowboy and Indian are American stereotypes. There are several stereotypes portrayed in 'The Simpsons,' for example, the Scottish janitor. Can you think of any others?

A counter-stereotype, reverse stereotype, or anti-stereotype is the reverse of a stereotype.



The **handsome prince**, the **beautiful and feminine princess**, the **trusty steed** and the **noble lord** are all typical fairytale stereotypes. You might say that the characters in *Shrek* fit the anti-stereotype mould. Explain how this is so by using the following comparisons. You may discuss physical and personality traits in your answer.

Character	Stereotype	Characteristics of the Shrek character that are opposite of the usual stereotype
Dragon	Fierce, fire-breathing	Does not usually fall in love with another character. Helps the hero.
Shrek	Handsome prince	
Fiona	Beautiful, feminine princess	
Donkey	Trusty steed	
Lord Farquaad	Noble lord	

