

# SUMMER TASK

**A LEVEL MEDIA**



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In preparation for year one, you have some work to do over the summer.

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## **TASK: REPRESENTATION AND GENDER**

500 word essay. Please write in full sentences and use paragraphs.

Title (put in own character, film, year): "The Representation of Fiona in Shrek (2001)"

Pick a fictional female character from a specific film that you know well. She can be an important or minor character but choose wisely and think about the task ahead...

Try to answer the following questions:

- What is the gender of the director, writer and first named producer of the film?
- Which actor is selected to play the role? What is her 'look'
- What is the character like (age, job, relationships, personality, dreams)
- How is she encoded (costume, hair, body language, dialogue etc.)? Give details
- What is her narrative function (e.g. active hero or passive damsel in distress)?
- Does she conform to or challenge traditional gender stereotypes? How?
- Is she objectified? If yes in what ways is this created e.g. costume, camera?
- Use the underlined words to help you write your essay (see final paragraph below).

It may be that your character is quite complex. She may change her look or behaviour in different scenes, or have a narrative arc where she starts off one way and then develops into something else (like Fiona in Shrek). If so, all this is good, please explain how.

On the A Level Media resource site [padlet.com/brianhoyland/almedia](https://padlet.com/brianhoyland/almedia) there is a booklet called 'Representation' (15th post) that may be useful for you with some of this, but you do not have to use it if you are confident that you can answer most of the questions.

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