

The Wizard of Oz Play

Characters

Narrator

Dorothy

Old woman

Tin Man

Scarecrow

Lion

Wizard

Scene 1

(Dorothy is asleep, dreaming.)

Narrator

A raging cyclone rolling through the prairie Dorothy lived. While asleep, Dorothy dreamt of her house being lifted up by the cyclone. Her relatives had made it to the storm shelter, but she and her dog Toto, still inside the house, were swept away. Eventually, the house landed surprisingly softly, and Dorothy found herself in a strange and beautiful country full of trees, rivers, and colourful flowers. Her dog Toto is with her.

Dorothy *(waking up)*

Where am I? And where is everyone? Oh Toto, I'm so glad you're here!

(Looking around ...)

This place is so beautiful! It's full of colour! Come Toto, let's walk along this yellow brick road.

(Dorothy stands up and she and Toto start walking. Soon they meet an old woman.)

Hello. I'm Dorothy. Can you please tell me where I am?

Old Woman

You are in the Land of Oz, and thank you for killing the Wicked Witch of the East who rules this part of Oz.

Dorothy

I didn't kill anyone!

Old Woman

Yes you did. Your house landed on top of her and killed her! But there is still another evil power in Oz - the Wicked Witch of the West.

Dorothy

I certainly don't want to meet her! I want to go back home to Kansas right away!

Old Woman

Well my dear, that will not be possible. You see, a vast, uncrossable desert surrounds Oz on all sides. You may have to stay here forever.

Dorothy *(very distressed)*

Oh, my mother and father and Aunt Em must be so worried about me! And I don't want to stay away from my family forever.

Old Woman

Well, there could be a small chance of getting you back home. If you follow the yellow brick path in front of you, you will come to the Emerald City where a great and powerful Wizard lives – the Wizard of Oz. He might be able to help you to get back home.

Scene 2

(Dorothy and Toto walk along the yellow brick road.

Enter the 3 companions – Tin Man, Scarecrow and Lion.)

Dorothy

Hello, I'm Dorothy and this is my dog Toto. And who are you?

Scarecrow

My name is Scarecrow. These are my two companions Tin Man and Lion. We stick together because we help each other through life. You see, each of us has a particular problem. You see my head of straw? Oh, if I only had a brain.

Tin Man

You see how I am completely made of tin? I am so hard and cold. I cannot express emotions. I have no heart.

Lion

And I am meant to be the king of all beasts, ferocious and brave. But I do not have courage.

Dorothy

Oh, I see. Well, if you like, you can travel with Toto and I. We are off to see the Wizard of Oz who might be able to help us get back home.

Lion

Oh, how wonderful! We would like to see the wizard ourselves. He might be able to give us all the things we need.

(The 5 continue to walk together along the yellow brick road.)

Scene 3

Dorothy

I'm feeling very thirsty. I wonder where we can get some water.

Scarecrow

I know that a river flows alongside the yellow brick road, just a little inland from here, through the forest.

Lion

I don't want to go into the forest. I've heard that all kinds of scary creatures live there.

Tin Man

I can protect us all with my sword!

Scarecrow

Trust me. It will be alright. Everyone, pick up a handful of those white stones there beside the road. As we walk through the forest, we will gradually drop stones one by one, so as to leave a trail. Then we can follow the trail back to the yellow brick road.

(Everyone picks up a handful of stones and they set off, away from the yellow brick road.)

Scene 4 (in the forest)

Dorothy

These trees are so big! And there are so many insects! Ahh! I can see a VERY big, hairy, scary spider. Come Toto. Don't go near it. It might bite you!

Lion

Don't worry. I will kill it!

(Lion picks up a big rock and throws it on top of the spider.)

Dorothy

Thank you, Lion. That was so brave of you.

Tin Man

Look over there! I can see a wild cat chasing a poor little mouse. Such weak, defenceless creatures should not have to live in fear of being eaten. I'll chase the wild cat away with my sword.

(The mouse runs off.)

Dorothy

That was so kind and thoughtful of you Tin Man. You really did feel for that little mouse.

Scarecrow

I can see the river now. Here we are. Let's drink and then follow our stone trail back to the yellow brick road. We must hurry because we have to reach the Wizard's house by nightfall.

Scene 5

(At the door of the Wizard's house)

Narrator

Dorothy knocks. There is no answer. They wait. She knocks again. Finally, the Wizard comes.

Wizard *(dressed in a sparkly multi-coloured cloak, with coloured shapes on it, such as stars and diamonds.)*

Who have we here?

Dorothy

I'm Dorothy. This is Toto, and my three friends are Scarecrow, Lion and Tin Man. We all need your help.

Wizard

Come in and let me see what I can do for you.

Narrator

Dorothy and the three comrades all explain their needs.

Wizard

Well, I cannot help you unless you do something for me first. You see, the land of Oz is ruled by an evil power. I have heard that the Wicked Witch of the East has been killed. But still one

more evil power prevails – the Wicked Witch of the West. Go and find her, kill her and then come back. You can stay the night and set off in the morning.

Dorothy *(to the three friends)*

I don't think I could kill anyone. I only accidentally killed the Wicked Witch of the East.

Lion

Yes, we can do it. Let's try.

(All exit.)

Narrator

The next morning the group set off in to the west, in search of the Witch. It was not long before they found her. She had heard them coming and was keen to meet them, perhaps with an evil plan in mind. The Witch stole one of Dorothy's shoes. Now she was the Witch's captive, because without her shoe Dorothy could not walk back to the Wizard's house. Scarecrow saw a large bucket full of water nearby. He told Dorothy to throw the bucket of water over the Witch before she did anything worse. As soon as the water fell on the Witch, she melted into a heap. Neither the Scarecrow nor Dorothy realised that water was the one thing that would kill the Witch. Dorothy retrieved her shoe and the party set off again, back to the Wizard's house.

Scene 6 *(Back at the Wizard's house)*

Dorothy once again knocks on the door. Again, the Wizard takes a long time to come.

Dorothy *(to the Wizard.)*

We have good news. The Wicked Witch of the West is dead!

Wizard

That is wonderful news. Now to keep my promise to you... Wait here while I perform some magic.

(The Wizard goes behind a curtain while the group of friends wait. Suddenly Toto jumps up and pulls on the curtain. It collapses, revealing the Wizard behind a table on which there is a sewing kit, some scissors and some pieces of fabric.)

Wizard

Alas! Alas! All has been revealed! As you can see, I am not a real Wizard at all. I have no magic powers. I am an ordinary man. When I lived in America I used to have a job as a magician in a circus. I had no magic powers of course. I did all my tricks by slight of hand. I also owned a hot air balloon for my leisure. One day when riding in my balloon, the balloon went too high and I found myself in the Land of Oz. Everyone here thought I was a real magician, so I went along with the game. It made me feel important. But I am tired of living a

life of pretence. I thank you, and especially Toto, for showing me up for who I am. Dorothy, I want to go back to America, and I could take you with me in my hot air balloon.

Dorothy

That would be wonderful!

Wizard

Good. We'll set off in the morning.

Dorothy

But what about my three friends?

Wizard (*giving the three friends gifts*)

Well, while you were away, I made them a little something with my sewing kit. Scarecrow, ... a brain for you, made out of wool and pins and needles; Tin Man, ... a silk heart for you; Lion, ... a badge of courage for you.

Dorothy

You know, my friends didn't need any magic to find the things they were missing. They found those things themselves.

(*To the three friends*)

Scarecrow, you used your brain to help us find the way to the river and back. Lion, you showed courage when you killed the spider, and when you encouraged us to go and kill the Witch of the West. Tin Man, you showed compassion and concern for the little mouse in the forest. You showed that you really did have a heart. You all just had to believe in yourselves and try. That you have done and you can now live happily in the Land of Oz.

Scene 7

(*Dorothy is asleep on the floor, back in Kansas, as she was at the beginning of Scene 1.*)

Narrator

The next day, Dorothy and Toto were excited and ready to join the Wizard in his balloon. The Wizard spent some time filling the balloon with air and testing the controls. While he was in the balloon, he accidentally pressed the take-off mechanism and the balloon started rising, leaving Dorothy and Toto behind. He had no way to come back down.

Dorothy (*in her sleep...*)

Where am I? Where am I?

(*She wakes up.*) Is that you Toto? I'm home! I'm so happy to be home!

The Wizard of Oz study guide

Different students can take roles and read different character parts. Think about using expression in your voices. There is no need to perform the play. Keep it as a play reading.

About the play

Background

The Wizard of Oz was a musical stage production loosely based on the book, *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* by Frank Baum, 1900. The stage play opened at the Grand Opera House in Chicago on 16 June 1902, and moved to Broadway early in 1903. The Broadway production included famous songs, the most famous being 'Somewhere Over the Rainbow'. The musical toured cities across the nation in full version until 1909 with shorter abridged versions or just music performances by different groups until about 1918. There were a few reprisals in the 1940s plus modern recreations in the 2000s. It was described as one of the most successful American stage extravaganzas of the early 20th century,

Plot Summary

Dorothy dreams that while she is asleep in her house in Kansas, the house is swept away in a tornado. The rest of the family made it safely to the storm shelter but Dorothy and her dog Toto were left in the house. Carried by the tornado, the house lands in the land of Oz. Although a beautiful place, Dorothy is desperate to return home. She learns that the only way back to Kansas is to seek the help of the Wizard of Oz.

As Dorothy and Toto walk along the yellow brick road, they meet three companions: the Scarecrow, who seeks a brain, the Tin Man, who desires a heart, and the Lion, who wants courage.

Each character's journey reflects their personal struggles and desires, culminating in their quest for the Wizard's assistance. Oz is ruled by the power of two wicked witches, the Wicked Witch of the East and the Wicked Witch of the West. Dorothy accidentally kills the Wicked Witch of the East when her house lands on the witch. When Dorothy and the companions finally make it to the Wizard's house, The Wizard instructs Dorothy and friends that they must kill the remaining evil power, the Wicked Witch of the West, as an exchange for the help he says he can offer. When this has been achieved, the Wizard reveals that he has no magic powers at all but is a mere man who found himself in Oz many years ago after an air balloon ride went wrong. The three friends now realise that they don't need the Wizard's help anyway, because they have found that they have within themselves, the abilities they thought they were missing. That is, wisdom for the Scarecrow, compassion for the Tin Man and courage for the Lion. The Wizard decides to return to America and says he will take Dorothy, but the air balloon takes off before she is aboard. She wakes up in her own home in Kansas, the whole experience being a dream.

Setting and Characters

The story is set in Kansas and the magical land of Oz, introducing Dorothy, her family, and her dog Toto. Key characters include Dorothy, Scarecrow, Tin Man, and Lion, each representing different desires and traits. The narrative begins with a tornado that transports Dorothy to Oz, setting the stage for her adventure. The yellow brick road serves as a central motif guiding Dorothy to the Emerald City where the Wizard lives.

Character Analysis

Dorothy

Dorothy is a young girl from Kansas who embodies bravery and determination. Her character represents the theme of home and the importance of family. Throughout her journey, she learns valuable lessons about friendship and self-reliance. Dorothy's interactions with the other characters highlight her nurturing nature and leadership qualities.

Scarecrow

The Scarecrow symbolizes the quest for intelligence and wisdom. He believes he lacks a brain, yet demonstrates cleverness and resourcefulness throughout the story. His character reflects the idea that knowledge and intelligence come from experience, not just formal education.

Tin Man

The Tin man represents the desire for emotional depth and compassion, symbolized by the heart. The Tin Man's journey illustrates the importance of empathy and connection with others.

Lion

The Lion embodies the struggle with self-doubt and the quest for courage. Despite being a lion, believed to be “the king of the beasts”, he perceives himself as cowardly. His character development emphasizes that true bravery often involves facing one's fears.

The Wizard

The Wizard represents someone who strives and pretends to be famous but is actually a fraud. He's not a wizard at all, but just a human who does a few conjuring tricks. Although dishonest in his attempt to be a figure of importance in the Emerald City, he at least shows some humility when he is found out, and does offer, through his own human capacity, to help Dorothy and her three friends.

Key Themes and Motifs

The Quest for Identity

Each character's journey reflects their search for self-identity and personal growth. For the Lion, the Tin Man and the Scarecrow, the story suggests that the qualities the characters seek are already within them, and only need to be discovered. Dorothy's return to Kansas symbolizes the realization that home and belonging are the main things that matter to her.

Friendship and Teamwork

The bond formed between Dorothy, Scarecrow, Tin Man, and Lion highlights the importance of friendship. Their collective journey showcases how teamwork can help overcome obstacles and fears. Each character supports one another, demonstrating the value of collaboration and mutual support. The narrative reinforces the idea that true friends help each other grow and achieve their goals.

Courage and Bravery

The story explores different forms of courage, from physical bravery to emotional strength. The characters confront their fears, illustrating that bravery is not the absence of fear but the willingness to face it. The Lion's journey is particularly important, as he learns that courage comes from within.

Self-confidence and believing in yourself

The story suggests that the only quality that any of the three friends truly lacked was a willingness to rely on and believe in themselves. By assuming that only an external force like the Wizard of Oz can make them feel whole, they ignore what skills and qualities they already have. The three companions didn't believe they were valuable because they felt themselves lacking, but by rising up to take hold of various challenges during the adventure, they prove that they were valuable and capable as anyone else.

Home and Belonging

Almost from the moment that a cyclone sends her to the strange Land of Oz, Dorothy is determined to find a way back home to Kansas and family. This highlights one of the story's main points: that everyone has somewhere they truly belong. It's notable that Dorothy immediately wants to go home and even sheds tears at the thought of staying in Oz forever. Despite how magical and dazzling Oz seems to be, Dorothy still feels that she belongs back on the flat, grey prairies of Kansas. She explains that people always long for their home, no matter how beautiful other places might be.

Good vs Evil

The wickedness of the witches is obvious. Dorothy participates in the fight against evil by killing both wicked witches, though it's notable that both killings were accidental.

The Ethics of the story for Christians

Is it right for Christians to read books or watch productions of plays that include witches and wizards?

For young children stories that include witches and wizards, and even fairies for that matter, are confusing. It is difficult for a young child to know the difference between fact and fantasy, and to them, these types of stories may be the equivalent of horror stories, giving them nightmares. The other problem is that exposing young children to these types of fairy stories may set the stage for them thinking in later life that witchcraft doesn't exist because it's just make-believe.

However, older children and teenagers can easily discern between fact and fantasy. Witches are real, as are ghosts, and as Christians we know these to be evil spirits working through ordinary people who open themselves up to Satan-worship. The Bible tells us about a real witch, (also called a medium) in 1 Samuel 28:3-16. Saul consulted a medium to bring up Samuel from the dead, because he was distressed and wanted advice. However, the Samuel that the medium brought up was not the real Samuel – only an imitating spirit – and things did not turn out well for Saul.

Older students can understand when a story illustrates good overcoming evil, using the symbolism of witches as evil. The most famous example of this is the novel by Christian author C.S Lewis, "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe". This is in our Year 7 curriculum. If you missed it in Year 7, ask your teacher for a copy.

When choosing to watch movies or read books, remember this:

Philippians 4:8 Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

Avoid filling your mind with horror or stories that glorify evil.

Questions

Reading the play first before answering.

1. Make a short summary of the story in your own words.
2. Describe the character of the three companions – the Scarecrow, the Tin Man and the Lion.
3. Explain how each of the three characters were able to receive what they were actually looking for.
4. How can this narrative be applied to people who lack confidence in themselves? What should they do?
5. Apply the saying "never say never" to the three companions.

6. What are the similarities and differences between these three characters and the type of people that the poem, "The Hollow Men" is trying to portray.