

Beginner



A1 (Breakthrough)

R A I N B O W S

The Wizard of Oz

Lyman Frank Baum



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Lyman Frank Baum

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Adaptation, dossiers and activities
by Anna Grasso



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The Wizard of Oz

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Presentation

The Wizard of Oz

Lyman Frank Baum was born on May 15, 1856, in Chittenango, New York. He was the seventh of nine children. In 1881 he meets Maud Gage. They get married in 1882. They love travelling. They visit Europe, Egypt and many places in the United States of America. His hobbies are reading fairy tales¹ without witches² or other scary³ creatures. They scare him. He has a dream: to write fairy tales that do not scare young readers. His most famous book is *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* (1900). He writes thirteen more⁴ “Oz” books and many other books for children. He dies on May 5, 1919, in California.



In 1939 **Victor Fleming** makes an American musical film. Its title is *The Wizard of Oz*. Fleming bases his film on the children’s novel *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* by L. Frank Baum.



The cast⁵. The famous actress Judy Garland plays Dorothy. She is the second choice⁶ after Shirley Temple. The dog Terry plays Toto.

Musical selections. *The Wizard of Oz* is famous for its soundtrack⁷.

Music and lyrics are by Harold Arlen and E.Y. “Yip” Harburg.

Academy Awards⁸. They nominate the film for many Academy Awards including Best Picture and Visual Effects, but in 1939 another film by Victor Fleming wins: the famous *Gone with the Wind*.

1. *fairy tales*: traditional stories for children with imaginary creatures and magic.
2. *witches*: women with magic powers.
3. *scary*: something that makes you afraid.
4. *more*: additional, other.
5. *cast*: all the actors and actresses in a film.
6. *the second choice*: second in a list.
7. *soundtrack*: all the songs and music in a film.
8. *awards*: titles of honour.



The Wizard of Oz wins the Academy Awards in the category of Best Song, with *Over the Rainbow*.

Judy Garland receives a special *Academy Juvenile*⁹ Award for “Best Performance by a Juvenile”. She was a very young actress.

Awards and honours. *The Wizard of Oz* is a very famous film. Many people love it. The United States Library of Congress considers it “culturally significant” and keeps it in the National Film Registry.

In 2005, a statistic says that Dorothy’s line, “Toto, I’ve got a feeling we’re not in Kansas anymore”, is the fourth most memorable line in cinema history.

Worldwide release¹⁰ **dates.** In the United States of America, the film first appears in New York City in August 1939. It is a success. They show it in Brazil and Argentina in the autumn of the same year. It arrives in Europe only in 1940 (Sweden, Denmark). The Second World War starts, and in some European countries, like Spain and France, the film only arrives in 1946. They show it in Italy for the first time on December 5, 1947.



For more information about this film, you can visit the official website at:
<http://thewizardofoz.warnerbros.com>

9. *juvenile*: young.

10. *release*: when the public can see the film for the first time.

A cyclone takes Dorothy away

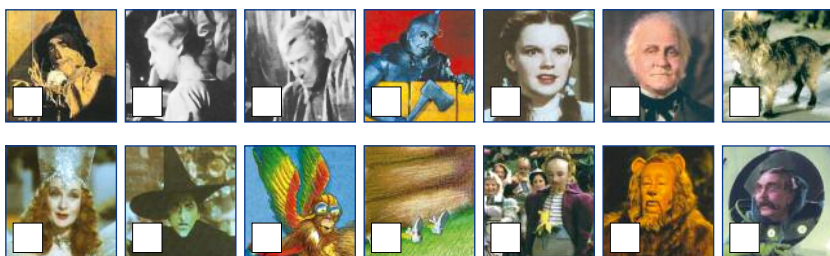
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Chapter

BEFORE READING

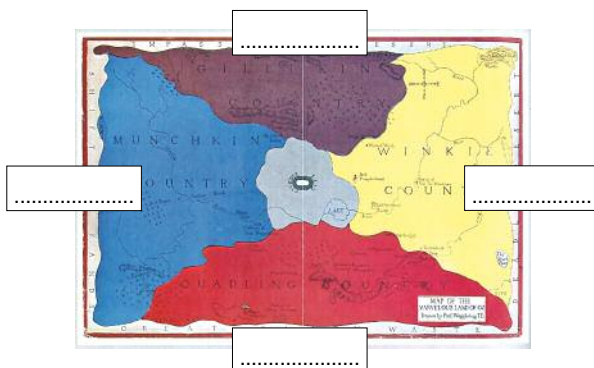
- 1 These are the characters in the story. Can you recognise them? Read their descriptions and find them in the picture. Write the number near them.



- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 1. Dorothy | A girl from Kansas |
| 2. Toto | Her little dog |
| 3. Aunt Em | Dorothy's aunt |
| 4. Uncle Henry | Dorothy's uncle |
| 5. The Good Witch of the South | A Good Witch |
| 6. The Witch of the East | A Wicked Witch |
| 7. The Witch of the West | A very Wicked Witch. She wears silver shoes. |
| 8. The Munchkins | The very small people of the Land of the East |
| 9. The Scarecrow | A man made of straw with no brain |
| 10. The Tin Woodman | A woodman made of tin with no heart |
| 11. The Cowardly Lion | A lion with no courage |
| 12. The Guardian of the Gates | The guard of the Emerald City |
| 13. The Great Wizard of Oz | A very mysterious wizard |
| 14. The Winged Monkeys | Guards of the Wicked Witch of the West |

- 2 You will read about a strange land – The Land of Oz – and of its strange inhabitants – the Ozians. Look at this Ozian map. Write the Cardinal Points in the right position.

South
North
West
East



The Wizard of Oz

A cyclone takes Dorothy away

Chapter 1

Dorothy is a little girl. She lives in the middle of the great prairies¹ in Kansas, with Uncle Henry, a farmer², and his wife, Aunt Em. Uncle Henry never laughs because he always works.

Dorothy has got a little dog, Toto. She always plays with him and they are always happy.

One day, she is playing with her dog and a wonderful thing happens. The sky is dark, the wind starts blowing and some big black clouds appear. A cyclone³ is coming! Uncle Henry and Aunt Em run to the cellar⁴, but they can't find Dorothy and Toto.

"Where's Dorothy?", asks Aunt Em. "Dorothy, Dorothy, quick! To the cellar!"

But Dorothy is not there. She is at home. She is really afraid and she is looking for Toto.

Then a strange thing happens. The house moves round two or three times and goes up slowly through the air, like a balloon⁵. Dorothy closes her eyes and sleeps.

The cyclone carries the house very far. After some time, the house gently falls down in the middle of a beautiful country. There are lovely gardens, trees with rich and

1. *prairies*: landes with grass and no trees.

2. *farmer*:



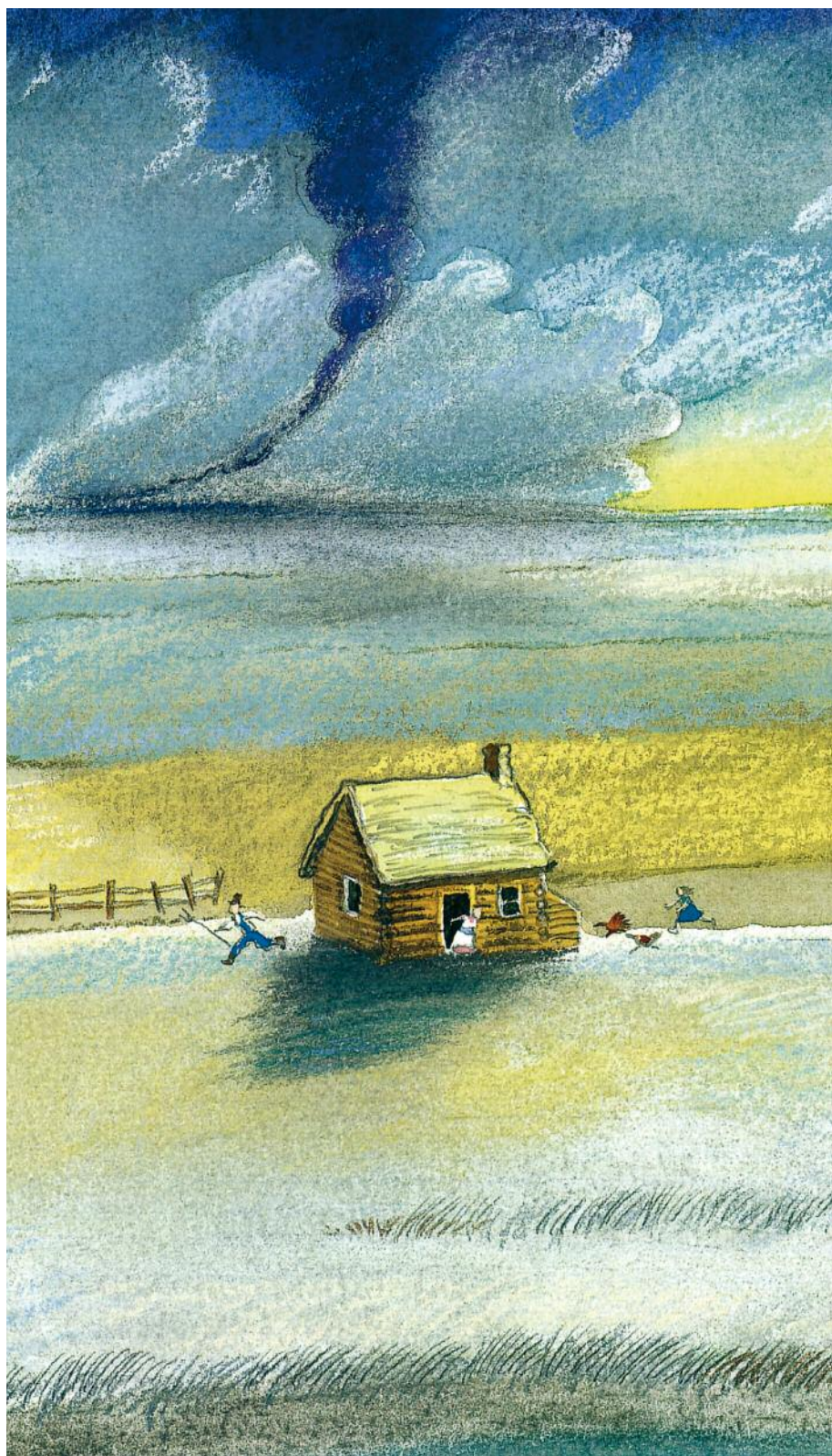
3. *cyclone*:



4. *cellar*:



5. *balloon*: a means of transport. A large ball filled with gas or hot air.



colourful fruits, splendid flowers, birds, bushes⁶, and rivers. The people are small and have funny clothes.

Then a little woman appears and makes a bow⁷.

“Welcome to the land of the Munchkins,” she says. “We thank you very much. The Wicked⁸ Witch of the East is dead. Thank you for killing her!”

Dorothy listens to the little woman with surprise and then she says,

“There’s a mistake – I don’t kill people!”

“It was your house,” says the little woman, “and that is the same⁹ thing. Look at her silver shoes under your house: now they are yours! The Munchkins are free now.”

“Who are the Munchkins?” asks Dorothy.

“They are the people of this Land of the East,” says the little woman. “I am their friend. I am the Witch of the North and I live in the North.”

“Are you a good witch or a bad witch?” asks Dorothy, a little worried¹⁰.

“I am a very good witch,” says the little woman. “Good witches are always beautiful, while bad witches are usually ugly.”

Then she says,

“Not far from here there is a great desert. There is a great desert also in the South. The South is the country of the Quadlings. And it is the same in the West where the



6. *bushes*:



7. *bow*: when you bend your head with respect.

8. *wicked*: morally bad.

9. *same*: not different.

10. *worried*: anxious.