

Wicked Study Guide

Wicked by Gregory Maguire

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Plot Summary

Many readers will remember the story of the Wicked Witch of the West. In this novel, Maguire explores possible motivations behind such a person. Frex and Melena, humble peasants in Munchkinland, welcome their first born, Elphaba, in the beginning of this novel. Frex, a minister of the religion of Unionist, constantly fears punishment for sin, both known and unknown. Despite the impending birth of his first child, he travels to preach against dangerous entertainment, specifically, the Clock of the Time Dragon. A cousin of Frex wrote to him about a sideshow type experience that sweeps through Oz. The clock, made up of multiple windows filled with puppets, like a complicated cuckoo clock, shows what observers assume to be future events.

Alone in a land where she has no friends Melena goes into labor. Some elderly, local women arrive to aid with the birth. They supply Melena with addictive pinobble leaves to dull the pain. In a stupor, she delivers a healthy baby girl. The women horrifically discover though, that the child's skin appears inexplicably, green.

Frex and Melena struggle with their daughter's odd skin color, keeping her in private much of the time. With the arrival of Melena's childhood nurse, Nanny, however, young Elphaba begins to socialize with children her own age. At the same age the nomadic Turtle Heart, joins the family, enchanting them with his glass blowing abilities. Melena, lonely from Frex's frequent missionary journeys, begins a passionate affair with Turtle Heart. One of Turtle Heart's creations, a looking glass, captures young Elphaba's attention. In the end of the first section, Elphaba wanders off into the countryside; the family finds her in the arms of an unknown kind of beast, gazing into the looking glass.

Time quickly jumps ahead. In the next section, entitled Gillikin, Elphaba starts college in Shiz, a large town in the area of Oz called Gillikin. Her roommate there, Galinda, ignores her much of the first semester. In college, Elphaba becomes dedicated to Animal rights. In this novel, Animals(capitalized, as opposed to animals, lowercase) live much like humans. They live and work in mainstream society. They talk, and many walk upright. However, the new government of Oz seeks to remove rights from Animals. Already, they suffer many restrictions on travel and employment. Galinda works with a Dr. Dillamond, a professor at Crag Hall who is also a Goat. During her first year, though, Galinda's guardian or personal assistant, Ama Clutch, discovers Dr. Dillamond murdered in his study. Elphaba blames the head of the school, Madame Morrible and her robot-like assistant, Grommetik. After seeing the murdered Dr. Dillamond, Ama Clutch goes mad and lives in the infirmary at the school. Galinda suspects the madness to be a cover-up by Madame Morrible.

After Ama Clutch's death, Elphaba and Galinda, now Glinda, travel to Emerald City and gain a rare audience with the Wizard. Their worries receive no attention, however. Elphaba sends Glinda back to Shiz and disappears into Emerald City.

Some years later, an old friend from Shiz, Fiyero, bumps into Elphaba in Emerald City, the capital of Oz, at a chapel of Saint Galinda. He follows her to her run down apartment



and begs for information on her life. Though at first she resists, due to his persistence and Elphaba's loneliness, the two begin an affair. During the course of their ensuing affair, he learns that she plays a minor role in some plots against the Wizard, the current ruler of Oz. Specifically, Elphaba must murder Madame Morrible, who works for the Wizard. When the time comes to carry out her part of the antigovernment plan, she fails. The same night, Fiyero returns to Elphaba's apartment, where Gale Force soldiers ambush and attack him. Everyone presumes Fiyero dead.

After some time of mental and physical recuperation in a Mauntery, which is like a convent, Elphaba travels to Vinkus, Fiyero's homeland, to make amends with Fiyero's widow and children. Sarima, the widow, refuses to discuss anything about Fiyero with Elphaba. She offers Elphaba rest and housing, however. Elphaba takes up residence in a tower of the castle. A young boy, Liir, the son of her and Fiyero, also lives there, having come with her from the Mauntery. Elphaba, however, cannot remember the circumstance of Liir's birth. Therefore he never knows for certain whom his parents are. Only the narrator reveals this information.

After Elphaba lives with Sarima for some months, Nanny tracks Elphaba down. She insists on moving in. She explains that she previously cared for Elphaba's sister, Nessarose, who was born with no arms. Thanks to jeweled slippers, bewitched by Glinda, Nessarose no longer needs Nanny. After Nanny finds, Elphaba, she also receives word that her sister, Nessarose, orchestrated the secession of Munchkinland from Oz, a positive step away from the tyranny of the Wizard. Elphaba travels to see her sister after years of separation, using her newly discovered flying broom, which she received from an old Maunt upon leaving the Mauntery. She refuses to stay and help in Nessarose's political endeavors and returns to Vinkus.

Years later, during the fated tornado of the original story, Dorothy Gale's house falls on Nessarose, now called the Wicked Witch of the East, due to her strict rule of Munchkinland. Elphaba is now called Wicked Witch of the West, or simply the Witch, largely because she refuses to fight the rumors that spread about her. The Witch attends the funeral of her sister. She only becomes interested in Dorothy when she learns that the girl wears Nessarose's jeweled slippers.

Fate brings Dorothy and the Witch together after the Wizard demands that Dorothy must kill the Witch before he will grant Dorothy's wish to return home. Dorothy journeys, with the Cowardly Lion, Nick Chopper, the tin man, and the Scarecrow to Kiamo Ko, to the castle in Vinkus. There Dorothy confesses that she, instead of seeking death for the Witch, wishes to ask forgiveness. Upon the demand of the very thing she never received from Sarima, who is now dead, the Witch becomes distraught. She accidentally catches her clothes on fire chasing Dorothy with her flaming broom. When Dorothy tries to save her with a bucket of water, the Witch dies due to her deadly allergy to water.



Book 1, Prologue and Munchkinlanders

Book 1, Prologue and Munchkinlanders Summary

As four travelers rest in a wood, they discuss the rumors about the Wicked Witch of the West. Nearby, the Witch hides and listens to the various theories about the root of her wickedness. Just as the witch spots the jeweled slippers on Dorothy, it begins to rain. She takes refuge from the rain in the roots of a tree and waits to confront Dorothy another time.

In "The Root of Evil," Melena and Frex prepare for the birth of their first child. Frex, a Unionist minister, remains committed to preaching against all forms of indulgence, as his religion purports, despite Melena's condition. He primps and prepares for a long trip of preaching against the invading Clock of the Time Dragon, which Frex feels distracts the Munchkins from their Unionist roots. Though Melena vows to support Frex in his calling, they both fear that his absence will bring a curse on the family and the new baby.

Frex, on his way out of town, begs a neighbor to look in on Melena, as she prepares to give birth. In "The Clock of the Time Dragon," Frex travels throughout Munchkinland, preaching about the dangers of a fortune telling clock. Frex learned about the clock from his cousin, who already saw the clock in his own town. Frex, though, feels that the Munchkins in his own area owe him allegiance for his dedication to his ministry there.

Frex finally arrives in Rush Margins in "The Birth of a Witch." He preaches a strong sermon against the clock, warning the residents to avoid it at all costs. Before the crowd disperses, the clock arrives on a cart led into town by a dwarf. The clock, made up of multiple panes of tiny puppets, mocks Frex. Frex easily sees his own hypocrisy in the mockery of the Clock of the Time Dragon. The crowd believes the caricature of the clock and turns on him; a local woman rescues him from a gang beating at the last moment.

Back at the minister's cottage, Melena begins to give birth. A few nosy, old women come to offer their aid, which consists of drugging Melena with pinobble leaves and going through her possessions. As the Clock nears the neighborhood, the women move Melena to avoid the angry mob that follows the Clock.

They find themselves in a cemetery, where the dwarf hid the clock for the night. Inside the housing of the clock, they hide Melena as she gives birth to a baby girl. Upon seeing the bright green skin of the baby, the midwives plan to drown it. When they try to drown the child, she bites off a finger from one of the midwives. Fearful and disgusted, the women abandon the baby and the drugged mother. They head back into town to determine the fate of their own men.

The story of the Munchkins continues in "Maladies and Remedies." Disturbingly, Melena discovers that she has no motherly feelings toward the baby. In response to this, she



continues to medicate herself with the pinobble leaves. In her distress, she summons her Nanny from her home of Colwen Grounds.

Likewise, Frex calls the baby damaged. In response to any spiritual failings of the family, he names the baby girl Aelphaba, or Elphaba for short, after a Unionist saint. Nanny arrives shortly, vowing to fix the child. Not even Nanny can make herself like the baby, though, who frequently wounds herself with her razor sharp teeth. Due to her disturbing habits and appearances, tiny Elphaba suffers much neglecting in her early life.

Melena, Nanny and Frex all see Elphaba as a punishment for some moral wrongdoing. Frex vows that no such anomalies exist in his family history. Nanny questions Melena's faithfulness to her frequently traveling husband. Melena admits that she entertained some elves, though she drank too much to remember the details of the visit.

Eventually Nanny suggests that, rather than allowing Elphaba to lead a loner life as an outcast, they should drown her in infancy. Tiny Elphaba, though, resists any contact with water, revealing her deadly allergy to it. Next, Frex tries an exorcism, which also fails to bring about any change.

"The Quadling Glassblower" introduces Turtle Heart. While passing through Munchkinland, Turtle Heart takes up residence with Melena and Frex. Melena begins to like the baby, but she grows lonelier. Frex travels to preach even more, trying to make amends for any sin that brought the curse upon his family.

Elphaba reacts very shyly to Turtle Heart, as she meets very few visitors in her sheltered life. Employing his native skills as a glassblower, Turtle Heart fashions a looking glass that captivates Elphaba, as if she sees the future. Quickly, Turtle Heart becomes Melena's lover, though Frex never seems to suspect the relationship.

Once again, Nanny returns to visit Melena in "Geographies of the Seen and the Unseen." Frex returns from picking up Nanny and presents Elphaba with a wooden, toy bird. Frex returns from an entire winter of fasting and solitude, feeling good to return home. He wishes, though, for his life before the scandal of the Time Dragon and his green baby.

Frex and Turtle Heart talk amicably, discussing the geography of Oz. The discussion quickly turns to religion and Frex sermonizes. Nanny, unlike Frex, subscribes to the Lurline religion, which many view as outdated. Lurlinists view the ruler of Oz, the Ozma, as a god.

In "Child's Play," Nanny becomes concerned with Elphaba's lack of socialization. She also fears a large beast from the wild, which she worries will harm the child. Melena shrugs off her concerns about a wild beast. She also refuses to consider allowing Elphaba to play with other children, fearing possible abuse from them. Nanny continues to argue for Elphaba's socialization, citing that she must face the cruelty of other children soon.



Finally, after Nanny blackmails Melena with the secret of her affair with Turtle Heart, the family travels into town to seek playmates for Elphaba. Gawnette, another local, first laughs at Elphaba. Nanny, unperturbed by the mockery, offers to pay Gawnette to babysit for Elphaba, providing Elphaba can play with Gawnette's children.

Elphaba begins to play regularly with Gawnette's children. Frex continues to preach on the road in "Darkness Abroad." As Frex prepares to leave again, the conversation of the house turns to politics and the different culture of Oz. Turtle Heart shares the reasons he left his homeland of Quadling. He describes the construction of the yellow brick road and the bloodshed over the resources of the Quadling country.

Frex, moved by the struggles of the Quadlings, begins to consider moving his ministry there. Melena, resistant to moving further from her family, announces that she is pregnant once again. To prevent another green child, Nanny travels to Oz to gain a remedy from a sorcerer in Oz who predicts that this baby, too, will be a girl.

As the family continues to argue about a move to Quadling, Elphaba wonders off. Turtle Heart vows that she could not be far. Nanny fears this is judgment for Melena's affair. They find Elphaba with the beast that Nanny feared, under a dock near the lake. She is gazing into the looking glass made by Turtle Heart.

Book 1, Prologue and Munchkinlanders Analysis

In the short prologue, the author introduces the main theme of the novel: the birth of wickedness. Little surfaces about the Witch, however. The conflict between Dorothy and the Witch foreshadows future interactions between the two characters.

After the prologue, the author flashes back to the very birth of the Witch. The use of religion serves as a backdrop for the discussion of the origins of evil. Though even Melena and Frex possess different views of religion, they fear that the very words they say may bring a curse on their family.

The people of Munchkinland live a hard and simple life. Melena's home appears to be crude, without the benefit of indoor plumbing. Likewise, many of the farmers to whom Frex preaches are poor. Furthermore, a long drought weakens the agricultural based economy. Such hard times leave the residents hungry for anything that offers hope. They first grasp at Frex's sermons, but quickly become distracted by the allure of the Clock of the Time Dragon. Such parallels exist in the causes of poverty of modern society, specifically in alcoholism, often brought on by hardships, and yet breeding further hardships.

The weather frequently forecasts some negative occurrence. It storms when Melena gives birth. Later, it frequently storms when Elphaba becomes agitated. The irony of such occurrences lies in Elphaba's deadly allergy to water. Her inner thoughts and attitudes frequently influence her environment, however. Ultimately, a storm brings about her demise when the tornado lands the house on her sister.



Multiple times in her infancy, Elphaba narrowly escapes a mercy killing. The residents of Oz seem to have very little value for the lives of anyone different from themselves. Elphaba's greenness makes her the object of much ridicule and fear.

Even Melena has a hard time accepting her child; her motherly love does not override her revulsion at her daughter's skin deformity. It brings shame to the family and calls into question Melena's fidelity, which means little to her.

Religion frequently appears throughout the novel. Frex practices a religion of fear and devotion. Nanny claims a religion that holds more to traditions. All the characters worry about curses or punishments for past sins. After the appearance of the Clock, tiktokism becomes a new religion of self-indulgence.

The author employs much foreshadowing in this opening section of the novel. Turtle Heart's talents and knowledge of the ruby deposits foreshadows the magic slippers. Elphaba's appearance in the arms of the beast foreshadows much of her work for Animal rights.



Book 2, Gillikin

Book 2, Gillikin Summary

"Galinda" opens the section of the novel entitled *Gillikin*. A young Gillikin woman, Galinda, travels alone to college in Shiz after her guardian, Ama Clutch, injured her foot. On this trip, the author introduces, for the first time, Animals, characters that appear like beasts, but with intellect and emotions like humans. Such citizens of Oz have begun to suffer injustices for their differences under the rule of the new Wizard of Oz.

At Crag Hall, the university for women in Shiz, Galinda judges the other girls on site. She feels superior to most and drives to make inroads with those superior to herself. She soon realizes though, without her Ama, she must live in a communal dorm rather than a more luxurious private room. When she argues this with the head of the school, Madame Morrible, she receives placement in a private room, with Elphaba.

Much to Galinda's disgust, Ama Clutch readily accepts Elphaba, despite her physical appearance. Galinda appeals to Madame Morrible, who seems to desire Elphaba to leave the college. Adjustments to college life continue. Elphaba spends much of her time reading. Galinda struggles with her studies, but worries more about her social life. She and her friends spend time discussing Elphaba and her family background.

After three months of sharing a room, Galinda speaks to Elphaba, questioning the book she reads. Elphaba shares a few thoughts from the book of Unionist sermons, though she admits that she does not believe in the religion herself. Elphaba, after much prodding, relents to try on Galinda's new, pointed hat, which Galinda is surprised to find, looks good on Elphaba. Later, however, Galinda becomes ashamed of her friendliness toward Elphaba and tells her friends about the awful time she had.

When Crag Hall holds a poetry reading to serve as a mixer with the men from a nearby university, it becomes clear that the poetry holds an ulterior motive. The political attitude concerning Animal rights permeates all of the poetry that Madame Morrible reads.

The offensive nature of the topic to Elphaba prompts her to speak to Galinda, something she never did in public before. A professor of Crag Hall, who is also a goat, Dr. Dillamond, discusses the politics with Elphaba, who questions Madame Morrible.

As the year wears on, Galinda remains upset about her roommate arrangements. When she seeks to complain to Madame Morrible, however, the Head only questions Galinda about declaring a major for her sophomore year. She also points out that Elphaba's sister, Nessarose, will be attending Crag Hall in a few years. The statement nearly seems to be a threat.

The point of view of the story changes once again in "Boq." Boq, a young man from a nearby university, falls in love with Galinda from afar. He frequently spies at the women

in their dorms. One evening, his roommate, the boisterous Avaric, implores him to visit a gentlemen's club with the other men. Boq refuses, claiming the need to study.

Instead of studying, though, Boq ventures out to get a better view of the women's dorm. When spying from a tree over the kitchen garden, he falls into the garden, where Elphaba discovers him. She teases Boq about falling from the tree, but befriends him. She claims to be unaware of Galinda's feelings towards Boq, but promises to arrange a meeting at the same place the next week. For the rest of the evening, Boq cannot study for the distraction of his meeting with Galinda.

Boq returns to the garden to meet Galinda, who refuses his advance on many grounds, including race and class. Boq asks Elphaba to allow the couple some privacy, but she refuses, claiming a view of the spectacle is her only payment for arranging the meeting. Boq and Galinda compromise an agreement of friendship, when Ama Clutch catches the group and demands they disperse.

The year ends. Boq passes all his exams, despite his distractions. He begins working at the library. Eventually, he runs into Galinda in town and nearly faints from excitement.

On another trip to town, Boq runs into Elphaba and the two enjoy a friendly lunch together. Elphaba explains that her family lives as missionaries in Quadling Country, that she has a younger brother and sister, and her mother died in childbirth.

When she refuses any more personal information, Boq brings up the subject to of her work for the summer. Elphaba, in working for Dr. Dillamond, becomes very passionate about Animal rights. She describes the research to Boq, admitting that she sometimes sneaks out of the college by way of the kitchen garden to gain more information for the doctor. She dreams that equality for humans and Animals could lead to equality of the sexes. Boq, though not as passionate, offers to help with his access to the men's library.

All summer, Boq, along with his other friends at the library, Croke and Tibbett, helps Elphaba look up more information for Dr. Dillamond. Elphaba shares breakthroughs with the men, about similarities between hums and Animals and conspiracy theories concerning creation myths.

Galinda leaves Shiz for the last month of summer to stay with her friends, Pfannee and Shenshen. When a letter arrives, imploring Elphaba to visit, Boq encourages her to go, hoping to visit along with her. For propriety sake, they also take Avaric, who holds a position of some prominence by birth, and Madame Morrible's tiktok assistant, Grommetik.

When they arrive, Galinda appears horrified. Pfannee confesses that the letter was a joke; she never thought Elphaba would show. Elphaba seems mostly unfazed by the gag, though she hides for much of the visit, leaving Boq to visit with Galinda. She admits she feels little for him and they kiss. After a short visit, Elphaba, Galinda, Boq Grommetik and Ama Clutch return to Shiz for the new school year.



Before school begins, Boq busies himself with work at the library that he neglected for much of the summer. He finds, in a book he works to restore, a picture of a Kumeric Witch, a supposedly mythical person. He smuggles the picture to Dr. Dillamond. Soon after, Ama Clutch discovers Dr. Dillamond dead in his lab. The apparent shock causes Ama Clutch to suffer from terrible insanity.

The story of the college students continues in "The Charmed Circle." Though Ama Clutch does not recover enough to say what she saw, Elphaba suspects murder. Madame Morrible, however, covers this with a story of accidental death. She then threatens to demote Elphaba and Galinda to the communal dorm. Elphaba sends to Quadling for Nanny and Nessarose.

Elphaba's sister arrives with Nanny at Shiz. Though of normal skin tones, Nessarose possesses no arms. Nessarose, unlike her sister, proves to be deeply religious. She, therefore, requires Nanny's attention for many things. Galinda, disturbed by the tragedies surrounding her life, changes her name to Glinda.

Changes continue at Shiz. Due to the lack of professors and new rules forbidding teaching by Animals, the girls attend the first coed class. Glinda changes, too. She dumps her shallow friends and socializes more with Elphaba. Elphaba explains more of her background to Glinda, including the birth of her sister and brother. She describes the fighting in Quadling country for the ruby stores there.

The girls attend classes that are more specialized. Glinda decides to specialize in sorcery, though her first spells often fail. During one such class, Glinda and Elphaba argue religion and Elphaba claims to be an atheist.

During their coed class, Boq and Elphaba talk, only back to the subject of the class when the professor, Dr. Nikdik, bewitches a pair of antlers that attack a latecomer. Only the intervention of Crope and Tibbett saves the strange, new student. Dr. Nikdik continues seemingly controversial experiments in class, including one demonstration of a fearful lion cub. Elphaba openly argues about Animal rights with Dr. Nikdik in class. The terrified lion cub escapes.

The group of friends in Shiz grows closer. Boq admits that he no longer loves Glinda, as she has changed since Ama Clutch's health problems began. Frex sends a pair of jeweled slippers of Nessarose, who possesses much more fashion sense than does her older sister. The group befriends the latecomer to Dr. Nikdik's class, Fiyero, from Vinkus. He explains his customs, including an arranged marriage from childhood. As the group enjoys time out dining and reminiscing, Elphaba surprises them all by singing a beautiful song.

Elphaba and Glinda learn that Ama Clutch, living in the college's hospital ward, is dying. During their last visit with her, they contrive time alone. Glinda bewitches some sane time with Ama Clutch, who describes the murder of Dr. Dillamond in detail.

After a perfunctory funeral for Ama Clutch, Madame Morrible called Elphaba, Nessarose and Glinda to her office to discern what they know of the murder. She casts a spell over



the girls, ensuring their silence in the matter. Then, she explains her plans for them in the future. At the end of the meeting, however, their memories of the interview begin to fade, because of the spell, which causes them to swoon orgasmically.

The friends go en masse to a local pub for a more appropriate time of mourning. They indulge in rich cream and drinks. All but Elphaba and Glinda leave the pub for a more sensuous time at the Philosophy Club. Elphaba convinces Glinda to leave right away with her to Emerald City, to confront the Wizard with their knowledge of the murder.

Seven friends enter the Philosophy Club and, once there, they cannot leave. They participate in all manner of sexual acts, which proves mentally damaging for some of the group.

It takes Glinda and Elphaba one week to reach Emerald City. They are shocked at the amount of poverty they witness there. Surprisingly, they gain a three-minute audience with the Wizard, who appears to them as a skeleton in a rainstorm. At first, they are speechless, but Elphaba quickly tells him what they know of Dr. Dillamond's murder. The Wizard does not express sympathy. Glinda denies her support of Elphaba's claims.

After leaving the presence of the Wizard, Elphaba sends Glinda back to Shiz, but vows to stay in Emerald city alone. They bid one another a sad goodbye.

Book 2, Gillikin Analysis

The very opening of Gillikin reveals many areas of prejudice in the society of Oz. Shallow, young Galinda feels superior, based on her class and ethnicity. However, she feels slighted based on her gender. The college emphasizes her classist views by placing the wealthier girls in finer living quarters.

The struggle of the Animals symbolizes many historical racial struggles in which an entire group of people suffer based on their ethnicity alone. Elphaba, as an outsider herself, feels this injustice. She makes equal rights for Animals her passion, hoping that such equality could spread to other spectrums of society as well.

Irony appears in Elphaba's views of religion. Though she grew up in the home of a Minister, she proclaims herself an atheist. In his struggle to save the world, Frex seems to have lost his own daughter. Such irony certainly exists in society and rings of Biblical allusion. Many of the college students, however, seem to view religion as an old tradition, without scientific reasoning.

As the Wizard takes over rule in Oz, politics change. Not only do Animals lose many of their rights, the Wizard suppresses the freedom of the press. Elphaba begins to fear that the college only exists to groom supporters of the Wizard. She learns that Madame Morrible works very closely with the Wizard.

The college students in Shiz live within a very strict moral code. The girls nearly always travel about town with chaperones, the Amas. The young men enjoy more freedom,



however. Furthermore, their relationship seems multidimensional. The relationship between Crope and Tibbett, for example, appears to have some homosexual overtones. Elphaba, due to her deformities, however, lives outside of the moral restrictions placed upon the other girls. Perhaps some cruelly assume that no man would proposition her, due to her appearance.

The students at Shiz latch onto a cause in the universal way of young adults. Elphaba passionately works on the research of Dr. Dillamond, though she admits to understanding little of it. Furthermore, she successfully recruits her friends to help in her cause. Together, they discuss and debate deep questions of religion and the origin of life.

More foreshadowing takes place in this section. The lion cub that Elphaba defends in Dr. Nikdik's class could become the Cowardly Lion, due to the professor's experiments, though she never can prove it. Nessarose receives the jeweled slippers as a gift from her father, which Dorothy will one day wear. Galinda chooses her major in sorcery and Nanny implores her always to use her powers for good, thus urging her to become the Good Witch.

The time in the Philosophy Club symbolizes the danger of fulfilling all of one's desires. Though the students only seek some fun and a night of distraction, they quickly get more than they bargained for. Tibbett, for one, never recovers from his forced sex acts with a Tiger. Later, Elphaba will care for him as he dies in the Mauntery hospital.

The characters grow the most in this section. Galinda's name change symbolizes the growth and disillusionment she suffers in two short years. Boq also changes, giving up his childish love for Glinda. Elphaba changes the most, forsaking all her plans to seek justice for the murder of Dr. Dillamond.



Book 3, City of Emeralds

Book 3, City of Emeralds Summary

On a business trip five years later, Fiyero visits a chapel dedicated to Saint Galinda. He spies Elphaba. Though she denies to knowing him, Fiyero follows her to her poor home. There, Elphaba confesses to being part of a dangerous underground antigovernment group. Despite her warnings as to his safety, the two continue to meet. Fiyero fills her in on all their school friends. The meetings continue and become more personal. Soon, a passionate affair begins and Fiyero writes to tell his wife that he must extend his business trip.

Fiyero quickly finds himself in love with Elphaba. He tells her of rumors of the area her family last lived. Elphaba feels much bitterness about her father's seemingly pointless mission's work.

Elphaba continues to feel passionately about Animal rights. When they argue over this, they fight and makeup with equal passion. Soon after, Fiyero witnesses the abuse of a family of Bears. He resists feelings for them. He returns to Elphaba and seeks more information about her missions of the underground. She remains secretive.

Two months of their affair pass. Lurlinemass, which is a large, festive holiday, draws near. Fiyero meets Croke and Glinda in a shop in Emerald City. Glinda shares that Nessarose is also in town. She guesses at Fiyero's affair with Elphaba and confesses that she misses her old friend.

When he meets next with Elphaba, Fiyero fails to tell her about running into Glinda and Nessarose being in town. Elphaba implores Fiyero to leave town for his safety. He guesses that around Lurlinemass marks an attack by Elphaba and the underground. When Elphaba leaves that evening, he follows her stealthily. He spies on Elphaba as she waits outside a theatre and is shocked when Madame Morrible arrives with an impressive entourage. Poised to attack, Elphaba's plan goes awry when Madame Morrible greets a group of young schoolgirls.

Feeling ill by the end of the evening, Fiyero returns to Elphaba's abode to wait for her there. An ambush awaits him, however. Several members of the government's Gale Force attack Fiyero from the darkness.

Elphaba once again appears at the chapel of Saint Galinda. There she receives comfort from a decrepit, old Maunt.

Book 3, City of Emeralds Analysis

Elphaba's involvement in the underground resistance shows how out of control the Wizard's government became. The underground could symbolize many areas of

resistance throughout history, such as the Underground Railroad or Nazi resistance. The Animals represent any oppressed people, such as slaves in the US or the Jews in Germany.

The relationship between Elphaba and Fiyero may catch the reader by surprise, given the rumors about the Witch in the prologue. More than anything, the relationship proves the humanity of Elphaba. The reader will relate more to a person of the same passions.

A great irony occurs when Elphaba seeks refuge in the Mauntery. Though she ran from religion most of her life, she now seeks aid there.



Book 4, In the Vinkus

Book 4, In the Vinkus Summary

Seven years later, in "The Voyage Out," Elphaba graduates from the Mauntery. She and a young boy, Liir, travel by caravan to the countryside of Vinkus, where Elphaba seeks to make amends. During her travels, Elphaba recalls her time in the Mauntery. After some time of healing there, she began to work in the hospital for the terminally ill. There she treated ailing Tibbett, until his death.

Travel through the Vinkus proves dangerous. Elphaba first befriends the cook's dog, Killjoy; she then convinces a swarm of bees to join them. A local guide arrives to help them through the land of the Yunamata people, who treat the travelers well. Soon after, however, the cook's body surfaces. The travelers blame Elphaba's bees, although Elphaba does not understand for some time how they could be to blame. The travelers enter the land of the feared Scrow people.

The Scrow people chose a few of the travelers to meet the Scrow princess, Nastoya, who turns herself into an Elephant. She gives Elphaba three old crows and reveals that Elphaba mentally commanded the bees to attack the cook.

Soon after they leave the Scrow people, the elderly traveler, Igo, dies. They then meet the Arjiki tribe, of which Fiyero was part. Elphaba gains a reputation as a witch, which she does not fight. Inside Arjiki country, Elphaba rescues a baby snow monkey. Elphaba and Liir enter Kiamo Ko, the former residence of Liir's father.

"The Jasper Gates of Kiamo Ko" introduces the widowed Sarima, who lives in the fortress of Kiamo Ko with her six unmarried sisters. As the women spy the approaching visitors, they argue about what to offer for dinner from their meager pantry. As with the arrival of any visitors, Sarima hopes it will be her missing husband, though all believe him to be dead.

Sarima remembers Fiyero's college friends and recognizes Elphaba. Elphaba spares no pleasantries in greeting Sarima. Sarima only offers a place to rest, and refuses to discuss Fiyero.

After one week at Kiamo Ko, Samira summons Elphaba to her private chambers. Sarima still refuses to hear the truth from Elphaba, thus denying Elphaba the forgiveness she sought in her travels. Because Elphaba refuses to use her real name, the sisters take to referring to her as Auntie Witch. Sarima's three children, Manek, Irji, and Nor, tease Liir mercilessly.

The family in Kiamo Ko begins to prepare for Lurlinemass. When Nor sneaks into Elphaba's chambers to steal her precious writing paper, Elphaba takes offense. The other children take notice when Liir receives no Lurelinemass gift.



Weeks later, Elphaba apologizes to Sarima's sister for a prior argument concerning Chistery, Elphaba's pet monkey. She questions them concerning Fiyero's death. The sisters confess that Sarima suspected her husband was having an affair, though she assumed it to be with the fabulous Glinda. Therefore, Sarima assumed Sir Chuffery, Glinda's husband, murdered Fiyero for jealousy. Upon further pressing, the sister's confess that they suspected Fiyero's involvement in bad politics. When Elphaba tries to make her cleansing confession to the sisters, however, they refuse to hear it, staying true to Sarima's wishes.

As the harsh winter swirls around Kiamo Ko, Elphaba explores the interior of the old fortress. She finds an old, enchanted book, about which she asks Sarima. Sarima describes the man who left the magic book from another world, hoping it would be safe in Kiamo Ko. Elphaba claims the book, the Grimmerie, for further study.

One day, as the children play hide and seek in the fortress, Nor sees Elphaba trying to teach Chistery to talk. Though Chistery never masters conversation, Elphaba continues exploration for a human and Animal connection.

Soon after, the entire household goes ice skating. It is one of their few trips into public. Sarima fears, with no man of the house to protect them, her children(heirs to the throne) are targets for assassins. Sarima tells Nor a fairytale during their afternoon out, which Elphaba rebukes, claiming no belief in an afterlife.

In their further torture of Liir, Manek convinces the young boy to hide in the fish well during a game of hide and seek. During the game, however, a guest arrives and the children forget about Liir hiding the fish well.

The visitor turns out to be Nanny, who found Elphaba after receiving a tip from the Mauntery. After nearly a day, Chistery finds Liir in the fish well. The boy shows no signs of life. The sisters beg Elphaba to perform some sorcery that will bring Liir back. Elphaba claims no knowledge of such magic. Instead, Nanny instructs Elphaba in CPR. Liir revives and speaks of a talking goldfish. Elphaba bewitches an icicle that falls, killing Manek, though as with the cook, it is subconscious.

Elphaba's time in the Vinkus continues in "Uprisings." Nanny takes residence in Kiamo Ko. She questions Elphaba about the "Witch" nickname. She also informs Elphaba that, in her absence and assumed demise, Nessarose claimed the position of Eminent Thropp and, therefore, ruler of Munchkinland. Further talk of the family reveals that Glinda, progressing in her sorcery talent, bewitched the jeweled slippers to assist Nessarose to where she no longer requires Nanny's constant aid. Elphaba explains her time in the Mauntery, including a nine-month coma in which time Liir could have been born, though Elphaba has no memory of it.

After the death of Manek, Sarima becomes a loner. Left to her own devices, Nor leads a group of the Gale Force to Kiamo Ko. Elphaba demands that they leave, but Sarima continues the family's habit of welcoming any travelers. During their stay, the soliders



claim they are only doing surveys of the area. Regardless, Elphaba frequently argues with their commander.

During another of their long talks, Nanny explains about Elphaba's mother. Nanny explains that Melena wanted boys so that her girls did not inherit the political life of Eminent Thropp. Nanny also explained the relationship between Melena and Turtle Heart. Furthermore, she confessed that she got medicine from an old woman, named Yackle, for Melena's second pregnancy. The name of the old woman catches Elphaba's attention, as a Maunt named Yackle helped her in the Mauntery.

With the arrival of the very single solider, the sisters hope that Sarima will marry, because thy can only marry after she remarries. The soldiers also catch the attention of Liir and Nor. In an attempt to make a good impression, Nor steals Elphaba's broom to clean out the soldiers' quarters. The broom soon flies her back to Elphaba's room. After this discovery, Elphaba learns to fly on her bewitched broom.

When letters from Munchkinland arrive, telling Elphaba of Munchkinland's secession from Oz, Elphaba decides to fly by broom to see her family, after years of separation. Upon seeing Colwen Grounds for the first time, Elphaba admires the beauty of the palace. She first visits her father and realizes, with disappointment, that they want her to join the ruling family so as to lend some pragmatism to the revolt.

In her first meeting with her sister after many years, Elphaba discovers that her sister also lives the life of a witch in many respects. In response to one constituent plea for justice, Nessarose bewitches an ax. Elphaba speaks her mind concerning the mistreatment of Animals after speaking with an enslaved Cow.

Elphaba returns for a last talk with her father. He begs Elphaba to take over her rightful title, believing her to be a more levelheaded ruler than Nessarose. He also confesses that both he and Melena loved Turtle Heart and shared him. In their farewell, Nessarose promises to will her special shoes to Elphaba.

Elphaba returns to Kiamo Ko after her long visit to Colwen Grounds. She finds Nanny frantic after the capture of Sarima and her family. After Nanny describes the Gale Force solider that carried off Sarima, her children and her sisters, Elphaba vows to get them back.

Book 4, In the Vinkus Analysis

The voyage to Kiamo Ko alludes to the conquest of the American West, with the wagon train and fear of attack by savage natives. Like in American history, many of the fears prove to be unfounded.

Sarima's acceptance makes life hard for Elphaba. Though she receives courtesy as if she were part of the family, Elphaba cannot gain the forgiveness she so desires. This becomes the poison in Elphaba's life, eventually taking part in her demise.



As Elphaba becomes more of a recluse, rumors about her spread. In her usual blasé attitude, she does nothing to prevent the rumors. She spends much time in study for a connection between Animals and humans. She seems to have the same lack of motherly instincts that Melena suffered from; the feelings of Animals appear to be more important to Elphaba than the feelings of her own son.

Ironically, Liir symbolizes one of Elphaba's greatest desires, but she never recognizes it. As Fiyero's son, he could fill Elphaba's desire for close family. She chooses to hope for reunion with her lover, instead, and neglects Liir.

Further irony surfaces when Nanny reveals the reason Melena desired male children. She simply desired to spare her daughters from inheriting the title of Eminent Thropp. She did not possess the bitterness towards her life that Elphaba suspected. In fact, she did not want her children to return to the lifestyle from which she escaped.



Book 5, The Murder and Its Afterlife

Book 5, The Murder and Its Afterlife Summary

Some years after Munchkinland's secession from Oz, a tornado sweeps through Oz, leaving the residents baffled. A strange house drops from the sky, killing Nessarose, now referred to as the Wicked Witch of the East. Ironic jokes about the circumstance abound.

In the final section of the novel, Elphaba begins to refer to herself as the Witch, or the Wicked Witch of the West. She continues her experimentation of genetic mutation, trying to create winged monkeys with a hybrid of her crows and snow monkeys. Seven years have past since Sarima's capture.

With news arrives of Nessarose's death, the Witch plans to attend the memorial, leaving Liir in charge of an aged and senile Nanny. As a last thought, the Witch takes a page from the Grimmerie to show to her father.

At Colwen Grounds, the Witch receives a cold greeting. None of the Munchkins mourns the death of their introverted leader. Frex now believes that his family continues to suffer from an unknown curse.

The Witch also meets Glinda, who had been the first on the scene of the accident. She describes the house and the young girl, Dorothy, who the Munchkins nearly crowned Queen on the spot. She explains that she sent Dorothy to Emerald City simply to get her out of the area. The Witch becomes angry when Glinda further admits that Dorothy wears the magic slippers.

The Wizard of Oz attends the funeral of Nessarose. Afterwards, he insists on a meeting with the Witch and demands to know her intentions, considering she is the rightful heir to the title. He also demands to know more about the page of the Grimmerie that his guards confiscated from her. The Wizard reveals that Nor remains alive in his captivity. The guards living below Kiamo Ko at Red Windmill only remain to keep track of the Witch. The Witch offers the book in exchange for Nor; but the Wizard refuses to make a deal. The Witch bids farewell to her grieving father and searches for Dorothy and the magic slippers.

On her way out of town, she meets Boq and his family. When Boq begins reminiscing about their youth, the Witch becomes agitated and impatient. She feels Glinda manipulates people, much like Madame Morrible once did. The Witch decides to finish her mission to kill Madame Morrible.

With her magic broom, the Witch flies to Shiz. She briefly meets with the new head and learns that Madame Morrible lies ill at home. Upon arriving at Madame Morrible's, the Witch discovers that she has come five minutes too late. In a fit of anger, she smashes the face of the recently departed Madame Morrible. Seeking to gain some



acknowledgement of her intentions, she visits Avaric and claims responsibility for the death.

Avaric, upon meeting the Witch, also wishes to reminisce. He brushes aside her confession and mentions the night at the philosophy club, forgetting that Elphaba was not there. When Avaric recalls an employee of the club named Yackle, the Witch reacts. She begins to wonder what hold Yackle has over the Witch's destiny. The Witch stays with Avaric for dinner and the group present discusses the definition of evil, a prominent theme for this novel.

After leaving Avaric's home, the Witch seeks out the dwarf that runs the Clock of the Time Dragon, who also worked at the Philosophy Club. The dwarf claims to be protecting the Grimmerie. He shows the Witch a private show of her past, present and future. The Witch watches in horror as the Clock shows her mother having an affair with the present Wizard of Oz. She claims her old looking glass from the dwarf and leaves. To her dismay, no news of Madame Morrible's death appears in the paper the next day.

In her return through Munchkinland, she announces her responsibility for the murder to Boq. He fears that she has gone crazy. The Witch learns that Dorothy now travels with three companions: a Scarecrow, a Cowardly Lion and Nick Chopper, a tin man.

Severely depressed, the Witch returns to Kiamo Ko. There, Nanny prepares for her own funeral. Liir finds a giant goldfish dead in the fish well. The Witch recognizes aspects of her own personality in Dorothy. She recalls her father's broken heart when Turtle Heart's family refuses to forgive them for Turtle Heart's death.

The Witch finds an elixir vial in Nanny's possessions and begins taking it every night. She begins having terrible nightmares. To avoid the bad dreams, she concocts a potion to keep her awake around the clock.

Through gossip with the soldiers at Red Windmill, Liir learns that the Wizard gave Dorothy and her traveling companions the task of killing the Wicked Witch of the West. Both Liir and the Witch are impressed that she has gained such notoriety. Liir vows that he must meet Dorothy. When the Witch refuses to answer any of Liir's questions, he wishes for a father.

As the Witch ponders her internal struggles, she begins to see the use of religion, in giving one hope. As Dorothy and her friends near Kiamo Ko, hope rises in the Witch. She dreams that the scarecrow is Fiyero in disguise.

Finally, the troop arrives at the fortress. A pack of dogs first investigates, including Killjoy. The Witch becomes angered when the group kills her dogs. Next, she sends the crows and third, the bees. Dorothy and her friends kill all of the Witch's aides. Finally, she sends her flying monkeys to escort Dorothy to the castle doors.

Upon seeing Dorothy, Liir vows that he loves her. He stands up for her to the Witch. The Witch, though, resists feeling anything for Dorothy. After a dinner together, the Witch gets Dorothy alone in her tower room. She defends the Grimmerie, though Dorothy



claims no knowledge of the book. She also shows that she physically cannot remove the slippers that Glinda gave her.

Distraught by Dorothy's very presence, the Witch demands to know why she came to Kiamo Ko. Dorothy reveals that she does not intend to kill the Witch, only to seek forgiveness for the death of her sister. In being asked for the thing that she could never gain from Sarima, the Witch becomes more agitated. She threatens Dorothy with her flaming broom; but some cinders accidentally catch her own dress. In an attempt to help, Dorothy douses the Witch with a nearby mop bucket. As the water has its fatal effect on the Witch, her life flashes before her.

Elsewhere in Oz, life goes on. The death of the Wicked Witch of the West is celebrated. Dorothy returns to Emerald City with the elixir bottle as proof of her deeds. The Wizard, disturbed by its implications, leaves Oz in his hot air balloon. Liir leaves Kiamo Ko to seek Nor. Myths about Dorothy and her possible connection to the great child leader and savior, Ozma, abound.

Book 5, The Murder and Its Afterlife Analysis

Nessarose's slippers come to symbolize the power with which she ruled Munchkinland. The power is the thing that the Witch seeks to protect, not the shoes themselves. She also fears for everyone's safety, should the Wizard gain the shoes. The author does not make it clear, however, if the power of the shoes really exists or only occurs in the Witch's imagination.

After the death of her sister, the Witch suffers from many mental issues. She becomes depressed, perhaps even suicidal. She lies about murdering Madame Morrible, and seems to believe her own lie. When she finally meets Dorothy, mental stress, grief and lack of sleep combine to make her very unstable. Her death was almost as the mercy killing that never occurred in her infancy.

After Dorothy's appearance, the author includes many allusions to American culture, such as Theodore Roosevelt and Kansas, which baffle the Munchkinlanders. In the eyes of a complete outsider, the reader may see the absurdity of one's own society, or the relative order.

Dorothy unknowingly enacts a great act of cruelty on the Witch when she seeks forgiveness. In her declining mental state, the Witch cannot give that which no one granted her.

In a final bit of irony, the Wizard realizes that he ordered the murder of his own daughter when Dorothy appears with the elixir bottle he had given to Melena many years ago.



Characters

Elphaba

Born to Munchkin parents, Elphaba enters the world literally inside the Clock of the Time Dragon. At first, her family worries that her green skin and awful teeth serve as punishment for some past sin. As she matures into a child, however, they begin to grow fond of her. Nanny's insistence that she play with other children works to desensitize Elphaba to the teasing of her peers.

When she enters college, she carries little of the naivety of the other freshman girls. She studies to the exclusion of any social life. Only when her peers become interested in her studies does she seem to socialize with them. The murder of Dr. Dillamond drives her away from society once again, though, as she seeks revenge.

Though her final nickname of Wicked Witch of the West serves to claim some inherent evilness about her, Elphaba proves to feel love very deeply for those closest to her. She feels responsible for those she loves. Such feelings drive her to apologize to Sarima, to seek to free Sarima and her family and to avenge the deaths of Dr. Dillamond and Nessarose.

Elphaba's character suffers much her whole life. Her suffering makes her sympathetic to any oppressed group, such as the Animals. Frequently, though, she seems to strive for lost causes. In Elphaba's case, not only does good fail to prevail over evil, evil takes over.

Frex

Elphaba's father, Frex, preaches throughout Munchkinland as a Unionist minister. He preaches a strict, conservative religion that abhors any frivolity or distraction, especially the Clock of the Time Dragon. The Clock, however, reveals that Frex does not always practice as he preaches. The ensuing scandal nearly ruins his ministry.

He hears of the problems in Quadling Country, however, and moves his family there to minister to those hurting people. Elphaba becomes his greatest illustration for the love of the Unnamed God.

Elphaba realizes early in life, however, that her father prefers Nessarose. All of the adults in the family see gentle Nessarose as their salvation. Though Elphaba claims this does not bother her, she frequently feels slighted, such as when Frex sends the beautiful shoes to Nessarose in Shiz.

Aged and nearly blind, Frex spends his last days with Nessarose in Colwen Grounds. The grief of her death nearly kills him.



Melena

Melena forever desires a better life than her present one. She dislikes growing up at Colwen Grounds and leaves with the first available man. Then, she comes to rue the life of a Minster's wife, an attitude that her oldest daughter quickly discerns. For some time, she escapes into multiple affairs and self-medicating. Her second pregnancy brings about some reform, however, as she hopes to avoid a second green child.

Melena remains with Frex even after he moves the family to Quadling Country against Melena's wishes. She births first a green daughter, Elphaba, then an armless daughter, Nessarose, and finally a beautiful son, Shell.

Nanny

Melena seeks the help of her childhood nurse when Elphaba is born. Nanny arrives and becomes more of a mother to Elphaba than Melena. With the birth of Nessarose, though, Nanny's attention turns to the new, needy baby.

However, when Ama Clutch can no longer chaperone the two girls, Nanny and Nessarose appear to take over. Nanny remains dedicated to both girls in turn. When Elphaba disappears into Emerald City, Nanny cares for Nessarose. However, when Glinda bewitches the slippers to aid Nessarose, Nanny leaves in search of the missing Elphaba, finding her finally in Kiamo Ko. Nanny promptly moves in to care for both Elphaba and Liir.

In the final section of the novel, the roles reverse, as Elphaba cares for the aging Nanny. What becomes of Nanny after the Witch's death is unknown.

Turtle Heart

Turtle Heart appears after Frex's scandal with the Clock and subsequent period of self-exile. Such an absence makes Melena crave male companionship. Though Turtle Heart comes from a lesser background than Melena, she begins a passionate affair with him. The family comes to suspect that he fathered Nessarose. Melena herself could not rule out such a possibility. Frex admits as much to Elphaba in the end.

Frex also confesses that both he and Melena loved Turtle Heart. When an angry mob kills Turtle Heart, Frex seeks forgiveness from the family. Such forgiveness is refused and the refusal breaks Frex's heart.

Galinda

Young Galinda arrives at Crag Hall full of vain ideals. She balks when she learns she must share a room with Elphaba. For much of the first year, she avoids her freakish



roommate. Galinda matures much at college, however. She dumps her vain friends and becomes close to Elphaba.

After Galinda's guardian, Ama Clutch, suffers a mental breakdown and eventually dies, Galinda changes her name to Glinda. She becomes more somber and mature. She refuses to make waves, however. She travels with Elphaba to see the Wizard, but does not support the accusations that Elphaba makes. Glinda marries a wealthy man from her homeland and lives an average life as a sorceress that does good, though nearly meaningless deeds with her magic.

Her friendship with Elphaba breaks when she gives the bewitched slippers to Dorothy. The two women never speak again.

Dr. Dillamond

Dr. Dillamond teaches science at Cragge Hall. As a Goat, he dedicates himself to finding a scientific link between Animals and humans. Elphaba joins him in his research. Madame Morrible's assistant, Grommetik, kills Dr. Dillamond one night in his lab, though Madame Morrible construes it to look like an accident.

Madame Morrible

The head of the university for women, Madame Morrible works directly with the Wizard. She supports the oppression of Animals. After the death of Ama Clutch, she claims to bewitch Elphaba, Nessarose and Glinda with a silencing curse, though later in the Elphaba discusses the events with both women.

Elphaba's one task in the underground is to kill Madame Morrible. Just before she carries out her plan, groups of schoolgirls swarm Madame Morrible and Elphaba cannot go through with it. Later, after the death of her sister, Elphaba returns to Shiz to complete her task, only to find that Madame Morrible has just died. She abuses the newly dead body and claims responsibility; but no one believes her.

Ama Clutch

The higher-class girls at Cragge Hall arrive with guardians, called Amas. Ama Clutch steps on a nail just before Galinda leaves for Shiz and must remain behind for a tetanus shot. At first, Galinda feels very mature to travel alone. Soon, though, she realizes that she needs Ama Clutch to make acceptable sleeping arrangements. She explains the situation to Madame Morrible, but the best arrangements she can make are with the outcast, Elphaba.

Late one night, in the girls' dorm, Ama Clutch notices something going on in Dr. Dillamond's study and goes to investigate. She witnesses Grommetik killing the



professor, but Madame Morrible curses Ama Clutch with insanity and she cannot share this information until just before she dies.

Boq

Boq is a young munchkin studying at the men's university in Shiz. He falls in love with Galinda at first sight, but she refuses his advances, citing their many cultural differences. Boq himself eventually puts away his feelings for Galinda, as she changes and matures.

Boq marries and raises a family in Munchkinland. Elphaba meets him on her way to and from Shiz when she goes to kill Madame Morrible. When she confesses to the murder, Boq fears Elphaba to be crazy.

Crope

A peer of Boq, Crope works in the library for the summer as well. He and Tibbett prove to be carefree college pals. They always desire a good time.

Fiyero later meets Crope and Glinda in Emerald City while he carries on his affair with Elphaba. Fiyero never tells Elphaba of the meeting, however.

Tibbett

Another college friend of Boq's, Tibbett works in the library as well. He attends the Philosophy Club with the rest of the group after Ama Clutch's funeral. When the director of the club forces Tibbett into an intimate situation with a Tiger, Tibbett never recovers. He dies in the Mauntery where Elphaba works and recovers. Through this, Nanny learns that Elphaba has traveled to Vinkus.

Nessarose

Nessarose is Elphaba's younger sister. In her deep desire to avoid another green child, Melena took potent drugs during her second pregnancy. She fears that Nessarose was born without arms as a result. She also cannot confirm Nessarose's paternity, as she was sleeping with both Turtle Heart and Frex at the time.

After Elphaba disappears into Emerald City, Nessarose claims her rightful title as Eminent Thropp, or ruler of Munchkinland. She leads a relatively peaceful secession from Oz, for which she is celebrated. Her deep religious views, however, quickly distance her from the Munchkinlanders. Her strict moral code earns her the nickname of Wicked Witch of the East.

When Dorothy's house kills Nessarose, Glinda gives the bewitched shoes to Dorothy.



Avaric

Avaric is Boq's college roommate. He comes from a family of some prominence. Elphaba instantly does not like Avaric when he travels with her and Boq to visit Galinda. Much later, Elphaba seeks out Avaric to confess that she murdered Madame Morrible, but Avaric brushes her confession aside.

Grommetik

Grommetik, Madame Morrible's assistant, is not really human or animal. He appears to be a sort of bewitched robot that does as Madame Morrible commands. He frequently spies for her. His most gruesome task is the murder of Dr. Dillamond, which Ama Clutch witnessed.

Fiyero

Fiyero arrives in Shiz during Elphaba's second year from Vinkus. He adds some color to the group, though the author reveals little of him until he meets Elphaba anew in Emerald City. There, the two fall in love, despite Fiyero wife and family in Vinkus. When Fiyero follows Elphaba on her mission to kill Madame Morrible, members of the Gale Force ambush and kill Fiyero.

Wizard

About the same time Elphaba enters university, the Wizard arrives in a hot air balloon. He sets himself up as ruler of Oz, and eventually, as Emperor. His method of rule proves strict and unjust. He limits the rights of many, especially Animals.

In the end of the novel, the Clock of the Time Dragon reveals that the Wizard is Elphaba's biological father. The Wizard only realizes this when Dorothy returns with an elixir bottle as proof of the Witch's death. Soon after this realization, the Wizard disappears from Oz, once again in his hot air balloon.

In a conversation with Elphaba, after the death of her sister, the Wizard claims his purpose in Oz is to protect the Grimmerie. Elphaba tries to barter the book for the freedom of Nor, but the Wizard refuses to make the deal.

Liir

The narrator reveals that Liir is the child of Elphaba and Fiyero, though even Elphaba remains unsure about Liir's parentage. She claims that a coma like state prevents her from recalling the circumstances of Liir's birth. Such amnesia appears to prevent her from feeling any maternal instincts towards Liir.



Sarima

Sarima's marriage to Fiyero was arranged by their families in childhood. Fiyero explained this shortly after he arrived in Shiz.

When Sarima meets Elphaba, she welcomes her into her home, on the condition that they will never discuss Fiyero. Such a deal denies Elphaba the forgiveness she desires. During Elphaba's first trip to Colwen Grounds, Gale Force soldiers capture Sarima and her entire family.

Sisters

Sarima's sisters all live their single lives in the fortress of Kiamo Ko. They feel a great deal of bitterness towards their widowed sister, as tradition forbids them to marry unless Sarima remarries. The sisters are only called One, Two, Three, Four, Five and Six.

Nor

Fiyero and Sarima's only daughter is Nor. She proves to be a mischievous girl who gets into just as much trouble as her two brothers. Though she frequently pesters Elphaba, when Elphaba tries to bargain for her freedom with the Wizard, she fails.

Manek

Sarima's oldest son, Manek, stands to inherit Fiyero's thrown when he comes of age. His sheltered and indulgent upbringing, however, make him a cruel child. His frequent antagonizing of Liir causes Elphaba's subconscious to command an icicle to kill Manek.

Irji

Sarima's younger son, Irji, possesses none of the leadership qualities of his older brother. The women in Kiamo Ko assume the Irji will become a man of religion one day. He suffers capture with the rest of his family by the Gale Force.

Yackle

Many characters appear with the name Yackle, which serves to baffle Elphaba. She tries to decipher a connection; but it remains allusive. The old woman that gives Nanny the potion for Melena's second pregnancy calls herself Yackle. The women working in the Philosophy Club likewise answered to Yackle. The old Maunt that cares for Elphaba after Fiyero's death also goes by Yackle. The name comes to represent a sort of fate that directs Elphaba's life.



Scarecrow

The Scarecrow accompanies Dorothy on her journey through Oz. At first, Elphaba hopes the Scarecrow to be Fiyero in disguise. The attack of her crows quickly reveals him a bewitched scarecrow full of straw.

Nick Chopper

Nick Chopper becomes a tin man when Nessarose bewitches his ax as a punishment. He also accompanies Dorothy.

Cowardly Lion

Elphaba suspects the Lion that travels with Dorothy could be the same baby lion she once saw in Dr. Nikdik's class.

Dorothy Gale

The young girl from Kansas that drops in her house onto Nessarose's head proves to be Elphaba's undoing. All of Oz seems taken with Dorothy's sweet innocence. Many of the Munchkins appear ready to crown her queen. She seeks forgiveness from Elphaba for the death of Nessarose. In trying to help the Witch when her clothes catch on fire, she brings about the Witch's death, though some may see such as an act of mercy.



Objects/Places

Oz

The story takes place in the fictional land of Oz. Oz is made up of various sections, such as Munchkinland and Gillikin. The capital of Oz is Emerald City.

Yellow Brick Road

The Yellow Brick Road runs from Munchkinland to Emerald City. Dorothy follows it to find her way back home. Many residents of Oz resisted the building of the road and, for a time, carried off bricks in protest.

Clock of the Time Dragon

Frex sees the Clock of the Time Dragon as a frivolous waste of time and a potential moral dilemma. The Clock shows caricatures of real people, although it frequently causes problems, such as a scandal for Frex when it reveals him hypocritical in his preaching. Eventually, it reveals to Elphaba her true paternity, though she refuses to believe it.

Colwen Grounds

Melena's home of Colwen Grounds is an elaborate palace housing the Eminent Thropp. The Eminent Thropp, or leader of Munchkinland, passes down through Melena's family via the oldest daughter.

Elixir

Nanny carries a bottle of elixir that she saved from Melena's personal effects. When Elphaba watches the Clock, she sees that that Wizard gave the bottle to Melena. Elphaba begins taking it, only to suffer from awful nightmares, after which she fears to sleep at all. Dorothy returns to the Wizard with the bottle as proof of the Witch's death. Upon seeing the bottle, the Wizard must have realized his relationship to the Witch. He quickly leaves Oz.

Shiz

All the universities in Oz reside in Shiz. The young people arrive there from all areas of Oz and all classes of society. In Shiz, they are prepared for their various duties throughout Oz. Elphaba begins to worry, though, that Madame Morrible's dedication to



the Wizard will turn the universities into nothing more than brainwashing institutions for the Wizard's political agenda.

Crage Hall

The girls attend university at Crage Hall. Until Elphaba's second years, all students study in unisex classrooms. Dr. Nikdik teaches the first coed class.

Throne

The throne of the Wizard is a place few in Oz see. Elphaba and Glinda travel there, only to gain a brief and unfruitful audience with the Wizard disguised as a skeleton.

Water

To Elphaba, water represents pain. From birth, she instinctively resists water at all costs. Only when she rescues Chistery does she take a chance. Amazingly, the water freezes under her as she carries him across the lake.

Ironically, when Dorothy attempts to save the burning Witch with a bucket of water, she instead kills her. However, the baptism by Dorothy releases the Witch from her tortured life.

Gale Force

The Gale Force is the army of the Wizard. They round up the Animals and place them in servitude. In addition, they kill Fiyero in Emerald City and later roundup his family.

Grimmerie

In Kiamo Ko, Elphaba discovers an ancient book, the Grimmerie. Sarima claims that an old man from another world left it there for safekeeping. Elphaba struggles to understand the strange language of the book, though the letters frequently jumble themselves. When she takes a page to her father for inspection, it comes to the attention of the Wizard. He claims his purpose in Oz is to protect this book. He demands it of Elphaba, though she refuses to give it up without something in return. Even when she demands Nor's life in exchange, the Wizard refuses to make the trade.

Chistery

Elphaba, in her quest to find a link between Animals and animals - and therefore, Animals and humans, attempts to teach Chistery, her pet monkey, to talk. Though he does learn to mimic her, he never masters conversation.



Goldfish

Elphaba begins to fear spies everywhere. She believes that the large goldfish in the fish well of Kiamo Ko is the spirit of Madame Morrible. When Liir nearly drowns, he claims the fish told him Fiyero is his father. No one but Elphaba pays it any mind. When Elphaba returns from Shiz following Madame Morrible's death, Liir announces that the goldfish died also.

Nessarose's shoes

The jeweled shoes represent to Elphaba her father's apparent preference for his second daughter. When Glinda bewitches them, they come to represent the power that Nessarose held over Munchkinland. Elphaba becomes obsessed with getting them from Dorothy, following Nessarose's death. However, the task of murdering Madame Morrible overshadows the Witch's desire for the shoes.

Broom

Elphaba's broom, a gift from Sister Yackle in the Mauntery, becomes her freedom in allowing her to travel abroad safely.

Kiamo Ko

Fiyero's winter fortress becomes Elphaba's home. She takes up residence in the tower, at Sarima's insistence. After her first visit to Colwen Grounds, Elphaba realizes that Kiamo Ko has become home. Such a realization explains her fury when she returns to find Sarima and her family abducted by the Wizard's army.



Social Sensitivity

Based on L. Frank Baum's character the Wicked Witch of the West from *The Wizard of Oz*, Gregory Maguire's *Wicked* retells the famous children's tale from the perspective of the witch. A feminist account of the "life and times of the Wicked Witch of the West", Maguire's novel addresses both political and social concerns in the fictional world of Oz which reflect real world issues.

Elphaba, the Wicked Witch of the West, embodies most of the novel's social concerns. It is through her various plights for social justice (on behalf of specific causes) that the novel progresses. The most notable social concerns within *Wicked* are issues surrounding religion, political unrest, and Animal/animal rights.

When Elphaba is born, Oz is beginning to see the first signs of religious dissent and upheaval that is to haunt her throughout life. In fact, on the eve of her birth, her minister father, Frex, ventures to speak against the "Tik Tok" thing visiting local areas. The Tik Tok thing is a mechanical device that travels through Oz and offers predictions for the future. These predictions encourage the "pleasure faith" and threaten religious beliefs in the "unnamed God" (a Christian deity of sorts) and in the pagan Lurline, a goddess figure. The dangerous nature of the Tik Tok creature reflects contemporary movements toward progressive technology. Thus, the novel chronicles the movement towards a dangerous technology by a society too ignorant to successfully cope with its advances. Meanwhile, *Wicked* raises important social criticism revolving around racism, gender bias, and problematic issues in education, among other things.

Religious dissent is closely related to issues of political unrest within *Wicked*. We discover that the Wizard of Oz ("the great and terrible") is from "other world" (or Earth). Arriving in a hot air balloon in search of a magical text from Earth, the Wizard overthrows the ruling matriarchal (and pagan) government of the Ozma Regent and becomes a self-appointed leader who seeks to oppress the pagan beliefs of Oz citizens. The previous Ozma leader is said to be "sleep charmed" by the power of the Wizard, not unlike the child Sleeping Beauty of fairy tales. We soon learn that the Wizard is a tyrannical leader who later appoints himself "Emperor of Oz" (an obvious Napoleon reference). Consequently, Oz becomes politically divided among those with loyalties to the Wizard, those who seek independence, and the royalists who wish to see the Ozma Regent restored.

As part of the traditional social belief system of Oz, solidified by the "Oziad" (a text akin to the Bible), there is a divide between Animals who have consciousness and speech (a concept also seen in C. S. Lewis's *Chronicles of Narnia* and elsewhere), and animals who do not. This divide becomes deeply threatened by the wizard.

The royalists of Oz traditionally believe that Lurline, the Fairy Queen who left her daughter Ozma to rule over Oz, granted the ability of consciousness and thought to Animals in a curious way: She stopped and called from the desert sands a font of water hidden deep beneath the earth's dry dunes. The water obeyed, in such abundance that



the land of Oz in all its febrile variety sprang up almost instantly. Lurline drank herself into a stupor and went for a long rest on the top of Mount Runcible. When she awoke, she relieved herself copiously, and this became the Gillikin River, running around the east tracts of the Great Gillikin Forest and skirting through the eastern edges of the Vinkus, and coming to a stop at Restwater. The animals were terricolous and thus of a lower order than Lurline and her retinue. . . . The animals had come into their being as rolled clots of earth dislodged from the exuberant plant growth.

When Lurline let loose, the animals thought that the raging stream was a flood, sent to drown their fresh new world, and they despaired of their existence. In a panic they flung themselves into the torrent and attempted to swim through Lurline's urine.

Those who became intimidated and turned back remained animals, beasts of burden, slaughtered for flesh, hunted for fun, counted as profit, admired as innocent.

Those who swam on and made it to the farther shore were given the gifts of consciousness and language.

However, this image of female deity with the ability to grant such power is literally destroyed as the novel progresses, first with the usurping of female power and the transition from matriarchal to patriarchal rule, then with the systematic destruction of Animal rights. With the continued rule of the wizard of Oz, Animals gradually become extinct. Those who previously taught in universities, owned property, and socialized with humans in upstanding social circles begin to disappear, secretly at first, then more openly. They are confined to animal farms, slaughtered, and sold. Those who live, lose both the ability and inclination to speak and think freely. Eventually, at the hands of the Wizard and his ruling Gale force, Animals become no more valued than animals in Oz.



Techniques

Wicked is a progressive narrative that treats witchcraft and the notion of witches with an irony not seen in previous accounts of this tale. For Maguire, "witch" is a label that is constructed by society. It is a label that provides an explanation for activities or events which are otherwise unexplained.

Thus, for Glinda, her title as Witch of the North is silly, if not an insulting term for someone of her "social standing": Well, you know how Munchkinlanders bow and scrape no matter what their democratic inclinations. No sooner had I arrived than they deferred to me, introducing me as a witch. I tried to correct them, a sorceress is really much more apt, but never mind. It was no doubt the outfit, it cowed them. I was on a salmon-pink fantasy that day, and really it suited me.

Similarly, for Elphaba, her label of witch is nothing more than an acceptance of difference: "People always did like to talk didn't they? That's why I call myself a witch now: the Wicked Witch of the West, if you want the full glory of it. As long as people are going to call you a lunatic anyway, why not get the benefit of it? It liberates you from convention". Thus, Wicked attempts to deconstruct traditional notions of otherness and difference, endearing the Wicked Witch of the West to its readers.



Themes

Themes

As with most novels, the more prominent themes in *Wicked* are entangled within and among important concerns for society; indeed, as Elphaba notes: "you can't divorce your particulars from politics". Therefore, issues of religion, Animal rights, and political unrest are entangled with issue of otherness, sexuality, body image, revenge, and perspective within the novel. Elphaba embodies the very notion of "otherness" because she is conceived half of Oz and "other world" and is a green woman. Moreover, Maguire includes several characters who both perceive and are perceived differently: Fiyero has "blue diamond skin"; Glinda is incapable of "seeing" or "considering" past her social standing in life; Boq is a Munchkinlander who will always be smaller than everyone else; Nessarose has no arms; and Dr. Dillamond is a Goat who can never fulfill his purpose in a human world. Moreover, the theme of otherness bleeds into issues of sexuality, which culminates in the Philosophy Club, a pornographic club in which characters of all sorts — Animals, men, women, Munchkinlanders and Vinkinus alike—join in confused orgy.

As in this scene of confused sexual exchange, sexuality itself is an ambiguous notion throughout the text: Melina (Elphaba's mother) is a known harlot who sleeps with the wizard under an enchantment to conceive Elphaba; there is continual suggestion that Nessarose is fathered by both Turtleheart and Frex; and Elphaba herself is inconclusively female and "will not be touched below the waist by hands".

Good vs. Evil

From the beginning of the novel with Frex, the characters attempt to discover the origins of evil. Some believe that a person may be born evil. Others, such as Sarima, believe all children are born good, and evil is learned. The Witch herself, though she is called *Wicked*, tries to do good for those dear to her.

Another possibility lies in the theory of self-fulfilling prophecy. Perhaps, in calling Elphaba evil, she becomes evil. The power of rumors and suggestion brings about changes in one's personality.

In the end, Elphaba realizes that to do good or evil remains the choice of the individual. Though many people in the society of Oz desire to blame the evil on others, Elphaba realizes that she must take responsibility for her own actions.

Religion plays a large role in the views of good and evil. In the Unionist religion of Frex and Nessarose, good and evil lie far apart. In the philosophy of the Time Dragon, however, good and evil are more subjective.



The novel casts an ironic light on the original story, as the Wizard appears to be the evil one; while the Wicked Witch of the West seemed only to want to do good, until all efforts to do such failed.

Home & Family

Elphaba grows up in a dysfunctional family, with an opening unfaithful mother and a largely absent father. Moreover, Frex remains overzealous in his ministries, to the exclusion of his family.

Briefly, at college, Elphaba finds a type of family in her group of friends. However, circumstances drive them apart. In Emerald City, she once again lives alone. When Fiyero attempts to get near her, Elphaba remains distant, hoping to protect him from the element of society in which she lives.

Kiamo Ko is the place where Elphaba finally feels at home. She realizes it is the guilt that drew her to the place that gives her the connection she longed for. When the Gale Force takes Sarima's family, Elphaba becomes lonely and depressed. She vows to find them; but years pass without success. Such despair weakens her mental state.

Forgiveness

After her time in the Mauntery, Elphaba seeks forgiveness from Sarima for Fiyero's death. When Sarima refuses to discuss the subject, Elphaba finds herself stuck in a sort of limbo. She does not feel free to leave Vinkus, though staying does not produce the desired result.

Elphaba remembers her father's desire to gain forgiveness from Turtle Heart's family. The lack of forgiveness toward Frex drove him even more deeply into his religious work and further from his family.

When Dorothy seeks forgiveness from the Witch, it sets off a myriad of emotions. No doubt, the Witch feels incapable of giving that which she never received. Furthermore, she may feel jealous that Dorothy gets to ask for something that the Witch herself was forbidden to bring up. The mental struggle causes the Witch's death. One must also realize that Dorothy never receives the forgiveness she sought from the Witch.



Style

Point of View

This novel is told in third person omniscient point of view. An all-knowing narrator relates the story as it happens. However, the person that the story follows sometimes changes. At first, the story follows Elphaba and her family. In Gillikin, though, it first follows Galinda, then Boq and finally returns to Elphaba.

When Elphaba moves to Emerald City, the storyline becomes that of Fiyero, as he follows Elphaba on her missions. Finally, it returns to Elphaba as she journeys to Vinkus. The storyline remains with Elphaba for the remainder of the story, although it takes brief breaks to follow Nor, Sarima and even Liir.

The narrator seems to sympathize greatly with Elphaba and does not feel that her wickedness was an inherent character flaw. Rather it is a result of her struggles in life, if the wickedness exists at all.

This novel reads much like a mock biography. In many ways, it is epic, in the colorful ways in which the author invents and embellishes on the Land of Oz and the characters of the Munchkins and Witches.

Setting

The story takes place in the fictional land of Oz. Oz shares many similarities to the reader's own world, but also shows remarkable differences. Many different races live in Oz, such as Dwarves, Munchkinlanders, Vinkus and Gillikinese. Oz is made up of different areas, such as Quadling Country and Munchkinland. Many editions of the novel include a detailed map of the land.

One could safely assume the period to be near the original publishing date of the novel it was based on. In fact, Dorothy refers to the current President of the United States as being Theodore Roosevelt.

Elphaba manages to travel to each of the main divisions within Oz throughout the novel. Though born in Munchkinland, she spends much of her childhood in Quadling Country before attending college in Gillikin. After some disillusionment with college life, she runs away to live alone in Emerald City, the capital. Finally, after the murder of her lover, Elphaba travels to Vinkus, where she lives the remainder of her life.

Language and Meaning

The author takes great liberties in the language of the novel. Some common words receive creative spellings, such as fenix and the name of Galinda's friend, Pfanee.



Furthermore, capitalization is important in distinguishing Animals from regular animals. Clearly, the capitalization appears even in the characters' spoken words.

All of the residents of Oz seem to speak the same language, except the Quadlings. Turtle Heart speaks using the same words, but with a different word order. Often his speech seems nearly riddle-like.

Structure

The novel is divided into a prologue and five main sections. Each main section is named for the area of Oz in which it takes place. Three of the main sections are further divided, wither by the events of their section or the person who the storyline follows. Many of the main sections or subsections are then divided by number. Some sections and subsections are short, while others are quite lengthy.



Quotes

"Woe is the natural end of life, yet we go on having babies." P. 8

"They left a pipkin of water nearby, and under cover of the next squall they went squelching away, to find their sons and husbands and brothers, and berate and beat them if they were available, or bury them if not." P. 21

"Perhaps, though Nanny, little green Elphaba chose her own sex, and her own color, and to hell with her parents." P. 31

"A green child will be an open invitation for scorn and abuse." P. 48

"She reasoned that because she was beautiful she was significant, though what she signified, and to whom, was not clear to her yet." P. 65

"Elphaba looked like something between an animal and an Animal, like something more than life but not quite Life." P. 77

"The funeral was modest, a love-her-and-shove-her affair." P. 154

"Beware whom you serve," said the Wizard of Oz." P. 177

"And how I have changed, she thought, in a year and some. From despising the colored girl to claiming we are blood!" p. 177

"A perfect word for my new life. Unbecoming. I who have always been unbecoming an becoming un." P. 188

"They moved together, blue diamonds on a green field." P. 192

"If she ever comes down off that plinth—the one that has words written on it along the edges in gold, reading MOST SUPERIOR IN MORAL RECTITUDE—if she ever allows herself to be the bitch she really is, she'll be the Bitch of the East." P. 196

"Love makes hunters of us all." P. 215

"There was much to hate in this world, and too much to love." P. 228

"One never learns how the witch became wicked, or whether that was the right choice for her—is it ever the right choice?" p. 231

"There is something inherently good about children," said Sarima decidedly, warming to the subject." P. 277

"Perhaps Elphaba owed her the chance of liberty. Yet how much really could you owe other people? Was it endless?" p. 301



"It didn't matter how crippled Nessarose was; she would always be more than Elphaba, always. She would always *mean* more." P. 321

"They had ganged up on her, in the claustrophobic, loving way of families, and she wanted no more of it." P. 325

"All the children survived to pray for Nessarose's soul at the memorial service. Perfect attendance was never more perfect." P. 333

""I just mean, Glinda, is it possible we could be living our entire adult lives under someone's spell?"" p. 345

""It's people who claim that they're good, or anyway better than the rest of us, that you have to be wary of." P. 357

""Now we're the thick-waisted generation, dragging along our children behind us and carrying our parents on our backs. And we're in charge, while the figures who used to command our respect are wasting away."" P. 359

"The Witch had waited fifteen years, but her timing was off by five minutes." P. 365

""The real disaster of this inquiry is that it is the nature of evil to be *secret*."" P. 372

"Maybe the definition of home is the place where you are never forgiven, so you may always belong there, bound by guilt. And maybe the cost of belonging is worth it." P. 377

"And would we recognize the Unnamed God if it knocked on our doors?" p. 388

""You're my soul come scavenging for me, I can feel it," said the Witch. " I won't have it, I won't have it."" P. 400

"In the life of a Witch, there is no *after*, in the *ever after* of a Witch there is no *happily*; in the story of a Witch, there is no afterward." P. 406



Key Questions

1. Discuss Maguire's ultimate message to the reader which lies in the following passage: "To the grim poor there need be no pour quoi tale about where evil arises; it just arises; it always is. One never learns how the witch became wicked, or whether that was the right choice for her—is it ever the right choice?"

Does the devil ever struggle to be good again, or if so is he not a devil? It is at the very least a question of definitions."

What is Maguire trying to say about the nature of the image of the witch in fiction? Can you think of other "witches" that are seen this way by fiction?

2. Elphaba's sexuality is ambiguous, first at her birth and later in her love affair with Fiyero. Why do you suppose Maguire chooses to blur the gender lines of her character?

3. Elphaba is a believer in conspiracy theories. How much influence do you believe that Madame Morrible had on the events that transpire within the novel?

4. Elphaba is a character embedded with difference from the very beginning of the novel. How significant is her greenness?



Topics for Discussion

Many characters discuss the origins of evil. Which argument gives the best evidence? Explain.

What do you think Elphaba's green skin symbolizes?

What is the role of Shell in this novel?

How does Elphaba's college career compare to the experience of a college student today?

Does Elphaba have proper motivation to join the resistance?

Were Frex and Melena good parents? Explain.

How does Kiamo Ko become home to Elphaba?

Who is Liir? What does he represent?

Is the Wizard evil? Explain.

How does greed affect the plot?

Literary Precedents

The most closely related literary precedents are L. Frank Baum's *The Wizard of Oz*, written in 1900 and the movie version, *The Wizard of Oz* directed by Victor Fleming in 1939.

Related Titles

Gregory Maguire has written another book based on a traditional fairy tale, called *Confessions of an Ugly Step Sister*, published in 1999. This novel tells the Cinderella fairy tale from the perspective of the stepsister.



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