

The Wonderful Wizard of Oz Study Guide

The Wonderful Wizard of Oz by L. Frank Baum

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Plot Summary

As the story opens, Dorothy is in the little house she shares with her Aunt Em and Uncle Henry in Kansas. She's a bright, brave little girl and loves to play with her dog, Toto. One day a storm is coming and Aunt Em is rushing for the tiny cellar when the cyclone picks the house up with Dorothy and Toto still in it. The house is in the air for a long time and Dorothy eventually takes a nap. She's on her bed when it falls to land. When she opens the door, she is amazed by the sights that greet her. She soon discovers that her house dropped out of the sky on the Wicked Witch of the East and her death has freed the race of tiny people who have lived as her slaves. The witch's body soon dries up and the Good Witch of the North tells Dorothy she is entitled to take the witch's silver shoes, which she does.

Dorothy says she wants to return to Kansas and is told the great Wizard of Oz will be the only person who might help her on her way. She heads toward Oz's home in the Emerald City. Along the way she encounters the Scarecrow who is hanging helplessly on a pole in a field. He wonders if the Wizard might be able to give him brains and decides to go along with Dorothy. They spend their first night on the road in a small abandoned house and find the Tin Woodman the following morning. He explains that he was caught outside in the rain, which rusted his joints, and he has been standing in one spot for a year. Dorothy oils his joints and he decides he'll accompany them, hoping the Wizard will give him a heart. They soon encounter a Lion who tries to bite Toto but when Dorothy hits the beast on the nose, he admits that he's a great coward. He joins the group, hoping the Wizard will be able to give him courage.

They finally reach the Emerald City and the Wizard tells them he will only grant their wishes if they kill the Wicked Witch of the West. They feel they have no choice and head west. Dorothy and the Lion are captured by the witch who notices Dorothy's silver shoes and begins to look for a way to steal them. One day she manages to get one of them and, in anger, Dorothy throws water on her. She immediately melts away, setting free the race of people she's held as slaves and making it possible for Dorothy and the Lion to reunite with the Scarecrow and Woodman.

Back in Oz, Dorothy and the others discover the Wizard is nothing more than an ordinary man who arrived in the land by accident just as Dorothy did. He grants the Scarecrow, Tin Woodman, and Lion their wishes and comes up with a plan to get home with Dorothy by way of hot air balloon. Toto runs away at the moment before Dorothy is to board and he leaves without her. They learn that Glinda the Good, the Witch of the South, can likely help Dorothy find her way home and make their way there. After many adventures, they arrive and Dorothy discovers she has only to tap the heels of the Silver Shoes together and wish to be home. She does and arrives back in Kansas to find Uncle Henry has built a new house. She rushes toward Aunt Em, shouting that it's good to be home.



Chapters 1 - 2

Summary

As *The Wizard of Oz* by Frank Baum opens, Dorothy is at home with her Aunt Em and Uncle Henry. Dorothy is an orphan who lives with Em and Henry on their farm in Kansas. They live in a tiny one-room house with a small cyclone cellar. To reach the cellar, they open a trap door in the floor and climb through. Dorothy's aunt and uncle work hard, and they are care-worn. They seldom smile and are described as being as gray and dull as the Kansas landscape, which is severely lacking in color. Dorothy is a happy child and loves to play with her little dog, Toto. Dorothy sometimes laughs out loud as she plays, and Aunt Em is often startled by the sound because it's so out of place in her surroundings.

One day Uncle Henry is looking at the weather from the front door of the little house, and he sees there are winds coming from two directions, a sign a cyclone is possible. He yells that there's a storm on the way, and Aunt Em opens the trap door leading to the little cellar, while Henry rushes to the barn to care for the horses and cows.

Aunt Em tells Dorothy to get into the cellar, but Toto runs away from Dorothy. She runs after him. She catches him and is just about to jump through the trap door into the cellar when the house begins to spin. It rises into the air, taking Dorothy and Toto along. She is initially afraid but then settles in to see what happens. At one point, Toto steps through the trap door, but the air pressure is such that he simply hovers at the edge of the opening. Dorothy pulls him back and closes the door. After awhile, she decides to go to her bed. She is soon asleep, lulled by the motion of the house.

In Chapter 2, Dorothy is awakened when the house comes to an abrupt stop. She is amazed when she looks outside and sees a land very different from the dull colors of Kansas. There are fruits and flowers of all colors, birds with brilliant feathers, and a brook running between grassy banks. Then she sees people coming toward her. They are small but are obviously not children. They are wearing blue. A woman is older than the others, and she greets Dorothy, calling her a sorceress and thanking her for killing the Wicked Witch of the East and freeing the Munchkins. Dorothy is polite but says she hasn't killed anyone. The woman, who introduces herself as the Good Witch of the North, points out a pair of feet sticking out from the edge of Dorothy's house, indicating that the house landed on the witch. The witch has held the Munchkin people as slaves, and they are pleased she is dead.

Dorothy tells the witch she wants only to return home, and the witch suggests Dorothy consult the powerful Wizard of Oz who lives in the emerald City. Dorothy decides she will set out in search of the Wizard. The dead witch almost immediately turns to dust and disappears. The Good Witch of the North tells Dorothy that she is entitled to the evil witch's silver shoes. The good witch kisses Dorothy on the forehead, which is a sign to all that Dorothy is under her protection.



Analysis

It's noted that Aunt Em was a happy woman when she first arrived in Kansas to live as Uncle Henry's wife. While there are few details about their daily lives, it seems likely that they each work hard and have simply lost their happiness in the process of surviving the harsh conditions. While there is no real time frame set, it's assumed the story occurs around the time the story was written just more than a century ago. The life of the plains farmers was hard during this era. They worked long hours and were at the mercy of the weather. The wives worked equally hard and the difficult lifestyles often left people with little joy in their lives. This seems to be the case for Em and Henry.

At the time Frank Baum wrote this story, there were stereotypical ideas on many subjects and he seems determined from the beginning to break free from some of these ideas. The Good Witch of the North is not beautiful, but she also isn't ugly or wicked. Dorothy is greatly surprised by the woman's appearance but soon accepts that she really is a witch. As the second chapter comes to a close, it's noted that the witch simply disappears once her conversation with Dorothy is over, and that Dorothy isn't at all surprised that a witch would exit in that manner.

The witch doesn't immediately come up with the idea that Dorothy should visit the Emerald City to seek the Wizard's help. Actually, she removes her hat from her head, sets it upon her nose where it turns into a chalkboard, then reads the words on the little board. The words say that Dorothy should go to the Emerald City. The witch, who hasn't known Dorothy's name prior to its appearance on the slate, relays the instruction.

Discussion Question 1

What is Dorothy's life on the farm during this time period?

Discussion Question 2

Most people know the story of the Wizard of Oz from the movie. What are the similarities between the book and the movie? What are some of the differences?

Discussion Question 3

Despite the hardships, Dorothy is a happy child. What does this say about Dorothy? What does it say about Aunt Em and Uncle Henry who are taking care of Dorothy?

Vocabulary

Blistered, merrily, swaying, shrieked, dismally, luscious, plumage, bondage, gracious, civilized.



Chapters 3 - 4

Summary

In Chapter 3, the witch and the Munchkins go away, and Dorothy decides she'll begin her journey. She realizes the witch's silver shoes are much better than her own and decides she'll wear them for her long journey. She gets bread from the cupboard so she'll have something to eat during the trip. Then she and Toto set out along the yellow brick road. She notes the pretty blue houses all along the road. There are neat fences and plenty of farmland with abundant crops. That evening, just as she's beginning to be too tired to walk anymore, she finds a group of people having a party outside one of the houses. She discovers that a wealthy Munchkin named Boq owns the house and is throwing the party to celebrate their new freedom. Dorothy is invited to join the fun and to share their food. Dorothy asks Boq about the trip to Oz, and he says he's never been there but knows there are dangers along the way.

When Dorothy resumes her journey, she's a little worried about Boq's warning of the rough travels to come. However, she knows she has to have the Wizard's help if she's going to return to Kansas. After she's walked several miles, she grows tired and sits down to rest. She hears someone talking and discovers it's the Scarecrow. He says he isn't smart because he hasn't any brains. When Dorothy says she's going to see the Wizard, the Scarecrow decides he will go along with the hope that the Wizard can give him brains. The Scarecrow offers to carry the basket that holds Dorothy's food. He tells her that he never gets tired and the only thing he fears is fire.

In Chapter 4, the landscape is changing. The homes are not nearly so neatly cared for and there are potholes in the road. The Scarecrow tells Dorothy about the day he was made and the farmer who drew on the eyes, ears, nose, and mouth for the Scarecrow. He describes the loneliness of being left on the pole in the field. He says he wasn't able to scare the crows away which made him sad. It was an old crow who told the Scarecrow that he would be a good man if he only had a brain. The Scarecrow says he'd set about trying to figure out how to get brains when Dorothy came along and rescued him. They continue walking until it's quite dark. The Scarecrow eventually spots a little cabin through the trees, and Dorothy goes to sleep as soon as they are inside. The Scarecrow stands in the corner and keeps watch as she sleeps.

Analysis

The silver shoes are given to Dorothy by the good witch, but the witch doesn't offer any explanation about the power of the shoes. It's only much later that Dorothy discovers the shoes are the key to her trip home.

Colors are very important in Oz, and it may be that the author is seeking to make dramatic comparisons to the dull landscape of Kansas. When she stops at Boq's home,



Boq notes that blue is the color of the Munchkins and white is the color of the witches. The fact that Dorothy's dress is blue and white checked indicates to the Munchkins that she is a good witch. In the Emerald City, everything is seen as green. In another area, yellow is the predominant color.

Dorothy and the Scarecrow talk as they stop for lunch their first day together, and the Scarecrow asks Dorothy to tell him about her home. The author does not reveal what Dorothy says about Kansas, but when she finishes, the Scarecrow says he can't imagine why Dorothy would choose to leave the beauty of Oz for the "dry, gray place you call Kansas." Dorothy tells him that he doesn't understand because he doesn't have brains. She says humans always want to return home, no matter how beautiful they find some other place, because "there is no place like home." That idea is an important theme in the story because it drives the majority of the action. The Scarecrow agrees, saying he can't understand because he doesn't have brains. He says it's fortunate that most people have brains because otherwise people would only choose to live in the beautiful places and places like Kansas would have no one living there.

Discussion Question 1

The Scarecrow says he doesn't have a brain and he and Dorothy each refer to how deprived he is because he doesn't have a brain. What is the Scarecrow hoping for? Does he wish for physical brain matter or is he looking for knowledge?

Discussion Question 2

What is Dorothy's reaction to her arrival in the land? How might you compare this land to her home in Kansas? Why does Dorothy prefer Kansas?

Discussion Question 3

The Silver Shoes are an important symbol in the story, mainly because they later hold the key to Dorothy's ability to return home. Even this early in the story, the shoes seem important. Why?

Vocabulary

Ordinary, mishap, reproachfully, curiosity, glimpse, fastened, deserted, clumsy, earnestly, anxious.



Chapters 5 - 6

Summary

In Chapter 5, Dorothy wakes the next morning with the announcement that she has to find water so she can wash up and have some with her bread for breakfast. She finds a spring and realizes there isn't much food left. She and the Scarecrow are about to return to the yellow brick road when they hear a noise they can't identify. They search for the source and discover the Tin Woodman standing beside a partially-chopped tree. Dorothy speaks to him, and he says he's been rusted in place for more than a year. Dorothy rushes back to the little cabin and finds his oil can. She returns to him and, with the Scarecrow's help, oils all his joints so that he's able to move about freely.

The Woodman asks why Dorothy happened by, and she explains that she and the Scarecrow are on their way to see the Wizard. The Tin Woodman asks if the Wizard might be able to give him a heart, and Dorothy says she believes it would be no more difficult than giving the Scarecrow brains. They set out together, and Dorothy is glad to have him along when the trees grow so densely over the road that the Woodman has to chop a path.

While they walk, the Woodman shares his story. He says he was in love with a young maiden and planned to marry her. However, the girl lived with a lazy old woman who wanted the girl to remain at her house to cook and clean. The lazy old woman bribed the Wicked Witch of the East to do away with the Woodman, and the witch enchanted his ax so that he chopped off his own arm. The Woodman refused to give up his dream of building a house so he and the maiden could marry. He had a tinsmith make him a new arm. He soon chopped off his other arm and both legs, but the tinsmith came to his rescue each time. Eventually, the Woodman chopped off his head and then chopped his body in two so that he is now made entirely of tin. He says that once his heart was gone, he no longer cared whether he married the young girl. So, he wants to have a heart so that he can again love. He says he got caught in a rainstorm one day and that's how he came to be rusted in the woods where Dorothy found him. Dorothy notes that she's almost out of food and worries about how she will find food because she and Toto need to eat.

In Chapter 6, there are noises coming from the woods around them, and Dorothy is afraid. The Woodman points out that none of the wild animals that are in the woods can hurt him or the Scarecrow. Dorothy has the mark of the Good Witch of the North on her forehead, which will protect her from harm. Dorothy asks what will protect Toto, and the Woodman says they will all have to ensure that Toto remains safe. When the Lion jumps from the woods and roars at them, he shoves the Scarecrow out of the way and runs his claws over the Tin Woodman. He seems about to bite Toto, but Dorothy jumps to the aid of her little dog, hitting the Lion on the nose and calling him a coward. The Lion begins to cry. He says he is a coward and wants more than anything to have some courage.



The Lion quickly decides he will accompany Dorothy and the others to the Emerald City in the hope that the Wizard will give him courage.

Analysis

When the Woodman concludes his story, he says he plans to ask the Wizard for a heart because he believes he would be happy if he only had a heart. The Scarecrow counters, saying he believes brains are more important than a heart. Dorothy hears their conversation but doesn't comment because she doesn't know which is correct.

The Scarecrow figures out many things, but he continues to insist that he doesn't have a brain and isn't smart. He often stumbles as he's walking along because he doesn't walk around the potholes in the road. At one point, the Woodman asks why he keeps stepping in the potholes. The Scarecrow says it's because he hasn't got a brain and can't figure out that he needs to go around them.

At one point soon after the Lion joins them, the Tin Woodman steps on a bug and begins to cry. His tears rust his jaw joints so that he is unable to talk. He has to motion to them until he can make them understand that he needs to be oiled. This is in direct contrast to what one would expect from someone who has no heart. The Tin Woodman says that because he doesn't have a heart, he has to be doubly sure to watch out for those weaker and in need of compassion. The reader will soon figure out that the Scarecrow is intelligent and that he is learning more from every situation, that the Lion is courageous and has mistaken fear for cowardice, and that the Tin Woodman is loving and compassionate. Each lacks the faith in themselves to see these important traits and believes someone else can provide what they themselves see as missing.

Discussion Question 1

Describe how Dorothy comes to be joined by the Tin Woodsman and the Cowardly Lion. What is her first impression of each of them?

Discussion Question 2

Does the Tin Woodsman want a physical heart or is he in search of something else? Why has love and compassion come to be compared with the heart?

Discussion Question 3

Compare the Scarecrow, the Cowardly Lion, and the Tin Woodman. What are the roles of each in the story? Why is each character important? What is the relationship of each to Dorothy?

Vocabulary

Inconvenient, bother, bathed, resolved, comrade, mar.



Chapters 7 - 8

Summary

In Chapter 7, The Journey to the Great Oz, Dorothy and the others sleep outside that night. The Scarecrow finds nuts for Dorothy to eat and the Lion goes off into the woods and finds his own supper, though he doesn't tell them what that is. The next day they come to a deep ditch and the Lion carries each of them to the other side on his back. They travel on and soon come to an even deeper ditch. The Scarecrow comes up with the idea to chop down a tree that is near the edge, letting it fall across the ditch so they can walk across. The Woodman sets out to chop down the tree and they are soon crossing. Just as they are about to reach the other side, some great beasts called Kalidahs chase them. When they are on the log, the Tin Woodman chops off the top of the tree and it plunges into the ditch, taking the beasts with it. They continue their journey and soon come to a huge river. They know they can't possibly get across but the Scarecrow comes up with the idea to build a raft and the Tin Woodman sets out to gather the supplies to construct the raft. They spend that night under a tree and Dorothy has dreams about the Emerald City and the Wizard who will help her find her way back to Kansas.

In Chapter 8, the Tin Woodman completes the raft, fastening the wood together with wooden pins, and they board with Dorothy in the middle and the Woodman and the Scarecrow using poles to propel them across the water. The river is swift and they are soon caught up in the current and are swept away downstream. The Scarecrow jams his pole into the river bottom and it sticks in the mud. Before he can let go, the raft is swept away, leaving the Scarecrow stranded on the pole which is standing straight up in the river. The Scarecrow calls "good-bye" to them as the raft continues downstream. Eventually the Lion decides to jump into the water and swim to shore. The Tin Woodman holds to the Lion's tail so that the raft is dragged along to shore as well.

When they reach land, they are all exhausted and sit for awhile thinking about their next move. They realize they need to return to the yellow brick road and Dorothy decides that following the river will be the surest way to reach it. They begin the walk and soon come to the place where the Scarecrow is still holding to the pole in the middle of the river. A Stork comes by and after talking a bit, agrees to fly out and retrieve the Scarecrow. The group is reunited and continues the walk back along the river. There are wonderful flowers in many colors, but the landscape gradually changes until there is nothing but poppies which give off a poisonous scent that puts everyone to sleep. Dorothy, Toto, and Lion are soon fighting the effects, but the Scarecrow and Tin Woodman are safe because they don't breathe. The Lion runs ahead, hoping to make it out of the field of poppies before he gives in to the sleep, while the Scarecrow and Tin Woodman carry Dorothy and Toto. The Lion doesn't make it, and the Scarecrow and Woodman pass him on their way out of the field. They place her in the grass a safe distance away and wait for her to wake.



Analysis

When the Kildahs are chasing the group, the Lion turns and faces them, giving a mighty roar that stops the beasts in their tracks but only for a moment. They realize there is only a single Lion capable of fighting them and they begin to chase again. The Lion is brave when he turns and faces the creatures, giving the others time to get away. However, no matter how many times he shows his courage, he doesn't recognize it as courage. He says once the danger has passed that the encounter made his heart beat hard. The Tin Woodman immediately says that he wishes he had a heart so that it could be beating hard as well. This is typical of their conversations, each lamenting their lack of the one thing they each believe is so important.

The dangers continue to plague Dorothy and the others, each facing situations and problems that couldn't really be predicted. The field of poppies is interesting in that the flower is the base for a narcotic drug. Just a few years before this story was written, the use of the drug was widespread and not generally illegal. In modern society, the harmful effects are generally recognized and the drug is illegal. There is naturally no reference to the fact that the flowers are being used to make drugs in Oz, but it seems possible that the author is making a reference to the harmful nature of the drug.

Discussion Question 1

What is the possible significance of Dorothy and the Lion falling asleep in the poppy field? So you believe the author is making a statement about drugs? Why or why not?

Discussion Question 2

Describe Dorothy as you know her up to this point. Is she a likeable character? What are some of her strengths and weaknesses?

Discussion Question 3

Dorothy, the Lion, and the Scarecrow are each saved from a serious situation in this part of the book. Describe each situation and how they are helped in their escape back to safety.

Vocabulary

Pleased, industrious, cozy, bordered, discouragements, beckons, wistfully, perched, bounded, aroused.



Chapters 9 - 10

Summary

In Chapter 9, the Scarecrow and Tin Woodman are considering their situation when a Wildcat comes racing toward them, chasing a field mouse. The Tin Woodman doesn't think twice before chopping the head from the cat. The mouse introduces herself as Queen of the Field Mice and asks if she can do anything in return for the Tin Woodman's kindness. The Scarecrow comes up with a plan. The Woodman makes a cart and hundreds of the little mice are harnessed together to drag the Lion out of the poppy field. Dorothy is soon awake and well again. The Queen promises to help them if they are ever again in trouble.

In Chapter 10, the Lion wakes and is well again so the group continues their journey. The landscape changes again, and there are neat little farms along the road. Sometimes people stand at the door and watch the travelers pass. Dorothy decides to stop at the next house and ask for food and shelter. The woman who answers the door is initially a little afraid of the Lion but invites them in and feeds them. The man and woman at the house tell Dorothy about the Wizard, and the next day they arrive at the gate.

Dorothy rings the bell beside the gate and a man, clothed entirely in green, introduces himself as the Guardian of the Gates. He's surprised when they ask to see the Wizard, saying no one has made that request in many years. He helps them put on glasses with special green lenses, which he says will protect their eyes. He opens a second gate and leads them into the city.

Analysis

The man and woman at the house where Dorothy and the others stop to visit tell them about the Wizard, though they seem to be mainly repeating things they've heard. They refer to him as the "terrible Oz." The man is sometimes referred to as the Wizard and sometimes as Oz. The place is apparently called Oz as well and there is no real means to distinguish between the two.

The Guardian says Oz insists everyone wear glasses while they are in the city to protect themselves from the brightness. The glasses are fastened onto each person and secured with a lock. The Guardian is the only one with the key. They wear the glasses the entire time they're in the city and take them off when they leave. The lenses of the glasses are all green, and it seems obvious that the color of the lenses would affect how everyone views things while in the Emerald City. It's not until much later that Dorothy discovers this. She initially takes the Guardian's word for the situation, believing she needs the glasses in order to protect her eyes. In truth, the glasses are a means of



making everything in the city appear green. Dorothy notes that the people even have green skin but doesn't realize until much later that it's an illusion caused by the glasses.

Discussion Question 1

What is the significance of the use of the color green in the Emerald City? What are some other things that are green?

Discussion Question 2

What does the Scarecrow do at night while Dorothy sleeps? What does this say about his devotion to her?

Discussion Question 3

What are all the people and animals of Oz forced to wear all the time? What does the Guardian of the Gates say is the purpose of this article? What does Dorothy later learn about it?

Vocabulary

Scampered, indignantly, exclaimed, astonished, timidly, dignified, gravely, assistance, gloomy, evidently, perplexity.



Chapters 11 - 12

Summary

In Chapter 11, they arrive at a great palace, and a soldier goes inside to tell the Wizard they've arrived. He returns, saying they will each have an audience with Oz, one each day. They are shown to comfortable rooms where they can rest while they wait. The following morning, Dorothy is dressed in a pretty green gown from a closet in her room and taken to see the Wizard. Dorothy learns that Oz has already been told about her silver shoes and the mark of protection left on her forehead by the witch. There is a huge throne in the room and a huge head seems suspended over the throne. The voice isn't particularly frightening when it asks why Dorothy has sought him out. Dorothy says she needs his help to return to her home in Kansas. Oz then asks why he should help her. Dorothy says it's because she is in need of his help and he is a powerful wizard. Oz counters, saying Dorothy can't be helpless because she killed the Wicked Witch of the East. He then says he'll grant her wish if she kills the Wicked Witch of the West. Dorothy says she can't kill someone on purpose, but Oz says the witch is evil and should die. Dorothy asks why Oz doesn't do it himself and asks how she should do it. The Wizard says he doesn't know how but that he won't grant her wish until she does. She leaves the room and tells the others what Oz said.

The next day, the Scarecrow is taken to the Throne Room. He expects a head but discovers a beautiful woman with wings and a crown. The Wizard says he will grant the Scarecrow's request for brains only if the Scarecrow kills the Witch of the West. The next day the Tin Woodman is granted an audience with Oz. This time Oz is a huge beast who tells the Woodman he must help Dorothy kill the Witch if he wants a heart. The Lion goes the next day and the Wizard appears as a huge ball of fire. Oz says he will give the Lion courage only if he kills the Witch. When the friends talk about their new situation, the Lion says the only option is to kill the Witch. Dorothy says she can't possibly bring herself to kill the Witch but plans to go in search of her anyway. The others pledge their loyalty to Dorothy and plan to go along.

In Chapter 12, the Guardian of the Gate tells Dorothy there is no road leading to the land of the Wicked Witch of the West. The Guardian says she makes slaves of anyone who enters her kingdom. He instructs them to travel west, toward the setting sun, and that she will find them once they enter their kingdom. The Witch soon knows that the travelers are in her kingdom and summons a pack of wolves. She says none of the travelers are fit for work so she doesn't plan to enslave them. She says the wolves are to destroy them all. When they arrive, the Tin Woodman uses his axe and kills them all. The Witch next sends a flock of crows to kill the group. The Scarecrow meets the crows head on and kills them all. The Witch next summons a huge swarm of bees instructed to sting them all to death. The Tin Woodman uses the straw from the Scarecrow to cover Dorothy, Toto, and the Lion. The bees then find the Woodman and try to sting him but they break their stingers and die. The Witch next calls her slaves, the Winkies, and



instructs them to capture the group. The Lion scares them away and the Witch beats them with a strap for their failure.

The Witch then calls on the Winged Monkeys. She says she believes the Lion would be an asset to her as a slave. She tells the Monkeys to bring the Lion to her but to destroy the others. The Monkeys, enslaved to the Witch by a magic cap, rush toward the group. They scatter the Scarecrow's straw about and throw the clothes into a tree. They drop the Tin Woodman on a pile of rocks and leave him there. They see the mark on Dorothy's forehead and refuse to kill her, taking Dorothy, the Lion, and Toto to the Witch.

The Witch puts Dorothy to work and pens the Lion in an effort to make him work for her. Dorothy is very sad and her is nothing but the hard work the Witch demands of her. Dorothy continues to sneak food out to the Lion and she often curls up against him, happy for the comfort of his presence. The Witch tries to get Dorothy's silver shoes but Dorothy wears them constantly. One day the Witch uses magic to trip Dorothy and one of the shoes falls off. The Witch grabs the shoe and Dorothy demands it back. The Witch refuses and Dorothy, in a fit of anger, throws water on the Witch. She is quickly melting away and within a few minutes is gone. Dorothy cleans up the mess left by the Witch, cleans her shoe, and puts it back on.

Analysis

The Emerald City is described in great detail, as are many of the settings throughout the book. Some of these include that the streets are lined with shops selling an array of items, including popcorn and candy. There are children running about the city and the men use carts to move things. Dorothy notes that everyone seems prosperous and happy in the Emerald City.

The Winged Monkeys are enslaved by the power of a Golden Cap. The person who wears the cap has the ability to summon the Monkeys three times. This is the Witch's third time to call on the Monkeys, and one of the previous times was a face-off against Oz. The reader learns that Oz and the Witch have battled before and that's why Oz is so afraid of her that he'd send Dorothy to fight her.

The Witch notes Dorothy's shoes and knows that Dorothy has power because of the shoes, but she also figures out that Dorothy doesn't know how to use that power. An interesting aspect of this is that no one has told Dorothy the power of the shoes though several people have noted the shoes and know that there is power attached to them.

Discussion Question 1

How does the Witch try to destroy Dorothy and her friends? What happens to foil her various plans?



Discussion Question 2

What does the witch want from Dorothy? How does she plot to get it? How does Dorothy kill the witch?

Discussion Question 3

What does Dorothy provide for the Lion while they are held captive by the witch? What does the Lion provide for Dorothy?

Vocabulary

Prosperous, harshly, meekly, severely, dismally, bitterly, deeds.



Chapters 13 - 14

Summary

In Chapter 13, Dorothy and the Lion are treated well by the Winkies who are happy that Dorothy saved them from a life of slavery. There is feasting and dancing, but the Lion and Dorothy are not completely happy because they don't have the Woodman and the Scarecrow with them. They set out to rescue their friends. The Scarecrow is put back together, and the Woodman is repaired by tinsmiths. The Winkies even make a new handle for the Woodman's axe. When they are all reunited, they decide it's time to travel to the Emerald City so the Wizard can fulfill their wishes. On the following day, Dorothy prepares for the trip. She looks around for things she might need during the journey and finds the golden cap.

In Chapter 14, the traveling is difficult because there is no road. Days pass, and they feel they are no closer to the Emerald City. They decide to call on the field mice, remembering the Queen's promise to help them if they were ever in trouble. The Queen soon arrives and suggests that Dorothy use the golden cap to summon the Winged Monkeys. She explains that the Monkeys must obey the person wearing the cap. So, Dorothy reads the instructions written inside the cap and calls them. Dorothy commands them to carry the group to the Emerald City. On the way, the leader of the Monkeys explains how he and his kind became enslaved to the wearer of the cap. He says there was a beautiful princess who was soon to be married to a wise and noble man. One of the Monkeys played a trick on the wise man, throwing him into the water and leaving him to swim out, ruining his wonderful velvet clothes in the process. As punishment, the Monkeys became enslaved to the golden cap. The Monkey says they were summoned only once before the Wicked Witch of the West came into possession of the cap. They soon arrive at the Emerald City, and the Monkeys depart.

Analysis

There is a great deal of fanfare after Dorothy kills the Wicked Witch of the West. The Winkies aren't brave by nature, and they would probably never have fought for their freedom. When Dorothy saves them, they are very grateful and would have allowed Dorothy to remain with them forever. An interesting aspect of this is that the Winkies have several skilled tinsmiths among them, and they set out to repair the Tin Woodman. They work hard at this task and go above and beyond what's actually required. When they are done, the Tin Woodman is completely repaired but the Winkies also make him a golden handle for his axe and polish the axe head until it sparkles. The Winkies are sad to see the group leave their land. There isn't a great deal of information about the departure at this point, but the Tin Woodman later says the Winkies wanted him to remain to be their ruler. He doesn't because he feels he needs a heart but also because he feels such strong devotion to Dorothy. This level of friendship is an important theme



throughout the story, keeping the group together even when individual members have an offer of a long-term home and the position of ruler over a kingdom.

Toto remains an important part of the story because of his devotion to Dorothy and her devotion to him. When she is being held captive by the Wicked Witch of the West, she's very sad. Toto doesn't care whether they are as long as he is with Dorothy. However, he picks up on the fact that she's sad, and he is sad as well.

Discussion Question 1

What is the reaction of the Winkies when Dorothy kills the witch?

Discussion Question 2

The Winkies help repair the Woodman and Scarecrow, and they want the Woodman to remain with them as their ruler. Why doesn't he remain?

Discussion Question 3

What does Dorothy expect will happen when she returns to the Emerald City after killing the witch? Is she naive to believe the Wizard will carry out his promise?

Vocabulary

Tinsmiths, solder, burnished, enslave, seized, manly, hastened.



Chapters 15 - 16

Summary

In Chapter 15, Dorothy and the others arrive back at the gates of the Emerald City. They ring the bell, and the Guardian is incredibly surprised to see them. He'd expected they would become slaves of the Witch or be killed, but he hadn't expected them to return. The news is quickly carried to Oz that Dorothy and the others have returned and that they've killed the Witch. They expect Oz will summon them immediately, but they are told to wait. After waiting for a long while, the Scarecrow sends a message to Oz that they demand an immediate audience. The Scarecrow says they'll call on the Winged Monkeys for help determining whether Oz keeps his promises unless he sees them at once. The Wizard has encountered the Monkeys once before and doesn't want to meet them again. He agrees to see them at four minutes after nine the following morning.

They are taken to the Throne Room together this time and are surprised when there's no one on the throne. A voice that seems to come from everywhere says that he is invisible to mortals. They tell him they've kept their end of the bargain by melting the Witch of the West, and have come to demand that he keep his word. The Lion roars in anger and Toto scampers a few feet away, bumping into a screen in the corner of the room. When the screen tips over, they see an ordinary man standing there. He says he is Oz the Great and Terrible and pleads with them not to hurt him. He begs them not to tell his secret, saying the people believe him to be a powerful wizard.

The Wizard says he arrived in the land by accident. He was a balloonist at a fair in Omaha and the ropes became tangled, sending him up without control of the balloon. He was eventually dropped in this land. He'd been hailed as a magical man. The man says he'd ordered the city built as a means of keeping the people busy and of "amusing himself." He then ordered that everyone wear the green glasses, and he has kept himself shut off from the people so that they believe him to be a powerful wizard. Dorothy accuses him of being a "very bad man." He counters, saying he's a good man but admits to being a bad wizard. The Wizard promises to give the Scarecrow, Lion, and Tin Woodman their wishes. Dorothy asks how she'll get back to Kansas. The Wizard says he'll have to think about how to accomplish that. Dorothy, the Lion, Scarecrow, and Tin Woodman agree they won't tell anyone the secret the Wizard is keeping.

In Chapter 16, the Scarecrow is taken to the Throne Room. The Wizard says he'll have to remove the Scarecrow's head in order to fill it with brains. He does and puts pins in the head, then replaces the straw and replaces the head. When he returns to Dorothy and the others, he says he feels incredibly intelligent and that he will soon be very smart. The Tin Woodman goes next. The Wizard cuts a hole in the Woodman's chest and inserts a "pretty heart, made entirely of silk and stuffed with sawdust." The Woodman thanks the Wizard and returns to Dorothy and the others. The Lion is next, and the Wizard gives him a bowl filled with a liquid. The Wizard says the Lion will be courageous as soon as he drinks the liquid, and the Lion drinks it all.



Analysis

When Dorothy accuses the Wizard of being a bad man, he counters, saying he is a bad wizard but that he's a good man at heart. There are, however, some inconsistencies in the story at this point. Oz arrived in the balloon by accident but is immediately hailed as a great wizard. He sets out to have the Emerald City built and treats the people well. He has created many illusions to confuse those who visit him in recent years, but it seems impossible that no one remembers his arrival or realizes that he isn't a huge ball of fire or a floating head. Some of the people are bound to remember that he had the appearance of an ordinary man upon his arrival but it may be that the stories of his appearance have overridden their memories. While the fact that he's hidden himself away from everyone all these years seems somewhat unbelievable, it is not the most unbelievable situation in the story. The reader is asked to simply accept it as fact.

The Wizard points out that the Lion is willing to stand up to dangers for his friends, but the Lion believes he is a coward because he feels fear. The Wizard points out that the Scarecrow is able to think and reason things out, and that he'll become more intelligent as time passes and he has more experiences. The Wizard points out that the Tin Woodman is a caring and thoughtful person, even without a heart. Each believes the Wizard can give them the qualities they desire though they actually already have those qualities. They just don't recognize the qualities in themselves until after the Wizard gives them something tangible. After the Wizard fulfills the wishes of the Lion, Woodman, and Scarecrow, he thinks on his actions. He knows that he hasn't actually given anything to any of them, but that he has made them believe he gave them something and he says that means he is a powerful wizard. He does, however, realize that granting Dorothy's wish is going to require that he take steps to produce tangible results. Dorothy won't accept anything less than returning to Kansas, and there's no way for the Wizard to make her believe she's there except to take her there.

Discussion Question 1

What is Toto's role in the story? What role does he play in revealing the Wizard for what he really is?

Discussion Question 2

The Scarecrow uses the word "humbug" to describe the Wizard. What is a humbug? Research the root of this word.

Discussion Question 3

Describe what might be an average day in the life of the Wizard based on the facts he gives Dorothy. Do you believe he's happy?

Vocabulary

Vexed, tiresome, gracious, bestow, grieved, humbug, abounding.



Chapters 17 - 19

Summary

In Chapter 17, Oz calls Dorothy back to his throne room after three days. He announces that they will build a huge balloon to travel across the desert that surrounds the land. He says they'll stitch material together for the balloon, seal it with glue, and use hot air to make the balloon float. Together, they stitch the fabric together and fasten a huge clothes basket to the bottom of it for Dorothy and Oz to ride in. Oz summons all the people, saying he is going on a journey and that the Scarecrow will rule in his place. Just as they are preparing to leave, Toto runs off. Dorothy has to chase after him. The balloon lifts off without Dorothy, and everyone waves as Oz disappears, never to return.

In Chapter 18, the Scarecrow, Tin Woodman, and Lion each say they are content with their new lives. The Scarecrow believes they could live happily together if Dorothy could just find a way to be happy. But Dorothy wants only to return to Kansas. Dorothy calls on the Monkey King, but he says he is unable to fly her to Kansas because they belong only in their own country and cannot leave it. They call on one of the soldiers of the city for help, and he suggests they visit Glinda, the Good Witch of the South. Dorothy decides she will set out to the South at once. The Scarecrow, Lion, and Tin Woodman each declare they will go with her because they are friends.

In Chapter 19, they begin their journey and soon come to a very dense forest. The tree at the very edge of the forest picks up the Scarecrow, who is in the lead, and throws him back among his friends. The Scarecrow tries again but is again grabbed by a tree and thrown back. The Woodman eventually takes a turn and, using his axe to chop the branch that grabs at him, is able to make a path into the forest for the others to follow. They soon discover that it's only the trees at the edge of the forest that attacked and they travel on without a problem from the other trees.

Analysis

The point at which Dorothy decides to leave the Emerald City is important because it exhibits one of the themes of this story. The four companions are drawn together by chance but they remain together because of their devoted friendship. The Scarecrow is the ruler of the Emerald City and he could have chosen to remain there when Dorothy decides to travel to the South, but he refuses to remain behind, saying he wants to go wherever Dorothy goes in an effort to help her find her way back to Kansas. The Tin Woodman and Lion also exhibit this friendship, each giving up an opportunity to remain in some land where they would be ruler in order to help Dorothy.

Discussion Question 1

How does the Wizard fill the wishes of Dorothy and each of her friends?



Discussion Question 2

The Scarecrow, Lion, and Woodman each believe themselves better off for having had the Wizard grant their wishes. Did the Wizard give them anything?

Discussion Question 3

Why is Dorothy unhappy even after the little group is accepted in the Emerald City? What does Dorothy want and why?

Vocabulary

Mishap, mourn, content, journey, fiercely, promptly, spires, brisk, whisked.



Chapters 20 - 24

Summary

In Chapter 20, Dorothy and the others come to a wall. They decide to build a ladder to climb over the wall because they are afraid to alter their course, fearing they won't find Glinda who lives directly south of the Emerald City. The wall is smooth and seems to be made of China, as in the material of which dishes are sometimes made. The Woodman builds a ladder, and they prepare to cross the wall. The Scarecrow goes first. When he reaches the top of the wall, he stops and says, "Oh my." Dorothy is next, and she says the same thing. The Lion comes next, followed by the Tin Woodman. Each of them stops, stares, and says, "Oh my." They are looking on an entire town made of delicate china. The floor is polished as small as the flat surface of a plate and there are houses, animal, and people, all made of china. Everything in the town is very small, no taller than Dorothy's knees.

The Scarecrow jumps to the floor first. The others drop down on top of him so they have a softer landing place. They begin walking south and soon encounter a young milkmaid, milking a tiny china cow. The cow becomes startled and kicks so hard that the milkmaid, the stool, and the bucket all topple over. The cow's leg is broken off in the accident, and the milkmaid's arm is chipped. She is upset and asks Dorothy why she would cause such a problem. Dorothy apologizes. A young princess tries to run away, but Dorothy chases her until the princess stops running. The princess says they must all be very careful, and she points out a clown who is always falling over, breaking himself so that he has to be mended. The princess says none of them are ever quite as pretty once they've been mended.

Dorothy and the others continue their journey. When they reach the other wall, they realize it isn't quite so high. They are able to stand on the Lion's back, one at a time, and climb onto the wall. The Lion is the last remaining in the little china town, and he jumps onto the wall. But, his tail strikes some houses, breaking some as he makes his leap.

In Chapter 21, the group continues on, and the Lion is pleased to be in the forest once more. They encounter a group of animals, and Dorothy is afraid until the Lion explains that the animals are holding a meeting. He is approached by a tiger who says a huge monster with eight legs is eating the animals. The tiger says all the lions that had been in the forest have been eaten by the monster. The Lion says he'll fight the monster if the other animals bow to him as king of the forest, and they agree. The Lion approaches the monster while it is sleeping and uses his claws to behead the creature. The Lion promises to return to the forest and reign as king as soon as he helps Dorothy find her way to Kansas.

In Chapter 22, the group arrives at a hill, and the Scarecrow immediately says it's going to be difficult to climb over. He starts up the hill with the others following, but a voice



cautions them to stop. They discover the voice belongs to a strange, small man with a huge head. The head suddenly springs forward, striking the Scarecrow and knocking him back down the hill. The man – who is a Hammer-Head – is one of many of his kind. They continue to assault everyone who tries to cross the hill. Finally, the Tin Woodman points out that Dorothy still has the right to command the Winged Monkeys for one final task, and she calls them to carry them over the Hammer-Heads. In a matter of minutes, they are over the hill and past the Hammer-Heads.

They are now in the land of the Quadlings, ruled by Glinda. Red is the predominant color and the people, who are short and fat, are all dressed in bright red. They stop at the first farmhouse they see and ask the way to Glinda's castle. A girl soldier promises to ask Glinda if she will see the travelers. When she returns, she tells them to enter "at once."

In Chapter 23, Dorothy tells Glinda the story of how she came to be in the Land of Oz and that she wants desperately to return to Kansas to her Aunt Em and Uncle Henry. Glinda says she'll help Dorothy but asks that Dorothy give her the golden cap in return. Dorothy does so willingly. Glinda then asks the Scarecrow, Lion, and Tin Woodman what each will do once Dorothy is gone. The Scarecrow plans to return to the Emerald City, the Lion will return to the forest, and the Woodman will return to the West to rule over the Winkies. Glinda says she will call the Winged Monkeys to carry each of the three to their new homes. Glinda then pledges to give the golden cap to the Monkey King so that they will never again be enslaved by anyone.

Glinda tells Dorothy that she has the power to return home anytime she wants, simply by clicking the heels of the silver shoes together and command them to take her where she wants to be. Dorothy hugs her friends good-bye, holds Toto in her arms, and clicks her heels together. In the wink of an eye, she takes three steps and rolls over in the grass before she realizes she is back home. She can see the farm where Uncle Henry has built a new little house and is busy milking the cows. Dorothy realizes as she stands up that the shoes are gone.

In Chapter 24, Aunt Em steps outside and sees Dorothy running toward her. They rush to each other and embrace. Aunt Em asks where Dorothy has been and Dorothy says she's been in the Land of Oz, then adds, "I'm so glad to be home again."

Analysis

Dorothy thinks the little china princess is very pretty, and she says she'd like to take the princess home with her. Ironically, Dorothy isn't expecting the princess to become a playmate once they are back in Kansas. She says the princess can stand on the mantle, obviously indicating she just wants the princess as a beautiful what-knot. The princess points out that her life would be dreadful if she were forced to stand still on a mantle all the time, and Dorothy realizes it would be cruel to take the princess with her.



As the Scarecrow, Dorothy, the Lion, and the Tin Woodman leave the china village, the Lion's tail breaks a couple of pieces. Dorothy says the china people are fortunate they didn't break more of the town, considering the delicacy of the pieces and the size. An interesting aspect of this is the Scarecrow's response. He says there are "worse things than being a Scarecrow." He is obviously indicating that he would not want to be one of the china people, probably because they are at the mercy of anyone who wanders through their village.

When Glinda tells Dorothy that she could have returned to Kansas on the very first day she arrived in Oz, as soon as she put on the magic shoes, the Scarecrow says that he's very glad Dorothy didn't because he would never have found a way to get his brains. The Lion echoes that thought, saying he would never have found courage. The Woodman says he wouldn't have his heart. All three are grateful to Dorothy for helping them. Ironically, Glinda was present when Dorothy put the shoes on for the first time, and it seems she could have told Dorothy about the magic powers of the shoes but chose not to.

There's a reference to "mourning" as Dorothy is talking to Glinda. Dorothy says she fears that her aunt and uncle will soon be in mourning if she doesn't return home. It seems likely that they would have assumed Dorothy died in the tornado as soon as she was missing. They should have begun mourning her as soon as the tornado passed; but, apparently, they didn't. Dorothy says she doesn't believe they can "afford" to mourn her. She's referring to the fact that they would have needed mourning clothes and would have observed several rituals common for the time period. While the reader knows nothing about how Dorothy came to be an orphan, it seems possible she remembers mourning for at least one of her own parents, and this has prompted the reference.

Discussion Question 1

What does Dorothy want to do with the little China princess? Why does Dorothy want this? Why does the China princess object?

Discussion Question 2

How does Dorothy return home? What does she find when she arrives?

Discussion Question 3

What does the Scarecrow, Tin Woodman, and Lion plan to do after Dorothy returns home?

Vocabulary

Ermine, bodices, doublets, milkmaids, sulky, reproachful, saucily, trodden, assemblage, boisterous, twinkling, mourning, furiously, weeping, desired, earnestly, deprive, unusual,



Characters

Dorothy

Dorothy is a little girl who lives in Kansas with her Aunt Em and Uncle Henry until the day a cyclone picks up her house, taking her miles away and dropping her in a strange country. Dorothy is a brave girl and when the house is swirling into the sky she soon settles in to see what will happen next. She doesn't see any need to fear and just waits, eventually even taking a nap while the house is flying around. When she arrives, she accepts the people and country as they are but never stops longing for her home, though Kansas is gray and dismal compared to the Land of Oz. Dorothy's aunt and uncle are described as serious and careworn but Dorothy obviously loves them and wants desperately to return home, even from the beginning of her time in Oz. Dorothy becomes friends with the Scarecrow, Lion, and Woodman but this friendship is not enough to make her want to remain in Oz. Dorothy is thoughtful and kind. When she and the Lion are being held captive by the Witch of the West, Dorothy sneaks out every day to give the Lion food. When the Scarecrow says he wants to get down from the pole in the field, Dorothy helps him. Her actions and attitudes make her a thoughtful, open, and brave girl. She is also courteous but she calls the Wizard a "humbug" when she discovers he's been deceiving people for many years.

The Scarecrow

Literally a scarecrow, he is able to talk and walk as if he were a human. He feels that he must be stupid because he doesn't have any brains and he sets out to the Emerald City with Dorothy in his quest to get brains. The Scarecrow believes he doesn't have intelligence because he doesn't have the physical brains in his head. However, he is the one who solves many of their problems along the journey. He figures out that the Tin Woodman could chop down a tree to make a bridge across a deep ditch, for example. Ironically, he doesn't realize that learning takes time and that he's becoming more intelligent and able to work out problems as each day passes. The Scarecrow is deeply loyal to his friends, especially to Dorothy. From the beginning of their friendship, he quietly stands guard each night, watching over her while she rests. When the Wizard leaves in his balloon, the Scarecrow is named ruler of the Emerald City. He takes on the role but his loyalty to Dorothy is more important to him than his role as leader, and this prompts his decision to travel with her when she leaves the Emerald City in search of Glinda the Good. Ultimately, the Scarecrow is a likeable character. While not believable in the truest sense of the word, he and the others – the Tin Woodman and the Lion – are appropriate characters for this story.



The Tin Woodman

He was once a human who angered an old crone so that she enchanted his axe. The Woodman's ax then chopped off his legs, arms, and head. Finally, it chopped his body in half. With each chop, the body part was replaced by a tin part until his entire body was tin. The Woodman no longer has an actual heart, and he believes that makes him heartless in the emotional sense of the word.

The Lion

A lion, who believes himself to be a coward, is actually just a normal lion who mistakes feelings of uncertainty for cowardice. The Lion is dedicated to Dorothy and the others and stands up for them, overcoming his fears, when they are in danger.

The Wizard

The man who was a balloonist and ventriloquist from Nebraska until he found his way to the country where he called for the construction of the Emerald City. He is actually a fraud who fears the witches because they have true magical powers. He is able to help the Scarecrow, Tin Woodman, and Lion with their requests and might have helped Dorothy return to Kansas if she had been with him in his balloon. He is fearful of the wicked witches, but he is also fearful of the people discovering that he's actually a fraud.

The Wicked Witch of the West

The Wicked Witch of the West is a cruel witch that holds a race of people as her slaves. She tries to kill the Woodman and the Scarecrow. She holds Dorothy and the Lion captive. She is killed when she steals one of Dorothy's shoes, prompting Dorothy to throw water on her in anger. The water melts the witch.

Aunt Em

Dorothy's Aunt Em is a very serious woman who is the main caregiver. Aunt Em is careworn from hard work and a hard life. She is initially startled whenever Dorothy laughs, having forgotten how to laugh and enjoy life herself.

Uncle Henry

Uncle Henry is Dorothy's uncle and guardian. He is a serious man who works hard and seems to find little about life to enjoy.



Glinda the Good

Glinda the Good is the good witch of the South. She is kind and beautiful. When Dorothy enters her kingdom, she asks for the Golden Hat and plans to set the Winged Monkeys free once she's asked them to transport the Woodman, Lion, and Scarecrow to their appropriate homes. She is also the one who tells Dorothy how to return to Kansas.

Boq

Boq is the wealthy landowner who gives Dorothy a place to sleep soon after her arrival in Oz. Boq points out the silver shoes as magic and assumes Dorothy must be a sorceress.

Symbols and Symbolism

A Brain

The scarecrow wants a brain from the Wizard.

A Heart

The Tin Woodman wants a heart from the Wizard.

Courage

The Lion wants courage from the Wizard.

Poppies

Poppies are the flowers that give off the poisonous fragrance that puts Dorothy, Toto, and the Lion to sleep.

The Silver Shoes

The Silver Shoes were originally worn by the Wicked Witch of the East. They are magical and the key to Dorothy's desire to return home.

The Golden Cap

The golden cap holds the magic spell which grants the wearer three wishes from the winged monkeys.

Toto

Toto is Dorothy's dog and companion.

The cyclone

The cyclone is a storm that takes Dorothy from her home in Kansas.



Home

Home is an important place to Dorothy. She is referring to the farm in Kansas where she lives with her Aunt Em and Uncle Henry.

The Winged Monkeys

The winged monkeys are a race of flying monkeys that are enslaved by the Wicked Witch until Dorothy kills the witch. The monkeys are freed by Glinda the Good.



Settings

Kansas

The story begins and ends in Kansas which is a real place. The descriptions of this setting are limited, focusing mainly on the house where Dorothy lives with her aunt and uncle. There is, however, a reference to the fact that the landscape is very dull and lacks color. The Wizard is actually from Omaha where he was working with a carnival when his balloon was blown away to Oz.

Oz

The majority of the story happens in Oz, a fictitious place that exists on Earth but is cut off from every other part of the world so that only chance brings Dorothy and the Wizard to this land.

The Emerald City

The Emerald City is green though Dorothy eventually comes to discover that the majority of the color is created through the use of the green-lenses on the glasses everyone wears. This is a magical place ruled by the Wonderful Wizard of Oz who Dorothy eventually learns is actually an ordinary man. The city is filled with wonderful sights though much of it is an illusion.

Land of the Munchkins

The Land of the Munchkins is mostly blue though there are many colors, a stark contrast to Dorothy's home in Kansas. The yellow brick road that leads from the land of the Munchkins to the Emerald City is pitted with holes. The road leads through wondrous lands and eventually comes to a fast-flowing river.

The China City

The china city is surrounded by a high china fence. People and houses in the city are tiny and fragile.



Themes and Motifs

There's No Place Like Home

While the quote "There's No Place Like Home" has become something of a cliché, it remains an important theme throughout the story. Dorothy's quest to find her way home drives the majority of the action from the moment of her arrival in Oz. One of the first things Dorothy says is that she wants to return to her Aunt Em and Uncle Henry. It's that desire that sets her on the way to the Emerald City in the first place, which brings her to meet the Scarecrow, Lion, and Woodman. When Dorothy and the others are told to kill the Witch of the West, she doesn't want to but feels she has no choice because it's the key to having the Wizard send her home. Once she discovers the Wizard is a fraud but has a plan to set out in a balloon, Dorothy doesn't hesitate to say she'll go with him. When that falls through, Dorothy sets out on yet another dangerous journey in order to reach Glinda the Good, hoping that this will be the key to returning home. Once Dorothy realizes she has the power to return home, she's faced with a decision. She has become close friends with her three companions. She compares the beauty of Oz to the stark landscape of Kansas. She might have remained in Oz among her new friends; but, once she realizes she has the power to return home, she pauses only long enough to bid her friends farewell before using the silver shoes to return to Kansas where her Aunt Em and Uncle Henry are waiting.

Friendship

The Scarecrow, Tin Woodman, and Lion become close friends with each other and with Dorothy over a relatively short period of time. The bonds are forged almost as soon as they meet, and the trials they endure make their friendships stronger. This friendship drives some of the action of the book because each wants to ensure the others are safe and happy. When Dorothy and the Lion are being held captive by the Wicked Witch of the West, Dorothy sneaks out each night to take food to the Lion. She also spends time with him, seeking the comfort of his company as they look for a way to escape. When Dorothy and the Lion are finally freed, they go in search of the Woodman and the Scarecrow, a sign of their devotion to the friendship. Another important aspect of this theme is seen in the fact that the Scarecrow, Tin Woodman, and Lion travel with Dorothy until she leaves Oz, despite the fact that each of the three could have remained in other places. When the friends save the Winkies, they ask the Tin Woodman to remain and be their leader. When the Wizard leaves in his balloon, he instructs the people of the Emerald City to obey the Scarecrow as their leader. When the Lion saves the animals in the forest, they call on him to be their leader. Each accepts the role of leader, but all travel on with Dorothy, insisting they want to ensure she finds her way home before they leave her.



Faith in One's Abilities

The Scarecrow, Tin Woodman, and Lion each believe they are lacking in specific traits though each of them exhibit those traits throughout the story. The Tin Woodman believes that he isn't capable of love and compassion because he doesn't have a heart. His definition of the word "heart" refers to the physical organ inside the human body. However, he is so compassionate that he cries when he steps on a bug. He believes that once he has a heart he won't have to work so hard at being compassionate and caring. He simply fails to recognize love and compassion in himself, possibly because he no longer has a physical body that reacts to those emotions. Once the Wizard gives him a heart, the Woodman recognizes that he exhibits compassion and love. The Scarecrow believes he is incapable of intelligence because he doesn't have physical brains. The Wizard points out that most intelligence comes from experience and that the Scarecrow is quickly learning as he continues to live each day. The Scarecrow is the one who comes up with solutions to several of their problems but doesn't have faith in his continually-expanded knowledge until the Wizard fills his head with a new material. The Lion believes he is lacking in courage because he sometimes fears. He doesn't realize that fear is a natural reaction to danger. However, when his friends are in danger, he steps up to fight for them, seeking to protect them despite the danger. He doesn't recognize his actions as courage until after he drinks the potion from the Wizard, and then he believes the potion is responsible, failing to realize he'd had that kind of courage all along.



Styles

Point of View

The story is written in third person from an omniscient perspective. An interesting aspect of the style is that the author sometimes addresses the reader directly. For example, Chapter 14 begins with the words “You will remember.” The author is reminding the reader of an important piece of information presented earlier in the story. Even earlier in the book, in Chapter 3, the author addresses the reader with a note about Dorothy’s attitude. In that reference, the author writes that “Dorothy did not feel nearly so bad as you might think a little girl would ...” There are several additional references of this type. While they might seem somewhat out of place, they are generally used to point out a key piece of information, and these do not detract from the overall story. The majority of the story focuses on Dorothy’s actions, but the story is omniscient because there are a few sections of the book in which Dorothy is either not present or not awake. For example, Dorothy falls asleep in the poppy field and is unable to continue her walk. The reader knows that the Scarecrow and Tin Woodman carry her to safety even though Dorothy isn’t aware of that action until much later. Each of the four – Dorothy, the Scarecrow, the Tin Woodman, and the Lion – enters the chambers of the Wizard alone, but the reader knows what happens to each.

Language and Meaning

The story is written in a straight-forward manner, though the story itself is fantasy and many aspects of the story are unbelievable outside the fantasy world created by the author. There are some words and ideas that are unique to the story. For example, the characters encounter the “Hammer Heads,” a race of beings that fight Dorothy and the others when they are about to cross a mountain, and the Winkies, a race held captive by the Wicked Witch of the West. The people, places, and things that are created specifically for this book are describe in great detail so that the reader with a little imagination can picture each. The fact that the movie of this book is considered a classic means many readers will already have images in mind for many of the characters and places. The overall tone of the book is one of hope and even the reader who has no idea about the ending will probably not be surprised when Dorothy finds her way home and all the friends find happiness in their land. It should be noted that the story was written more than a century ago and some readers may find the writing slightly formal in tone. This should not be a problem for a reader with an average vocabulary and reading ability. It should also be noted that some words and phrases are somewhat outdated or have different meanings to modern-day readers. For example, there are references to “queer” which means strange in this story. An interesting note is that the word “Munchkin” is used in this book to refer to the race of small people who live in the region where Dorothy’s house landed. However, modern use of the word refers to any small person and is sometimes used as a teasing term of endearment toward children.

Structure

The story is divided into twenty-four chapters of varying lengths. The story is presented in chronological order with few instances of foreshadowing. The chapter titles give clues about the events that will happen in that part of the story. For example, the first chapter is titled “The Cyclone.” Dorothy is briefly introduced in this chapter, which then details the cyclone that takes her to Oz.

The first nine chapters focus on Dorothy’s arrival in Oz and the trip to the Emerald City. Chapters 10 and 11 are about Dorothy’s first stay in the Emerald City. Chapters 12 and 13 detail Dorothy’s search for the Wicked Witch of the West and how the witch dies. Chapter 14 is the trip back to the Emerald City. Chapters 15 through 17 focus on Dorothy’s discovery of the truth about the Wizard and his departure. Chapters 18 through 23 are the details of the trip to the South in search of Glinda. The final chapter is only a few sentences in length and merely announces Dorothy’s arrival home and her reunion with Aunt Em.



Quotes

All the same,' said the Scarecrow, 'I shall ask for brains instead of a heart; for a fool would now know what to do with a heart if he had one.

-- Scarecrow (Chapter 5 paragraph 52)

Importance: From the beginning, the Scarecrow discusses his desire for brains. It's evident to the reader from early in the book that the Scarecrow is beginning to learn and that his desire for brains is his way of hurrying the learning process. This quote is part of the conversation between the Scarecrow and the Tin Woodman soon after their meeting.

I shall take the heart,' returned the Tin Woodman; 'for brains do not make one happy and happiness is the best thing in the word.

-- Tin Woodman (Chapter 5 paragraph 53)

Importance: This line follows the Scarecrow's declaration that he would prefer to have a brain rather than a heart. The Tin Woodman believes he could become happy if he had a heart because he believes the reason he lost his recent happiness was that his body was destroyed and he no longer has a heart.

You people with hearts,' he said, 'have something to guide you, and need never do wrong; but I have no heart, and so I must be very careful. When Oz gives me a heart of course I needn't mind so much.

-- Tin Woodman (Chapter 6 paragraph 48)

Importance: This is yet another example of the Tin Woodman's belief that he has to have a heart in order to feel love and compassion. In fact, he is very upset that he steps on a bug and insists that he is careless because he doesn't have a heart. The truth is that most people would pay no attention to stepping on a bug, and the Woodman is already showing an incredible level of compassion.

Dorothy came to meet them and thanked the little mice warmly for saving her companion from death. She had grown so fond of the big Lion she was glad he had been rescued. (Chapter 9 paragraph 38)

Importance: This quote occurs after the field mice rescue Dorothy and the Lion from the poppy field. This is an example of Dorothy's manners and natural kindness. It's also an example of the recurring attitude of helpfulness by many of the characters of the story.

I am Dorothy the Small and Meek. I have come to you for help.

-- Dorothy (Chapter 11 paragraph 29)

Importance: This is Dorothy's answer when the Wonderful Wizard of Oz announces that he is "Oz, the Great and Terrible." This direct contrast in working - small and meek



compared to great and terrible - is important because Dorothy does think of herself as small and meek. At this point in the story, she has not discovered the Wizard's secret, and she still believes that he is a powerful sorcerer.

Oh, no, my dear; I'm really a very good man, but I'm a very bad Wizard, I must admit.
-- The Wizard of Oz (Chapter 15 paragraph 75)

Importance: This is part of the conversation between the Wizard and Dorothy after Dorothy and her friends discover that the Wizard is a fake. Dorothy accuses him of being "a bad man," and he counters with this statement. It seems to bother him that Dorothy thinks he's a phony, and he asserts that he is not a bad person at heart, but admits that he isn't very good at the wizardry.

A baby has brains, but it doesn't know much. Experience is the only thing that brings knowledge, and the longer you are on earth the more experience you are sure to get.
-- The Wizard (Chapter 15 paragraph 77)

Importance: This is the first time the author directly addresses idea that the Scarecrow doesn't actually need brains. The reader should quickly realize that the wizard is correct on this point. The Scarecrow still doesn't accept this truth and insists on being given a tangible object in his head.

If it wasn't for Dorothy I should never have had brains. She lifted me from the pole in the cornfield and brought me to the Emerald City.
-- Scarecrow (Chapter 18 paragraph 44)

Importance: The Scarecrow makes this statement when Dorothy, the Cowardly Lion, and the Tin Woodman are preparing to set off in search of Glinda the Good. This is an example of the level of commitment between the friends. The Scarecrow has a job as head of the Emerald City, but he is willing to give it up in order to help Dorothy on her journey. He explains his gratitude by reminding everyone that Dorothy helped him start this journey from his place in the cornfield.

My cow has broken her leg and I must take her to the mender's shop and have it glued on again.
-- The china milkmaid (Chapter 20 paragraph 18)

Importance: The travelers discover this land made entirely of china, and it's here that one of them accidentally frightens the delicate china cow figurine so that he breaks his leg. The milkmaid is angry that the travelers are so inconsiderate. This is only one of several settings that provide a wider look at this strange land.

There were tigers and elephants and bears and wolves and foxes and all the others in the natural history, and for a moment Dorothy was afraid. (Chapter 21 paragraph 8)

Importance: This scene occurs while Dorothy and her friends are on their way to find Glinda in the hope that she can help Dorothy return home. Dorothy is afraid of the



creatures in the forest, but it's important to note that she was only frightened "for a moment." The Lion quickly explains to her that the beasts are not on the hunt, but they are actually holding a meeting. The fact that the Lion helps calm Dorothy's fears is an example of how he has found faith in his innate courage.

All you have to do is to knock the heels together three times and command the shoes to carry you wherever you wish to go.

-- Glinda the Good (Chapter 23 paragraph 28)

Importance: This is the key to Dorothy's return to her home in Kansas. Though she has made friends in this strange land, she has never stopped longing for home. Her desire to return home is one of the most important themes of the story.

And oh, Aunt Em! I'm so glad to be at home again.

-- Dorothy (Chapter 24 paragraph 3)

Importance: This is the final line of the book and sums up one of the important themes which is Dorothy's desire to return to Kansas.