The Wizard of Oz
STUDY GUIDE

NOVEMBER 14, 2018-JANUARY 6, 2019

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ADAPTED BY JOHN KANE FOR THE ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY BASED UPON THE CLASSIC MOTION PICTURE.
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We open in Kansas. Our heroine, Dorothy Gale, runs up to her family farm with her beloved dog, Toto. They've just escaped the clutches of mean old Miss Gulch. Dorothy is desperate to tell Aunt Em and Uncle Henry about her harrowing encounter with Miss Gulch, but no matter how much she tries to tell them what happened, Aunt Em and Uncle Henry are too busy to listen.

Dejected, Dorothy tries to share her experience with the farmhands Zeke, Hickory and Hunk. She is again met with an unsympathetic response as the three farm hands dissolve into bickering with one another. Aunt Em interrupts and sends the farmhands off to do more work. Dorothy attempts to tell her Aunt once more of her terrible encounter with Miss Gulch, but Aunt Em dismisses her again and encourages her to “find yourself a place where you won’t get into any trouble.” Dorothy sits on the farm with Toto and wonders if there really is such a place. Perhaps, it’s “Over the Rainbow.”

It isn’t long before Miss Gulch arrives at the Gale farm in person. Angry that Toto has bitten her, she declares Toto “a menace to the community.” Miss Gulch shows the Gales a letter from the Sheriff giving her permission to take Toto away and have him “destroyed.” As upset as Uncle Henry and Aunt Em are by this, they feel they can’t fight the law and have no choice but to hand Toto. Dorothy is hurt they would take away her only friend in the world. She tells Uncle Henry, Aunt Em, Zeke, Hickory and Hunk that she hates them all and never wants to see any of them ever again. As soon as she runs off, Dorothy hears barking in the background. All of a sudden, Toto runs up to her. He has escaped from Miss Gulch! Dorothy knows that it isn’t safe for them to stay at the Gale farm. Since Miss Gulch will surely be looking for Toto, she decides they must run far, far away.

Shortly after leaving the Gale farm, Dorothy stumbles across a Gypsy Caravan belonging to a Professor Marvel. Dorothy is fascinated and believes Professor Marvel might be her ticket out of Kansas. Professor Marvel quickly guesses that Dorothy is running away and tells her before he can decide whether or not to take Dorothy and Toto with him, he must first consult his crystal ball. He asks Dorothy to close her eyes as he begins to search through her belongings to discover exactly who Dorothy is. He tells her that he can see Aunt Em, that “someone has just about broken her heart...someone she loves very much.” Dorothy fears that she is the cause of Aunt Em’s pain and she gathers up her belongings to head home at once.

On Dorothy’s journey home, a storm approaches and with it, a terrible twister. Before Dorothy has a chance to make it home, Aunt Em, Uncle Henry, Zeke, Hickory and Hunk have all made their way to the storm cellar. Dorothy rushes inside the home only to find it empty. Before she can make her way to the storm cellar, the twister hits the house and whisks Dorothy away. Dorothy is flying...
through the air for quite a few terrifying moments, before the house suddenly drops out of the sky and lands in a new place. Slowly, Dorothy gathers up Toto, and cautiously makes her way outside.

As soon as Dorothy opens the door, the dreary backdrop of Kansas has been replaced by the beautiful and colorful backdrop of Munchkinland. Dorothy tells Toto that she has “a feeling we’re not in Kansas anymore.” Suddenly, Dorothy is approached by a beautiful witch named Glinda who appears from the sky. Glinda approaches Dorothy and asks her, “Are you a good witch, or a bad witch?” Dorothy is very confused as to why anyone would think she is a witch. Glinda shows her that her house has fallen on the Wicked Witch of the East and killed her, freeing the people of Munchkinland from her evil clutches. Dorothy is shocked.

Glinda beckons the Munchkins to “come out and thank her.” The Munchkins slowly come out of hiding to thank Dorothy. A celebration begins to take place with singing and dancing, when suddenly, the Wicked Witch of the West appears demanding to know who killed her sister. Dorothy begins to apologize, quickly explaining she didn’t mean to drop her house on The Wicked Witch of the East. The Wicked Witch of the West is angry, but also thrilled to see the magical ruby slippers that her sister once wore can now be her’s. Before she can capture the ruby slippers though, Glinda instructs The Wicked Witch of the West to look down at Dorothy’s feet. Magically, the ruby slippers have found their way to Dorothy, and “there they’ll stay.” Glinda tells The Wicked Witch of the West to leave Munchkinland before someone drops a house on her too.

The Wicked Witch of the West vanishes, and Glinda tells Dorothy it would be safer for her if she could find a way to “get out of Oz altogether.” Dorothy tells Glinda that she would like to, but she doesn’t know the way back to Kansas from Oz. Glinda suggests Dorothy travel down The Yellow Brick Road to the Emerald City where she can ask “the great and wonderful Wizard of Oz himself” to send her home. The Munchkins help Dorothy begin her long journey down The Yellow Brick Road.

After Dorothy has been walking for quite a while, she comes to a fork in the road. She worries aloud about which way to go, when she hears a voice say, “Pardon me. That way is a very nice way.” Shocked, Dorothy looks around and soon discovers the voice is coming from the Scarecrow right in front of her. She helps the Scarecrow off of his pole and tells him all about her journey to Oz to ask the Wizard for help getting her back to Kansas. The Scarecrow tells her more than anything in the world, he would like a brain. He asks her, “Do you think if I went with you, this Wizard would give me some brains?” Dorothy says to him, “Even if he didn’t, you’d be no worse off than you are now.” Arm in arm, they decide to continue on to Oz together.

Dorothy begins to get hungry, and notices some delicious looking apples hanging off of some trees. She goes to grab an apple and is quickly smacked by one of the trees. Dorothy is shocked, and then remembers, “I keep forgetting I’m not in Kansas.” The trees begin to throw apples at Dorothy and Scarecrow and in the chaos of gathering as many apples as she can, Dorothy discovers a man made of tin in the middle of the forest. She soon realizes that this man made of tin can speak when she hears him mutter, “Oil can.” Dorothy and the
Scarecrow grab the oil can nearby, and for the first time in ages, this man made of tin is able to move again. He introduces himself as the Tinman, and explains that the Wicked Witch of the West cursed his axe. The curse on his axe caused him to go from a human man to one made of tin. Now that he is completely made of tin, he is hollow inside with no heart. His greatest desire is to have a heart again. Dorothy and Scarecrow tell Tinman he should join them on their journey. The Tinman worries, “suppose the wizard wouldn’t give me one when we got there?” Dorothy is positive that he will. The three friends decide to carry on to Oz together.

Farther on their journey, the forest becomes quite dark and scary. The three friends worry and begin to imagine all of the terrible creatures they could run into, “lions, and tigers, and bears.” Before they know it, their worst fears come true as a lion jumps out of the forest and threatens to attack them. However, as the lion leaps for Toto, Dorothy slaps him on the nose. The lion is shocked and begins to cry. The three friends are surprised and the lion explains that he is in fact quite the Cowardly Lion. He confesses, “I am a coward! I haven’t got any courage at all.” The three friends take pity on the Cowardly Lion and suggest he join them on their journey to Oz to ask the Wizard for some courage. The group of four link arms and continue on to Oz.

Their journey is met with many difficulties: a poppy field cursed by The Wicked Witch of the West that puts them to sleep; jitterbugs that put them under a spell that causes them to dance to the point of exhaustion; the Wicked Witch’s flying monkeys who capture Dorothy and lock her in the witch’s castle leaving Scarecrow, Tinman and Lion to try to save Dorothy all on their own. Despite challenge after challenge, the four friends press onward and are all able to meet the Wizard and have their wishes granted. Scarecrow is given a brain, Tinman is given a heart, and Lion is given courage. Even Dorothy is granted the gift of home from the Wizard. He agrees to take Dorothy home to Kansas in his hot air balloon. However, before Dorothy is able to board the balloon, the Wizard accidentally lifts off without her. Dorothy is crushed and sure she will never return home. Glinda comes to Dorothy’s rescue once again, and tells her, “You’ve always had the power to go back to Kansas.” All she has to do is “tap your heels together three times. And think to yourself, over and over, there’s no place like home...”

Dorothy closes her eyes, taps her heels together three times, all while saying “There’s no place like home.” When she opens her eyes again, she is back in her bed on Aunt Em and Uncle Henry’s farm. She tells them how happy she is to see them and that she’ll, “never leave here ever, ever again, because I love you all. And...Oh, Auntie Em, there really is no place like home!”

end scene
MEET DOROTHY AND FRIENDS

“Oh, it’s going to be so hard to say goodbye. I love you all so much.” -Dorothy

DOROTHY GALE
Elizabeth Stenholt*

The heroine of our story, Dorothy is a young farm girl from Kansas. She feels ignored in Kansas, thinking Toto is her only friend. She is a dreamer, wishing to go “over the rainbow” to escape her problems at home. Once in Oz, she finds out the power was within her all along.

GLINDA, THE GOOD WITCH OF THE NORTH
Harriet Nzinga Plumpp*

Glinda, a good witch, is the first person Dorothy meets when she lands in Oz. She becomes her watchful guardian as Dorothy and her friends travel down The Yellow Brick Road to the Emerald City.

SCARECROW
Kyle Adams*

The Scarecrow lives his life in a cornfield up on a pole. Despite being created to scare away the crows in the surrounding cornfields, he’s bullied by the pack of crows he is supposed to scare away. He longs for a brain to help him pass the time in the field and fight off those nasty crows. He becomes Dorothy’s most loyal and closest friend.

*denotes members of Actors’ Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers.
TINMAN

Carl Draper*

As Dorothy and Scarecrow continue their journey to the Emerald City, they come across a tin statue in the middle of the forest. They hear the statue mutter the words “oil can” and soon discover that the statue is indeed a man made of tin. Once they use his oil can to free him from his frozen position, Tinman introduces himself, and explains that he once was a human man madly in love with a munchkin woman. Her father was unhappy with their union, and so asked the Wicked Witch of the West to put a curse on him. He is now made of tin and has no heart. The emptiness he feels inside without his heart has filled him with a great sadness, and he cries quite easily. In the hopes that the Wizard will give him a heart, he decides to join Dorothy and Scarecrow on their journey.

COWARDLY LION

Paul-Jordan Jansen*

The path towards the Emerald City becomes much more frightening and the forest much darker and deeper. The Cowardly Lion leaps out onto the path in front of Dorothy, Toto, Scarecrow and Tinman. He does his best to intimidate them, but Dorothy gives him a good smack on the nose to keep him from hurting Toto, and the Lion can no longer hide his cowardice. He confesses that he’s got no courage at all, even as king of the forest. Dorothy, Scarecrow and Tinman encourage the Cowardly Lion to join them on their journey to see the Wizard. And off they go!

WICKED WITCH OF THE WEST

Caron Buinis

The Wicked Witch of the West is feared by many of the creatures and inhabitants of Oz. When Dorothy lands in Oz, she quickly makes an enemy out of the Wicked Witch of the West. Dorothy’s house lands on the Wicked Witch of the West’s sister and kills her. Not only that, the magical ruby slippers that once adorned The Wicked Witch of the East’s feet have now been placed on Dorothy’s feet by Glinda. This infuriates The Wicked Witch of the West, since those ruby slippers rightfully belong to her. It becomes The Wicked Witch’s mission to capture Dorothy and her little dog, too! She’ll use every tool at her disposal to capture them, including her flying monkey army.

*denotes members of Actors’ Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers.
THE WIZARD OF OZ

Gene Weygandt*

All the inhabitants of Oz are astounded and amazed by the Wizard of Oz. They believe that he is the only one in all of Oz that holds the power to help Dorothy get back to Kansas. Despite his many inventions and the awe he instills in the citizens of Oz, The Wizard is in fact an ordinary man from Kansas. After granting Scarecrow, Tinman and Lion with brains, a heart and courage, he agrees to take Dorothy back to Kansas with him.

MAYOR OF MUNCHKINLAND

Emily Agy*

The Mayor of Munchkinland is extremely grateful to Dorothy for killing the Wicked Witch of the East. The Mayor tells Dorothy she will live on in Munchkinland in the Munchkinland Hall of Fame.

THE LULLABY LEAGUE & LOLLIPOP GUILD

Audrey Edwards, Juliana Filapek, Elyssa Hall, Rodney L. Jones III, Sebastian Merlo, Trey Thompson

The Lullaby League and Lollipop Guild are residents of Munchkinland that welcome Dorothy with open arms and thank her for freeing them from The Wicked Witch of the East.

*denotes members of Actors’ Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers.

end scene
"If we walk far enough," says Dorothy, "we shall sometime come to someplace."

For decades, families across America have fallen in love with the land of Oz as *The Wizard of Oz* aired on television every year. It was a family event that happened every year from 1959 to 1991. Despite being a cherished film, *The Wizard of Oz* began as a best-selling book published in 1900. Here are some key differences between the book, movie and musical.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BOOK</th>
<th>STAGE/MUSICAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dorothy is whisked away by the storm before we ever meet any character by the name of Miss Gulch.</td>
<td>We meet Miss Gulch almost right away, as she demands the Gales hand over Dorothy's dog Toto to be destroyed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There is no mention of Zeke, Hunk, and Hickory before the Twister whisks Dorothy away.</td>
<td>We meet Zeke, Hunk, and Hickory and see their role on the farm, as well as their relationship with Dorothy before she is whisked away by the Twister.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We meet The Witch of the North, who is not known as Glinda in the book. Glinda is the Good Witch of the South who comes to Dorothy's aid towards the end of the book.</td>
<td>Dorothy meets Glinda as The Good Witch of the North almost as soon as she drops into Munchkinland. Glinda follows and aids Dorothy throughout her entire journey in Oz.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The magical shoes that adorn Dorothy's feet are silver.</td>
<td>The magical shoes that adorn Dorothy's feet are ruby red.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There are many more scary creatures that live in the forests of Oz. For example, there are creatures called Kalidahs. They seem to be a cross between a bear and a tiger. Also, the Wicked Witch sends an army of wolves and killer bees to attack Dorothy and her friends in addition to the flying monkeys.</td>
<td>Throughout most of their journey, the scariest person Dorothy and her friends encounter is the Wicked Witch of the West. The Wicked Witch also sends her flying monkeys out to capture Dorothy and her friends.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The flying monkeys are under the rule of whoever possess a special golden cap. The owner of the golden cap can ask the monkeys to perform 3 tasks. The Wicked Witch uses her last task on the capture of Dorothy and her friends.</td>
<td>The Flying Monkeys are under the sole rule of The Wicked Witch of the West.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oz is considered to be a real place that Dorothy visited.</td>
<td>We are made to believe that Oz was dreamed up by Dorothy after she was hit in the head during the twister.</td>
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Years before J.K. Rowling gave the world the gift of The Wonderful Wizarding World of Harry Potter, there was L. Frank Baum. What started as one children’s book in *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, became a collection of over 40 books in total where readers got to journey to the Land of Oz to visit its many inhabitants.

Despite gifting the world with one of the most beloved stories of all time, L. Frank Baum did not start his career as a writer. Lyman Frank Baum was born May 15, 1856, near the Finger Lakes of New York in Chittenango, New York. Instead of going by Lyman, he was most referred to as Frankie or Frank. The Baum family was struck by many tragedies and successes. The worst tragedies being the loss of four out of nine children to illness.

L. Frank Baum was also born into a family struggling with financial problems. His father owned a barrel factory that was failing and deep in debt. When L. Frank Baum was five, his family decided to forsake the barrel business and move from Chittenago to the bustling city of Syracuse. There, L. Frank Baum’s father began a new business with Baum’s uncle, where they manufactured kerosene. This business was much more successful and changed the financial situation of the Baum family dramatically.

As L. Frank Baum grew, he decided to forgo college and instead started acting. He performed under the stage name of Louis F. Baum. One of his first appearances was in a play titled *The Banker’s Daughter*, by Bronson Howard. Despite the play’s success, L. Frank Baum supplemented his income by writing articles for the New York Tribune. Baum eventually started his own theatre company, and toured the country performing Shakespeare.

In 1882, Baum married Maud Gage, daughter of famed suffragist Matilda Joslyn Gage. Maud and L. Frank Baum were very much in love and considered one another great friends throughout their marriage. Maud and Frank had four children, and as with his childhood, Baum experienced many financial highs and lows throughout his adult life. One thing that remained a constant in Baum’s life was his love for telling stories. In 1897, Baum published his first book at the age of 41. It was titled *Mother Goose in Prose* and was followed by *Father Goose*, which became the top selling children’s book in 1899.

MEET THE AUTHOR

“In all this world there is nothing so beautiful as a happy child.” -L. Frank Baum

Maud Gage

Judy Garland & Maud Gage
In 1900, Baum gave the world the gift of *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*. It was so popular that the first 10,000 print copies sold out in one month, and received a rave review in The New York Times, where they wrote that children would like “something new in the place of the old, familiar, and winged fairies of Grimm and Anderson.” When Baum was asked why he created the world of Oz, he said,

“The Wonderful Wizard of Oz was written solely to please children today. It aspires to being a modernized fairy tale, in which the wonderment and joy are retained and the heart-aches and nightmares are left out.”

The first Oz book was so successful that Baum continued to write them, publishing almost one a year for the remainder of his life. The last book he published was *Glinda of Oz*, and he passed away May 6, 1919. After his death, his wife Maud gave permission for other authors to continue to write books about the wonderful land of Oz. In total, there are almost 40 other books where readers can visit the land of Oz.

*end scene*
THE WONDERFUL WORDS OF OZ

“Some people without brains do an awful lot of talking, don’t they?” -Scarecrow

Set in 1939, you may hear a word or two in *The Wizard of Oz* that you’ve never heard before. Check out our glossary below to learn some new words.

**INCUBATOR**
*One that incubates: such as an apparatus by which eggs are hatched artificially.*

**UNCLE HENRY:** “Don’t bother us now honey. You see, this old incubator’s bad and we’re likely to lose a lot of our chicks

**SKULK**
*To move in a stealthy or furtive manner*

**MISS GULCH:** Henry, Gale. Is that you skulking by the barn?

**CYCLONE**
*A storm or system of winds that rotates about a center of low atmospheric pressure, advances at a speed of 20 to 30 miles (about 30 to 50 kilometers) an hour, and often brings heavy rain.*

**STORM CELLAR**
*A cellar or covered hole designed for protection from dangerous windstorms (such as tornadoes)*

**UNCLE HENRY:** Come on, everybody in the storm cellar!

**PITCH**
*To incline downward*

**DOROTHY SINGS:** “The wind began to switch, the house began to pitch”
SULPHUR
An essential element for life, it can be found on the periodic table as "S". One of the smellier elements, you might describe it as "rotten eggs."

GLINDA: “Pooh - what a smell of sulphur!”

POPPIES
A flower that can be many different colors (orange, red, pink). Its seeds are often used in baked goods, and a particular type of poppy is used to make the hallucinogen, opium drug.

DOROTHY: “I’ve never seen such beautiful Poppies.”

SAVOIR FAIRE
A french term, it means speaking with confidence and acting appropriately in social situations.

LION SINGS: “That certain air of savoir faire in the Merry Old Land of Oz!”

KOWTOW
To kneel and touch the forehead to the ground in token of homage, worship or deep respect

LION SINGS: All the trees would kneel, and the mountains bow and the bulls kowtow…”

MERITORIOUS
Deserving of honor or esteem

OZ: “Therefore, for meritorious conduct, extraordinary valor, conspicuous bravery against wicked witches, I award you the Triple Cross.”

STRATOSPHERIC
Very high in the air to the point of the stratosphere (the layer of the earth’s atmosphere that is 32 miles above the earth)

OZ: “Until one day, while performing spectacular feats of the stratospheric skill never before attempted by civilized man, the balloon failed to return to the fair.”

end scene
THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF INVENTION

“Imagination has brought mankind through the Dark Ages to its present state of civilization.” -L. Frank Baum

During L. Frank Baum’s lifetime, many inventions and discoveries were made that would drastically change daily life. Below, discover some of the exciting inventions of the time.

KINEMATOSCOPE 1861
An important invention in the development of film. It presented the illusion of motion on the eye.

PHONOGRAPH 1877
In 1877, while trying to improve the telegraph and telephone, Thomas Edison stumbled upon his invention of the Phonograph. For the first time ever, there was a machine that could recorded sound and then played it back. The first words ever recorded by Edison were, “Mary had a little lamb.”

SKYSCRAPER 1884
Before 1884, a city could only build outwards, which limited how large a city could get. William Le Baron Jenney changed all of that with his design of “granite piers supporting a web of internal iron works.” For the first time ever, cities could build up, greatly increasing their size. The first skyscraper was the Home Insurance Building in Chicago at Adams and Lasalle streets.

FERRIS WHEEL 1892
With Chicago World’s Fair in 1893, those running the fair wanted to make sure a new structure could be unveiled that would rival the marvel of the Eiffel Tower unveiled at the Paris World’s Fair of 1892. Construction began in 1882 on the first Ferris Wheel, and it was unveiled to much success at the fair in 1893.

FIRST FLIGHT 1903
December 17, 1903 was the first successful flight of airplane. The flight was completed by Orville and Wilbur Wright.

end scene
“And the balloon is ready for the flight, and in that conveyance, my dear Dorothy, you and I will return to the land of E Pluribus Unum. Step this way.” -Oz

Up, up and AWAY! There are many ways to travel from one place to another. On the ground, people can use cars, trucks and trains. In the water, there are many types of watercraft that help with transportation. In the sky, people mainly use airplanes to travel. However, there is another very unique mode of transportation that people can use in the air. A hot air balloon!

In 1783, a French Chemist named Jean-François Pilâtre de Rozier and French soldier, François Laurent le Vieux d'Arlandes, were the first humans to fly in a hot air balloon. The original use for hot air balloons was for military observations. Today, hot air balloons are mainly used for recreation and sport. The longest distance a hot air balloon has traveled was in 1991 when the ‘Virgin Pacific Flyer’ traveled from Japan to northern Canada for a total of 4,767.10 miles. The Pacific Flyer was clocked going as fast at 245 miles per hour! The highest a person has gone in a hot air balloon was 68,986 feet. That is higher than Mount Everest!

THE ANATOMY OF A HOT AIR BALLOON

The Envelope, the largest part of a hot air balloon, is made out of a heavy duty nylon. The individual sections that make up the envelope are known as goers. A hot air balloon can be made up of as few as 4 or as many as 24 or more goers. At the very top of the envelope is the crown. The crown is a metal ring that has load tapes attached. The load tapes are what make up the structural skeleton of the hot air balloon and allow the balloon to carry the weight of the passengers and equipment. The bottom of the envelope is known as the neck. At the neck, the load tapes are sewn into loops and attached by carabiners to the flying wire attached to the basket where the passengers are located.
Toward the top of the envelope, there are vents. The vents allow the pilot to release the warm air causing the balloon to descend. Balloons can also have vents on the side. These vents allow the pilot to rotate the direction of the basket.

Below the neck of the envelope is the basket, typically made out of woven wicker. This allows the basket to be light but strong and durable. Baskets come in many sizes. Some baskets are small and only fit one or two passengers. While some baskets are large enough to accommodate as many as 30 people at a time. Baskets can also be made out of an aluminum frame with a fabric skin. These baskets are typically used by pilots going for distance or altitude records.

Above the basket sits the burners. The burners use a spark to ignite the liquid propane causing a very large flame to shoot up into the mouth of the envelope. The flame is what heats up the air causing the balloon to rise. Some hot air balloons have one burner while larger balloons use as many as four burners.

HOW A HOT AIR BALLOON WORKS

Hot air balloons work on the basic principle that warmer air is lighter than cooler air. The air is heated up by the flame from the burners at the neck of the envelope. As the warmer air rises it causes the balloon to lift off the ground.

WHERE CAN YOU SEE HOT AIR BALLOONS?

In Illinois, every year during the week of the 4th of July, there is a festival called Eyes to the Skies in Lisle, Illinois. This week long festival has multiple opportunities for guests to see hot air balloons in action.

In Albuquerque, New Mexico the largest hot air balloon festival is held every October. With over 600 hot air balloons, the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta is the largest hot air balloon festival on earth.
“I’ve always taken ‘The Wizard of Oz’ very seriously, you know. I believe in the idea of the rainbow. And I’ve spent my entire life trying to get over it.” - Judy Garland

Almost from the first moment it was published, people have tried to come up with new and inventive ways to take audiences over the rainbow. Below are just a small number of The Wizard of Oz adaptations.

THE FAIRYLOUGUE AND RADIO PLAYS (1908)
31 years before the MGM classic was released, L. Frank Baum himself created a multimedia production of The Wizard of Oz called The Fairylogue and Radio Plays. Baum would begin the show at a lecturn, lecturing the audience about the world of Oz. Characters from the land of Oz would then appear to inform Baum of what was currently happening in Oz. Then, Baum would air filmed footage of himself and characters from Oz, making it seem as though he had stepped from the stage of the theatre right into the movie and the world of Oz. It was an idea and production far ahead of its time, and despite its rousing success, Baum quickly went into debt having financed this expensive endeavor all on his own. In order to cover his losses, Baum had to sell the rights to his first several Oz novels.

THE WONDERFUL WIZARD OF OZ SILENT FILM (1910)
Another film created before the 1939 version is The Wonderful Wizard of Oz, a silent film from 1910. Quite a few changes were made from the book for this version. Some of the most surprising changes being that in addition to Toto, Dorothy hangs out with a cow and a mule. Also, Dorothy meets the Scarecrow in Kansas, before getting to Oz. She helps him off of his perch where they both hide from the tornado behind a stack of hay. Surprise, surprise though, the hay doesn’t offer them much protection, and they end up in Oz. Their journey remains quite similar in Oz, though Glinda does turn Toto into a giant, mutant dog for reasons not really explained.

THE WIZARD OF OZ SILENT FILM (1925)
Sadly, some people feel this version of The Wizard of Oz, is one of the worst films ever created. To be fair, they ignored most of their source material in creating it. Instead of opening on a farm in Kansas, a toymaker is reading the story of Oz. In fact, Oz isn’t a magical place at all in this film, but a land still very much placed in reality. The people of Oz are led by a prince and a prime minister, and Dorothy is a princess who was kidnapped from Oz as a baby. All in all, it’s not very closely related to either the book or film.
THE WIZARD OF OZ CARTOON (1933)
This version gets us closer to the familiar MGM classic. The cartoon begins with Dorothy and Toto in black and white in Kansas. A storm whisks them away to Oz where Dorothy lands on Scarecrow. The world of Oz takes us from black and white to color, much like the 1939 film. Scarecrow and Dorothy begin to play fetch with Toto and accidentally hit Tinman with a stick. They quickly befriend the Tinman and head to Oz. Unfortunately, the Cowardly Lion makes no appearance in this version.

THE WIZARD OF OZ MGM CLASSIC (1939)
In 1939, we are finally graced with MGM classic film The Wizard of Oz. It will become a staple of American culture and be cherished for years to come.

THE RAINBOW ROAD TO OZ (1954)
In 1954, Walt Disney bought the rights to eleven of the Oz books. He was excited to create a television series from these books for the Disneyland television show. The show would star members of the Mickey Mouse Club. After a short 15-minute pilot was created, Disney loved it so much he instead wanted to make the whole project a film. However, by 1958, the project began to lose steam. Disney never ended up finishing the project.

In the 1970s, the “Motown Sound” was dominating the music charts. With the popularity of Motown, disc jockey Ken Harper had the idea to set The Wizard of Oz to the sounds of Motown. It then became the musical The Wiz and premiered on Broadway in 1974 with an all black cast. It went on to win seven Tony Awards, including Best Musical, in 1975. In 1978, the film version was created. While the film and Broadway versions don’t match exactly, the film starred two of the most famous celebrities of the 70s, Diana Ross as Dorothy and Michael Jackson as Scarecrow. NBC aired an updated live version of The Wiz in 2015.

THE MUPPETS WIZARD OF OZ (2005)
On April 27, 2005, Disney brought us The Muppets’ Wizard of Oz. In this version, Dorothy was played by Ashanti, a popular singer at the time. Toto is a prawn instead of a dog, and Tinman is a robot. Also, the flying monkeys are a biker gang. Dorothy journeys through Oz with the hope of asking the Wizard for fame but soon discovers just how much she needs and wants to be home.

end scene
POST-SHOW DISCUSSION

“Oh, Auntie Em, there really is no place like home!” -Dorothy

Now that you’ve been to Oz and back, below are some questions to think about and discuss. What are your thoughts on your journey?

1. Just like Dorothy, sometimes we can feel so mad or sad that we might want to run away, but that sure got her into a lot of trouble, didn’t it? Instead of running away from the people who took care of her, what do you think Dorothy should have done when she was mad about Miss Gulch taking Toto?

2. The Wizard felt like he had to put on a big, scary mask to be respected. Have you ever felt like you had to pretend to be someone you’re not so that you would be liked? Why it is better to just be yourself?

3. It turns out the Scarecrow, Tinman and Lion had what they were looking for inside of them all along. They just needed somebody to point it out. Go around and share some ways you all have seen each other be brave like the lion, smart like the scarecrow, or kind and loving like the tinman.

4. If you had to journey to Oz with any three friends or family members, who would you choose?

5. If you could ask the Wizard for anything, what would it be?
POST-SHOW ACTIVITY

Thanks to our good friends at Sci-Tech Hands on Museum in Aurora, IL, you can do your very own hot air balloon experiment.

Imagine if you were Dorothy in the Land of Oz and the only way home was with the Wizard in his Hot Air Balloon. This experiment will help you discover how the Wizard’s Hot Air Balloon works!

MATERIALS

- Two small containers, one filled with hot water (No need to boil the water. Hot water from the tap will work just fine.) and the other with ice and cold water
- 1 balloon
- A plastic water or pop bottle. The larger the bottle the more room the air has to push up and expand. (The bottles should be able to sit in both containers)
- Before you begin, predict what you think might happen when the bottle is placed in the different temperature waters. Will the balloon expand? Will the balloon shrink? Let’s find out!

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Blow the balloon up to stretch it and help make it more flexible, then let the air out.
2. Place the balloon over the mouth of the empty plastic bottle.
3. Stand the bottle in the center of the container filled with hot water. Wait a few minutes. What starts to happen to the balloon?
4. Now, remove the bottle from the hot water and place it in the other container (with cold water and ice). Wait a few moments and notice what happens to the balloon when the air inside the bottle gets cold.
5. Repeat step 3 and 4 again. Consider changing factors. Does the bottle size make a difference? How about the temperature of the water?

WHAT’S HAPPENING?!

When the air inside the plastic bottle is warmed, it expands and needs more space, therefore it stretches out the balloon. When the bottle is transferred to the cold water, the air is cooled; it contracts and needs less space, so the balloon deflates. The mass of air remains constant inside the bottle, so this shows that the warm air requires more space and is less dense than cool air.

end scene
CITED SOURCES


