CLASSICS LIBRARY · STORY MAP

The Wonderful Wizard of Oz

L. Frank Baum · *1900 · original English text*

A Kansas cyclone carries Dorothy and her dog Toto to a bright country of witches, a yellow brick road, and a wizard who is not what he seems. She wants only to go home. Companions join her for brains, heart, and courage—gifts they already begin to show on the way.

THE CENTRAL QUESTION

If the Wizard is a humbug, and the companions already show the very gifts they came to beg, what is Dorothy right to want, and who can actually send her home?

"There is no place like home."

Dorothy · Spoken in the Emerald City, when she tells the Scarecrow why she still wants Kansas

Oz can give tokens, and he cannot send Dorothy home in his balloon. The Witch of the West is defeated by accident and courage together. Glinda, at last, tells Dorothy that the silver shoes could have carried her home from the first. "There is no place like home" is not a dismissal of Oz; it is Dorothy's faithful love of Uncle Henry and Aunt Em. The humbug wizard even admits he is a good man and a bad wizard.

KEY CHARACTERS

Dorothy
A Kansas child whose one wish is to go home; she is kind, persistent, and not fooled for long.

Toto
Her dog, who knocks over the Wizard's screen and is carried through every danger.

the Scarecrow
He wants brains and already thinks his way through troubles on the road.

the Tin Woodman
He wants a heart and is the most tender of the company, careful even of insects.

the Cowardly Lion
He wants courage and still goes forward; he later becomes a king of beasts.

Oz, the Great and Terrible
A humbug from Omaha, not a wicked man, who cannot do what he promised Dorothy.

the Wicked Witch of the West
Cruel, one-eyed, and afraid of the dark and of water; she melts.

Glinda
The good Witch of the South, who finally tells Dorothy the power of the silver shoes.

HOME, AND A HUMBUG

> *"There is no place like home."*
> **Dorothy** · In the Emerald City

> *"I'm really a very good man, but I'm a very bad Wizard, I must admit."*
> **Oz** · Chapter XV

Grades 3–5
Read the full text free at classicslaunch.org.

01 The Cyclone, and Munchkins

CHAPTERS I–II

Dorothy's house lands in the land of the Munchkins, on the Wicked Witch of the East. The good Witch of the North sends her toward the Emerald City with the dead witch's silver shoes.

- Kansas is gray; Oz is color. Toto is her one companion from home.
- The Witch of the East had enslaved the Munchkins; the house has freed them.
- Dorothy is advised to go to the City of Emeralds and ask Oz himself to send her back to Kansas.

02 Three Companions

CHAPTERS III–VI

On the yellow brick road Dorothy meets a Scarecrow who wants brains, a Tin Woodman who wants a heart, and a Cowardly Lion who wants courage.

- Each companion is already practicing the gift he thinks he lacks.
- The Tin Woodman's history is a sad tale of the Witch's enchantment and a love lost by degrees.
- They go on together toward the Great Oz.

03 Poppies, and the Emerald City

CHAPTERS VII–XI

A deadly poppy field nearly ends the journey. In the Emerald City, each visitor sees Oz as a different shape, and all are given the same hard condition.

- Field mice and the Tin Woodman save the Lion from the poppies.
- The Guardian of the Gates fits them with green spectacles.
- Oz will help them only if they kill the Wicked Witch of the West.

> *"I am Oz, the Great and Terrible"*
> **the Wizard, in the form he shows Dorothy** · Chapter XI, The Emerald City of Oz

04 The Wicked Witch of the West

CHAPTERS XII–XIV

The Witch sends wolves, crows, bees, and winged monkeys. Dorothy becomes her slave, then throws a bucket of water in anger and the Witch melts.

- The winged monkeys are bound by a golden cap to three commands.
- The Witch wants the silver shoes; she trips Dorothy and is dashed with water.
- The Winkies, freed, help mend the Tin Woodman and stuff the Scarecrow again.

05 A Very Bad Wizard, and Home

CHAPTERS XV–XXIV

Oz is found out: a balloonist from Omaha, hiding behind screens. He cannot keep his last promise to Dorothy. Glinda of the South tells her how the shoes work, and she goes home to Kansas.

- The Wizard gives the Scarecrow, Tin Woodman, and Lion tokens they take for brains, heart, and courage.
- His balloon leaves without Dorothy; she must go south to Glinda.
- The silver shoes carry her home; they are lost in the journey, and Aunt Em is there.

> *"I'm really a very good man, but I'm a very bad Wizard, I must admit."*
> **Oz** · Chapter XV, The Discovery of Oz, the Terrible

Home | Courage, Heart, and Sense | False Wonders | Friendship | Perseverance

What to watch for as you read

GRADES 3–5

1. The hosted text is the original English of Project Gutenberg #55, The Wonderful Wizard of Oz (1900).
2. Dorothy's shoes in this book are silver, not ruby. Ruby slippers belong to a later film, not to this text.
3. The line is "There is no place like home," not "There's no place like home," and the film line "Pay no attention to that man behind the curtain" is not in this book.
4. Oz's admission is: "I'm really a very good man, but I'm a very bad Wizard, I must admit."
5. The companions' gifts are already visible in their deeds before the Wizard's tokens. The book is gentle toward the tokens; it does not need them to have been the real source.

Quotations are verbatim from the original English text, Project Gutenberg #55, the public-domain text hosted at classicslaunch.org/works/the-wonderful-wizard-of-oz/. Citations give book and chapter (or canto and line) so every line can be checked.