

The Wizard of Oz

L. Frank Baum

Retold by

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A Ride through the Sky

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A Ride through the Sky

Preview Questions

1. Who do you think Dorothy lived with?
2. What do you think the wind will do to Dorothy's house?
3. In which country do you think Kansas is?

Dorothy lived with her Uncle Henry and Aunt Em on a small farm in Kansas. The house had only one room, which they used for everything. There was a **cellar** under the house. It was a cyclone **shelter**. Every year in Kansas, there were cyclones, which were great winds that went round and round in circles. They did a lot of **damage**, and people sometimes died in these winds.

There were empty fields on all sides of the house. There were no trees or houses. And the earth was **baked** dry by the sun.

Life was very hard on the farm. Uncle Henry and Aunt Em were not old, but they looked old because the sun and wind made their **skin** dry. The hard work took away their happiness, and they never laughed or

Dorothy did not often laugh either. Sometimes, though, her little dog, Toto, made her laugh. She often played with him, and she loved him very much.

On this day, she was not playing with him, however. Instead she was standing at the door of the house, looking at the sky. It was very dark, and there was a **whistling** sound in the air.

Uncle Henry said, "There's a cyclone coming. I'll put the animals in the shed."

He ran out of the house to the shed. Aunt Em came to the door and looked at the sky.

"**Quickly**, Dorothy," she **shouted**. "Go to the cellar."

Aunt Em ran to the door of the cellar and opened it. Dorothy picked up Toto and ran to the cellar door. Before she could **climb** down the **ladder** into the cellar, a great wind picked up the house. It turned it round and round and round and then carried it high into the sky.

It was not very dark. Dorothy felt as if she were riding through the sky. She held on to Toto and crawled under her bed, where she stayed for several hours. Then, although the house was still moving, she fell asleep.

When she woke up—she did not know how much later—the house was on the ground. It was in a field full of flowers, and there were hundreds of beautifully colored birds flying about and singing. Not far away, there was a stream with clear, fresh water.

Dorothy was still under her bed. She got up and left the house. She was surprised to see three little men and a little woman walking toward her. They were very strangely dressed. The men's clothes were blue as were their hats, but the woman's clothes were white and had little stars all over them.

When they saw Dorothy, they walked up to her and bowed.

"Welcome to the land of the Munchkins," one of the little men said. "We thank you for killing the Wicked Witch of the East. Now our people are free."

"I'm afraid you are making a mistake," Dorothy said. "I didn't kill any witch."

"Your house did," one of the little men said. "Look!"

He pointed to the house. Dorothy saw two feet sticking out from under it.

"Oh!" Dorothy exclaimed. "The house fell on her. What can I do?"



“There is nothing to do,” the little woman said. “The Wicked Witch of the East is dead, and the Munchkins are grateful to you.”

“Are you a Munchkin?” Dorothy asked.

“No, but I am their friend,” the little woman said.

“I am the Witch of the North.”

Respect for human rights

“Oh!” exclaimed Dorothy. “Are you a real witch?”

“Yes, but I am not like the Wicked Witch of the East. I am a good witch, and the people love me. I am not as powerful as the Wicked Witch, though. That is why I couldn’t set the Munchkins free.”

“I thought all witches were wicked,” Dorothy said.

“Oh no. In the Land of Oz, there are four witches. Two of them are good, and they live in the North and South. Two of them are bad, and they live in the East and West. Now there is only one bad witch left. She lives in the West. But tell me, do you have witches and wizards where you come from?”

“We used to have them, I think,” Dorothy said.

“But we don’t have them now.”

“We have them because we are a long way from anywhere,” the little woman said. “We are not very civilized.”

“I see,” Dorothy said. “Tell me about the wizards.”

“Oz himself is the Great Wizard. He is the most powerful wizard, and he lives in the City of Emeralds.”

Dorothy wanted to ask more questions, but the little woman suddenly pointed to the witch’s feet under the house.

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Yellow brick road

A Ride through the Sky

I. Are these sentences correct? Write "T" for true and "F" for false.

1. ____ Aunt Em told Dorothy to go swimming.
2. ____ Dorothy's house spun round and round.
3. ____ Dorothy met four people who were wearing farmer's clothing.
4. ____ Dorothy was given magic furniture.
5. ____ A Good Witch told Dorothy to follow the yellow brick road.

II. Choose the best answer.

1. Dorothy's aunt and uncle did not smile or laugh. Why?
 - a. They hated people.
 - b. Their work was hard.
 - c. They were old.
 - d. They did not like Dorothy.
2. How was the Wicked Witch of the East killed?
 - a. Dorothy's house landed on her.
 - b. The Good Witch of the North shot her.
 - c. Toto bit her.
 - d. The Munchkins ate her.
3. What did Dorothy want to do?
 - a. Kill the Wicked Witch of the West
 - b. Get something to eat
 - c. Live with the Munchkins
 - d. Go home
4. Where does Oz live?
 - a. In Kansas
 - b. In the North
 - c. In the City of Emeralds
 - d. With the Munchkins

III. Write the correct word in each blank.

cyclone
wizard

cellar
Witch

stream
Wicked

shelter
bricks

shed
disappeared

1. Aunt Em told Dorothy to go to the _____ underneath the house.
2. Uncle Henry said, "There's a _____ coming."
3. Dorothy's family had to have _____ from the great wind.
4. Uncle Henry put the animals in the _____.
5. There was a field and a _____ of fresh water in Oz.
6. When the house landed, it killed a _____.
7. In the Land of the Munchkins, there were both Good Witches and _____ Witches.
8. A _____ is the name for a male witch.
9. To find Oz, Dorothy must follow a road made of yellow _____.
10. The Good Witch kissed Dorothy and _____.

IV. Write the sentences in the correct order.

- Her house fell on a Wicked Witch and killed her.
- A cyclone blew Dorothy to the land of the Munchkins.
- Dorothy set off to find him.
- Dorothy wanted to go home, but only the Wizard of Oz knew the way.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

The Journey Begins

I. Put the sentences in order from 1 (first) to 5 (last).

- _____ Dorothy, Toto, and the Scarecrow spent the night in a cottage.
- _____ Dorothy changed her shoes.
- _____ The Scarecrow spoke to Dorothy.
- _____ Dorothy helped the Tin Woodman.
- _____ Dorothy and Toto spent the night at Boq's house.

II. Choose the best answer.

1. Why did Boq think that Dorothy was a witch?
 - a. She was wearing a white dress.
 - b. She was wearing silver shoes.
 - c. She did a magic trick.
 - d. She was a friend of the Munchkins.
2. What did the Scarecrow hope to get from the Wizard of Oz?

a. A heart	b. Money
c. A brain	d. Fame
3. What did the Tin Woodman hope to get from the Wizard of Oz?

a. Some power	b. A heart
c. A wife	d. A brain
4. Who put a spell on the Tin Woodman?
 - a. The Wicked Witch of the West
 - b. The Witch of the North
 - c. The Wicked Witch of the East
 - d. The Wizard of Oz