

The Wizard of Oz



INTRODUCTION

BRIEF BIOGRAPHY OF L. FRANK BAUM

Lyman Frank Baum was born into a wealthy New York family in 1856. He started writing at an early age, and one of his earliest passions was the theatre. Baum wrote and acted in several plays, often using stage names, but with limited financial success. He married his wife, Maud Gage, in 1882, and the two of them moved to South Dakota in 1888. While Baum's life as a newspaper editor there was fairly uneventful, he later admitted that his time in South Dakota inspired his depiction of Kansas in *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*. In 1891, he moved to Chicago with his wife and children, writing for a new publication and focusing on advertising and sales. While his first attempt as a children's author was his book *Mother Goose in Prose*, he wouldn't find significant success until the publication of *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*. Oz quickly became a classic, and it wasn't long before Baum began to work on sequels and even a stage adaptation. While his Oz series was a great success, he continued to struggle financially as he funded many extravagant theatrical productions. Baum died of a stroke in 1919, and his final Oz book was published posthumously one year later.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The Wonderful Wizard of Oz was published at the beginning of the 20th century, when the United States was beginning to take a more central place on the world stage, both economically and culturally. Baum's publication of Oz was yet another sign of America's growing cultural relevance, as it came to be considered America's first great fairy tale. While Oz includes many traditional fairy tale elements, it also stands out as uniquely American, lacking the moralizing tone of most children's stories at the time and featuring a self-reliant young heroine. Additionally, while Baum denied that he wrote Oz with any moral or message in mind, later scholars believed they found hidden messages and political symbolism in Baum's books. This idea began to gain traction after Henry Littlefield, a high school teacher, published his theory that *The Wizard of Oz* was a satirical allegory for populism. Broadly, the American populist movement of the late 19th century was chiefly concerned with diminishing the financial establishment's power in favor of giving the common people more political power. Littlefield couldn't help but notice the parallels in Oz, as its heroes follow a road symbolically paved with gold, and characters like the Scarecrow start out as commoners and become rulers. While Littlefield's theories were often dismissed, they add another layer of depth to the otherwise simple Oz stories, whether this was Baum's intention or not.

RELATED LITERARY WORKS

Naturally, the works most closely related to *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* are the many sequels Baum wrote to continue Dorothy's story and expand on the Oz mythos. Including *Glinda of Oz*, which was published a year after Baum's death, Baum wrote 14 Oz books in total. These sequels deal with similar themes and follow many of the same characters. They also give more depth and lore to the Land of Oz, though it remains a whimsical fairy-tale world of clearly defined good and evil. The classic dark fairy tales of the Brothers Grimm are also an inspiration for *The Wizard of Oz*, by Baum's own admission. *The Chronicles of Narnia* is another comparable series of 20th-century fairy tales about children finding themselves in a strange and magical land. However, while Oz shares many similarities with these stories, Baum made an effort to distance his work from the often-harsh moral tone of *Narnia* and the Brothers Grimm tales. While the Grimm stories are full of cautionary tales, and *Narnia* often focuses on direct Christian symbolism, *The Wizard of Oz* is ostensibly only meant to entertain children. Imparting moral lessons is something that Baum wished to avoid with his Oz books, though whether he succeeded in this task is open to interpretation. In 1995, Gregory Maguire published *Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West*, which is the first in a series of novels that expand on Baum's world and characters.

KEY FACTS

- **Full Title:** The Wonderful Wizard of Oz
- **When Written:** 1900
- **Where Written:** United States
- **When Published:** May 17, 1900
- **Literary Period:** Golden Age of Children's Literature
- **Genre:** Children's Novel
- **Setting:** Kanas and The Land of Oz
- **Climax:** Dorothy and her friends discover that the supposedly great and powerful Wizard of Oz doesn't have any magical powers at all.
- **Antagonist:** The Wicked Witch of the West
- **Point of View:** Third Person Omniscient

EXTRA CREDIT

The Silver Screen. The classic 1939 movie *The Wizard of Oz* deviates from the novel in many ways to make it better suited for film. Dorothy's journey to the south is omitted to keep the pacing tight, and the Wicked Witch of the West is a much more ever-present villain to build tension. The silver slippers are ruby

slippers in the film, as red looks more impressive than silver in Technicolor.



PLOT SUMMARY

On the Kansas prairies, a young girl named Dorothy lives on a farm with her Aunt Em, her Uncle Henry, and her little black dog, Toto. While her surroundings are dull and gray, Dorothy still finds joy in playing with Toto. One day, a raging cyclone suddenly rolls through the prairie. Before Dorothy can join her relatives in the storm shelter, the force of the storm knocks her to the floor and picks up the entire farmhouse. Eventually, the house lands surprisingly softly, and Dorothy finds herself in a strange and beautiful country full of trees, rivers, and colorful flowers. Small people called Munchkins approach her, accompanied by an older woman: the Good Witch of the North. The Witch explains to Dorothy that she is now in the Land of Oz, and thanks her for killing the Wicked Witch of the East. Surprised at this remark, Dorothy notices that the farmhouse has indeed landed on someone wearing **silver slippers**. The Good Witch goes on to explain that the enchanted slippers belong to Dorothy now, and that the only remaining wicked witch in Oz is the Wicked Witch of the West. Dorothy expresses that she wants to go back home to Kansas right away, but the Good Witch of the North regretfully tells her that a vast, uncrossable desert surrounds Oz on all sides, and so Dorothy has no choice but to stay in Oz forever.

Dorothy is distressed at this news, as she's sure that Aunt Em must be worried about her. Upon reflection, the Good Witch of the North tells Dorothy to travel to the Emerald City and see the great and powerful Wizard of Oz, who can surely send Dorothy back home. The Witch kisses Dorothy's forehead, which leaves a glowing mark. With this mark on her head, the Witch explains, no one would dare to harm Dorothy. After putting on the silver slippers and preparing for the journey, Dorothy sets off with Toto down the yellow brick road, which leads to the Emerald City. Along the way, she meets three strange new companions: the Scarecrow, the Tin Woodman, and the Cowardly Lion. The Scarecrow has a head full of straw, and he dearly wishes he had a brain. The Tin Woodman is a hollow man made of tin who wants a heart more than anything. The Cowardly Lion is a great beast who nonetheless seems to be afraid of everyone and everything, and he therefore desires courage. All three of them agree to accompany Dorothy on her quest in the hopes that the Wizard of Oz can grant them what they want as well as sending Dorothy home. The group encounters many perils on their way to the Emerald City, and each of Dorothy's new friends seems to display the quality they believe they lack, without even noticing. The Scarecrow comes up with clever plans, the Tin Woodman shows deep compassion for every innocent creature, and the Cowardly Lion displays a surprising amount of bravery.

After many trials and tribulations, the four friends and Toto finally arrive at the gates of the Emerald City. The reclusive Wizard of Oz agrees to speak with each of them one at a time, and he assumes a different fearsome form during each meeting. One by one, he agrees to grant each of the travelers' requests, but only if they destroy the Wicked Witch of the West first. Disappointed and frightened by this idea, Dorothy and her friends set out for the west, hoping they can somehow accomplish what the Wizard has tasked them with. Using her magic eye, the Wicked Witch sees the travelers arrive in her country from afar. Furious, she uses her enchanted Golden Cap to send an army of winged monkeys after Dorothy and her friends. They destroy the Scarecrow and the Tin Woodman, and capture the Lion and Dorothy, whom the Wicked Witch decides to enslave. Eventually, after the Wicked Witch steals one of Dorothy's silver slippers to claim its power for herself, Dorothy furiously throws a bucket of water at the Witch, inadvertently melting her. A race of people called the Winkies, whom the Wicked Witch had enslaved, thank Dorothy for freeing them and agree to reassemble the ruined Scarecrow and Tin Woodman. With the group of friends reunited, Dorothy uses the Golden Cap to have the winged monkeys carry them all the way back to the Emerald City.

After much waiting, the Wizard finally agrees to speak with Dorothy and her friends again. They tell him that they've killed the Wicked Witch, but he still orders them to return tomorrow. Just then, Toto accidentally knocks over a screen nearby, revealing the Wizard to be nothing but a small old man who's only been pretending to be a Wizard for years. The man tries to console Dorothy's friends by giving them what they desire, in his own "humbug" way. He gives the Scarecrow a brain of sorts, the Tin Man a silk heart, and he offers the Lion a drink that the Wizard insists is courage. The three of them are satisfied, as they now believe they have what they asked for. As for Dorothy, however, the Wizard has no choice but to fly her back to Kansas in a hot air balloon. The Wizard explains that he once lived in Omaha as a circus performer, and now longs to return anyway. On the day of the departure, the balloon takes off, but the Wizard accidentally leaves Dorothy behind, as she's busy trying to catch Toto in the watching crowd. The Wizard has no way of bringing the balloon back down, and Dorothy is stranded in Oz once again. As he leaves, the Wizard puts the wise Scarecrow in charge of the Emerald City.

Dorothy's friends are still determined to see her get back home, so they decide to travel south and ask Glinda, the Good Witch of the South, for help. The group sets off on one last adventure, during which the Lion displays his bravery once again, killing an enormous spider and becoming the king of the beasts. At last, they arrive at Glinda's palace, where the Good Witch generously offers to help them. She explains to Dorothy that the silver slippers have the power to take the wearer anywhere they wish to go in an instant, so Dorothy could have

gone home the entire time. Dorothy's friends remind Dorothy that they're all much better off for having known her, and they exchange heartfelt goodbyes as she prepares to leave Oz at last. Glinda promises to deliver the Scarecrow back to the Emerald City to rule there, the Tin Man to the west to rule over the Winkies, and the Lion back to the forest to live as king of the beasts. After one last goodbye, Dorothy activates the magic charm of the slippers and finally returns to Kansas, where Aunt Em and Uncle Henry have built a new house on the prairie. She runs into her aunt's arms, and Aunt Em is relieved to see Dorothy safe and sound. After her long journey, Dorothy is overjoyed to be home again.



CHARACTERS

MAJOR CHARACTERS

Dorothy – Dorothy is a young girl from Kansas and the novel's protagonist. She lives with her Aunt Em and Uncle Henry, who are surprised that Dorothy can live so cheerfully on the gray Kansas prairies. When a cyclone carries her (and her dog Toto) to the strange Land of Oz, Dorothy immediately resolves to find a way back home. She also shows kindness and compassion to nearly everyone she meets, even as she finds herself stranded in a strange and often dangerous country. While her exact age is never specified, her open and trusting demeanor highlights her youthful innocence and implies that she's only a little girl. Despite this, Dorothy also shows remarkable bravery as she faces the frightening threats of Oz. Dorothy has a huge impact on her new friends, the Scarecrow, the Tin Woodman, and the Cowardly Lion. Each of them is unhappy with themselves when Dorothy meets them, but by the end of their quest, they've all discovered their confidence. But just like her friends, Dorothy also discovers her own capacity to create change and improve her life: her **silver slippers**, which she was given when she first arrived in Oz, have always had the ability to transport her home—she just needed to learn this about the shoes to achieve her goal.

The Scarecrow – The Scarecrow is the first travelling companion Dorothy meets on her way to the Emerald City. When Dorothy explains her intention to see the Wizard of Oz in the hopes that he can return her to Kansas, the Scarecrow asks if he can tag along and ask the Wizard for some brains. The Scarecrow is made of straw and can feel no pain, and the only thing he fears is fire. But because his head is full of straw, the Scarecrow assumes that he must not have a brain in his head, and this assumption makes him ashamed of himself. However, while he's convinced that he lacks intelligence, his actions during his journey with Dorothy confirm that he's mistaken. The Scarecrow consistently acts as the group's strategist, whether he realizes it or not. He comes up with several clever solutions to problems along the way, hinting at the possibility that he's had a brain the entire time. Regardless, his self-doubt

persists until the Wizard fills his head with bran and tells him that it's brains. His boost of self-confidence at this point implies that the Scarecrow only needed a shift in perspective to recognize his own intelligence. His friendship with Dorothy also comes to define him after their adventure together, and he continues to help her get home even after his own wish has been granted.

The Tin Woodman – The Tin Woodman is the second companion Dorothy encounters on her way to the Emerald City. Upon hearing about Dorothy's and the Scarecrow's plan to see the Wizard of Oz and have their wishes granted, the Tin Woodman joins the two of them in order to ask the Wizard for a heart. Back when he was a person of flesh and blood, the Tin Woodman fell in love with a Munchkin girl, who promised to marry him once he'd saved enough money to build them a house. But a wicked witch intervened and cursed the Woodman's axe to slip. One by one, he lost his limbs and had them replaced with tin until he was made entirely of metal, and presumably became heartless as a result. Now, he desperately wants a heart again so that he can be loving and kind, but it becomes clear during his adventure that he's already a gentle and compassionate soul. He's easily one of the kindest members of Dorothy's group, shedding tears at the mere thought of harming an innocent creature. While the Tin Woodman functionally already has a heart, he still doesn't believe he does until the Wizard gives him a silk heart full of sawdust. This trinket makes the Woodman feel whole again at last, but he never seems to realize that he had what he wanted all along.

The Cowardly Lion – The Cowardly Lion is the third and final new companion Dorothy meets on her way to the Emerald City. While the Lion appears frightening and ferocious at first, it soon becomes clear that he believes himself to be a coward. Despite the other animals treating him as the king of the beasts, the Lion is secretly afraid of most of the creatures he encounters. He resolves to accompany Dorothy and her friends to the Emerald City, hoping that the Wizard of Oz can grant him the courage he believes he lacks. However, just like the Scarecrow and the Tin Woodman, the Cowardly Lion constantly demonstrates that he already is courageous. The Lion voluntarily puts himself in harm's way to protect Dorothy and his other friends, despite his fears. By performing brave deeds such as jumping across a dangerous gorge and threatening the Wicked Witch of the West, the Lion proves he's anything but a coward. The Wizard tries to explain to him that courage isn't a lack of fear, but the Lion won't accept his own bravery until the Wizard gives him a drink and tells him that it's courage. The drink itself has nothing to do with the Lion's courage, but it nonetheless convinces him that he's fit to rule as the king of the beasts. Like Dorothy's other friends, the Lion can only find happiness after he's changed the way he sees himself.

The Wizard of Oz – The Wizard of Oz is the mysterious ruler of the Emerald City; he is generally believed to be incredibly powerful. In reality, he's merely a little old man from Omaha with no real magical powers whatsoever. Originally a circus performer, the Wizard landed in Oz in much the same way as Dorothy, although he arrived in a hot air balloon instead of a farmhouse. Ever since arriving in Oz, he's used illusions and trickery to make everyone in the Land of Oz believe that he truly is great and powerful, if only for his own amusement. The Wizard is a unique figure, as he's practically the only character in the novel who's morally gray. He isn't malicious or wicked, but he does deceive the entire Land of Oz and almost betrays his promise to Dorothy. He's essentially a fraud with no real power, but he nonetheless helps Dorothy and her friends as best he can. Notably, everyone still considers him to be a great wizard by the end of the novel, even when they know he's been deceitful.

The Wicked Witch of the West – The Wicked Witch of the West is the closest character the novel has to an antagonist, though she only appears in person in one chapter. Despite her limited appearances, the Wicked Witch makes a strong impression on Dorothy and company with her utter cruelty and malice. More than any other character in Oz, the Wicked Witch of the West represents pure evil of the sort usually only found in fairy tales. She serves as an intimidating obstacle for Dorothy and her friends, as the Wizard of Oz refuses to grant their requests until the Witch is dead. Just like when Dorothy killed the Wicked Witch of the East by happening to land on her upon arriving in Oz, Dorothy kills the Wicked Witch of the West by mistake by pouring water over her, which dissolves the Witch. This highlights Dorothy's childlike innocence, especially when contrasted with the Witch's pure, brutal evil.

The Good Witch of the North – Dorothy meets the Good Witch of the North in the Land of the Munchkins. She's the first character Dorothy speaks to after arriving in the Land of Oz, and functions as a guiding mentor figure. It's the Good Witch who sends Dorothy on her quest to the Emerald City in the first place, and she also explains a few details about Oz. The Good Witch of the North is the first sign that Dorothy has entered a magical place where good and evil witches are an everyday fact of life. The Good Witch also protects Dorothy by kissing her forehead and leaving a shining mark that protects Dorothy from anyone who would harm her.

Glinda – Glinda is the Good Witch of the South and the only witch in the novel who is named. Glinda is said to be the most powerful of the witches, and, unlike the Wizard, she truly lives up to her reputation. She clearly knows much about the Land of Oz, and she has the wisdom to know what to do with the problems Dorothy and her friends bring to her at the end of the novel. Glinda represents Dorothy's last hope of returning home to Kansas, and the Good Witch finally shows Dorothy the way. At the end of Dorothy's journey, Glinda serves as one final,

benevolent mentor to guide her home.

Aunt Em – Aunt Em is Uncle Henry's wife, Dorothy's aunt, and a motherly figure in Dorothy's life. She lives on a farm on the gray prairies of Kansas. At the beginning of the novel, Aunt Em is described as a stern, hardworking woman whose joy and passion have dried up over the years. Despite Em's dour personality, Dorothy still longs to see her again throughout the novel, and she assumes that Aunt Em must be terribly worried about her. This suspicion is confirmed when Dorothy finally returns home from her long journey in Oz. Aunt Em is overjoyed to see Dorothy again.

Uncle Henry – Uncle Henry is Aunt Em's husband and Dorothy's stern father figure. He lives on a farm on the gray prairies of Kansas. Like his wife, he's described as being just as dull and harsh as his surroundings. Dorothy doesn't seem to be as attached to Uncle Henry as she is to Aunt Em, but she still cares for him and longs to return home to him. Uncle Henry also functions as a herald of Dorothy's adventure, as he's the first character to spot the approaching cyclone that whisks Dorothy away to Oz.

Toto – Toto is Dorothy's small, black dog. He and Dorothy have a close and loving relationship, and Dorothy is extremely loyal to him—she and Toto are whisked away to Oz in the first place because Dorothy decides to try to rescue Toto from the cyclone rather than leave him to his fate and join Aunt Em in the cyclone shelter.

MINOR CHARACTERS

The Wicked Witch of the East – The Wicked Witch of the East is one of the evil witches who inhabits Oz. Dorothy unwittingly kills the Wicked Witch of the East when her house lands on the Witch, which causes the Munchkins and the Good Witch of the South to see Dorothy as a hero.



THEMES

In LitCharts literature guides, each theme gets its own color-coded icon. These icons make it easy to track where the themes occur most prominently throughout the work. If you don't have a color printer, you can still use the icons to track themes in black and white.



SELF-DOUBT VS. SELF-CONFIDENCE

After Dorothy is swept away from Kansas and stranded in the bizarre Land of Oz, she meets three characters who wish to follow her and see the Wizard of Oz with her. But while Dorothy wants to ask the Wizard to send her back home, her new friends are more interested in changing something about themselves. Each of Dorothy's new companions doubts that they have everything it

takes to be a complete person. However, it becomes clear throughout their journey that the Scarecrow, the Tin Woodman, and the Cowardly Lion already possess what they think they lack. The Scarecrow wants a brain, but he's constantly devising clever plans and strategies for facing the deadly challenges of the Land of Oz. While the Tin Woodman claims to be heartless, his behavior throughout the adventure reveals him to be a kind and compassionate soul from the start. The Lion's cowardice isn't nearly as apparent as his bravery, as he voluntarily puts himself in dangerous and frightening situations to help his friends.

Ultimately, the novel suggests that the only quality that any of them truly lacked was a willingness to rely on and believe in themselves. By assuming that only an external force like the Wizard of Oz can make them feel whole, they ignore what skills and qualities they already have in spades. Misunderstanding themselves in this way teaches a simple but effective lesson: that self-respect comes from within, not from without. Dorothy's companions didn't believe they were real people because they felt themselves lacking, but by relying on themselves during their adventure, they prove that they're just as real and as valuable as anyone else. The **silver slippers** themselves encapsulate this idea: Dorothy has had them on her feet since arriving in Oz but only finds out at the end of the novel that they've always been capable of transporting her back home. She simply needed to learn this about herself to accomplish her goal.



HOME AND BELONGING

Almost from the moment that a cyclone sends her to the strange Land of Oz, Dorothy is determined to find a way back home to Kansas and her Aunt

Em. This highlights one of the novel's main points: that everyone has somewhere they truly belong. It's notable that Dorothy immediately wants to go home and even sheds tears at the thought of staying in Oz forever. Despite how magical and dazzling Oz seems to be, Dorothy still feels that she belongs back on the flat, gray prairies of Kansas. She expresses this sentiment again in her conversation with the Scarecrow. While he wonders why she'd want to leave a country as splendid as Oz, she explains that people always long for their home, no matter how beautiful other places might be. Put another way, feeling like she belongs and is at home is more important to Dorothy than marveling at Oz's many wonders.

The way the Land of Oz is designed also illustrates the novel's insistence that every being has a specific place they belong, as each region of Oz is associated with a distinct direction and color. In symbolic language, Dorothy belongs on the gray Kansas prairies in the same way that the Munchkins dressed all in blue belong in the blue land of the East. Everyone has a neatly defined place somewhere that's perfect for them, even the tiny porcelain people who have a country just the right size

for them. Dorothy's companions have also found their place in the world by the end of their adventure, and they seem delighted to start living in their new homes. Every displaced character, including the Wizard himself, has found a way home by the end of the novel. With this, *The Wizard of Oz* seems to suggest that it's not always immediately apparent where a person belongs—sometimes, as with the Scarecrow, the Tin Woodman, and the Cowardly Lion, it's necessary for a person to search for and discover the place that feels the most like home to them. And for others, like Dorothy and the Wizard, traveling is a way to remind oneself that, as Dorothy famously says, "There's no place like home."



GOOD VS. EVIL

When a cyclone uproots Dorothy from her simple home in Kansas and carries her to the magical Land of Oz, she's dazzled by how different everything seems. Where the Kansas prairie is depicted as a gray and uniformly ordinary place, Oz is an exaggerated fairy tale world of opposites and extremes. One of the first things Dorothy learns about Oz is that its balance of good and evil is perfectly symmetrical; for instance, there are two good witches and two bad ones. The goodness or wickedness of the witches is never called into question, because their behavior speaks for itself. Morally (and literally, compared to Kansas), there are no shades of gray in Oz. As colorful and whimsical as the Land of Oz can often appear, it's equally defined by its unpleasantness. For every polite talking animal or benevolent witch, there's a gruesome beheading or a terrible witch who keeps an entire country enslaved. The sharp contrast between beautiful goodness and hideous wickedness reflects Dorothy's simple and childlike perspective.

The extreme good vs. evil in Oz also heightens the tension and emphasizes Dorothy's childlike innocence by contrast. But even Dorothy participates in Oz's violence as she kills both wicked witches, though it's notable that both killings were accidental. It's also likely not a coincidence that the Wizard—arguably the only morally gray character in the novel—isn't native to Oz. Both Dorothy and the Wizard are from a "civilized" country, as the Witch of the North calls it: a place without witches, where good and evil aren't as clear-cut as they are in a children's story. In fact, in her longing to return to the gray, ordinary world of Kansas, Dorothy shows a remarkable maturity and willingness to face her complicated reality, rather than the simplicity that Oz offers. Part of growing up, this suggests, means learning to embrace shades of gray and a more nuanced understanding of good, evil, and morality, which Dorothy symbolically does when she returns to Kansas a more mature person than when she left.



FRIENDSHIP

Although she finds herself in the unfamiliar and often dangerous Land of Oz after being taken there by a cyclone, Dorothy soon finds comfort in the form of three new friends. As Dorothy travels towards the Emerald City in the hopes that the Wizard of Oz can send her back home to Kansas, she meets the Scarecrow, the Tin Woodman, and the Cowardly Lion along the way. They join together as a group while they discuss what they want the Wizard to give them, and their bond of friendship is ultimately what defines their adventure. When Dorothy meets these new companions, each of them feels inadequate and incomplete. But ironically, the Wizard's gifts aren't what brings out the best in them. Instead, their friendship with Dorothy and with one another makes them complete. While none of them can see the value in themselves, their journey together helps them see the good qualities in one another, as they test their mettle against Oz's many dangers.

Before Dorothy encounters them, each of her companions are alone and friendless. The Scarecrow stands immobile and useless in the cornfield, the Tin Woodman is frozen by rust, and the Lion is too ashamed of his cowardice to befriend any of the other woodland creatures. Their loneliness makes it easy to look inward and focus on their perceived flaws, but they all find that joining Dorothy's party changes their perspective for the better. When they're traveling and facing dangers together, Dorothy's friends are compelled to look beyond themselves and use their talents to protect each other, which tends to bring out their best qualities. All in all, their friendship strengthens them and makes them better people, whether they realize it or not. This is especially evident towards the end of the novel, when all three of Dorothy's friends generously agree to continue to help her get home, even though their own desires have already been satisfied. This illustrates that friendship and caring for others can, somewhat ironically, offer a person opportunities for growth and development that are, perhaps, impossible to experience otherwise.

malicious purpose. He only wants his people to be happy, and in the Wizard's view, this requires a bit of deceit.

This philosophy carries over into how the Wizard treats Dorothy's friends after they discover that he's a fraud. While he tries to convince the Scarecrow, Tin Woodman, and Cowardly Lion that they already have a brain, a heart, and courage respectively, he knows that the truth alone isn't enough. The Wizard agrees to give them what they want in the form of several symbolic trinkets, but he knows that the trinkets he gives them won't actually change them. Instead, their belief in the trinkets' power lets them feel whole, even if no true magical change has taken place. Just like with the green spectacles, Dorothy's friends become happier through what is essentially a placebo, or a benign lie that gives them confidence and makes them feel better. The green spectacles and the Wizard's other gifts represent how slightly changing a person's perspective, even if through deceit, can change someone's personal reality for the better.



DOROTHY'S SILVER SLIPPERS

The silver slippers (also known as the Silver Shoes) represent the untapped potential that Dorothy and her friends carry with them during their adventure. Dorothy receives these enchanted shoes shortly after a cyclone whisks her away to the Land of Oz. The slippers previously belonged to the Wicked Witch of the East, but when Dorothy's farmhouse lands on the Wicked Witch and kills her, the Good Witch of the North explains that the slippers now belong to Dorothy. Dorothy wears the Silver Shoes during her entire journey in Oz. She faces many trials and tribulations in her quest to get back home to Kansas, but she later discovers that the slippers had the power to instantly take her home the entire time.

This realization mirrors the character development of the new companions Dorothy meets in Oz: the Scarecrow, the Tin Woodman, and the Cowardly Lion. Each of these characters feels that he lacks something fundamental that would make him a complete person, like a heart or a brain. But they all clearly already possess what they think they lack, just as Dorothy has had a means of going home the entire time. In this way, the silver slippers reflect the theme of self-doubt vs. confidence. While Dorothy and her friends believe that they're missing something important, the silver slippers show that the only things the characters truly lacked were confidence and self-knowledge.



SYMBOLS

Symbols appear in **teal text** throughout the Summary and Analysis sections of this LitChart.



THE GREEN SPECTACLES

The green-tinted spectacles worn by every citizen of the Emerald City are symbolize the Wizard's deceit and the power of perception. These mandatory spectacles enable a deception, as the Emerald City isn't really as green as it appears—the city seems so green because the green spectacles color every person's perception of the city. However, the Wizard doesn't trick his subjects for any





QUOTES

Note: all page numbers for the quotes below refer to the Puffin edition of *The Wizard of Oz* published in 2008.

Chapter 1: The Cyclone Quotes

☝ It was Toto that made Dorothy laugh, and saved her from growing as grey as her other surroundings. Toto was not grey; he was a little black dog, with long silky hair and small black eyes that twinkled merrily on either side of his funny, wee nose. Toto played all day long, and Dorothy played with him, and loved him dearly.

Related Characters: Dorothy, Aunt Em, Uncle Henry, Toto

Related Themes:  

Page Number: 2-3

Explanation and Analysis

Dorothy's love for Toto establishes that Dorothy already feels content at her dreary home in Kansas. Rather than wishing for a more colorful or exciting place to live, Dorothy instead focuses on what joy she can find in her current circumstances. Toto embodies this simple and childlike attitude, keeping Dorothy entertained despite their bleak surroundings. It's also interesting to note that, as a black dog, Toto visually stands out from the gray environment of the Kansas prairies. This detail emphasizes how different Toto is from the other elements in Dorothy's life; Toto is special to Dorothy, and so he stands out clearly in her world.

Toto is also the first true friend that the novel shows Dorothy to have. However, this first instance of friendship also reinforces the themes of home and belonging. Toto isn't a strange creature from a magical land like Oz; he's only an ordinary dog who lives on the farm with Dorothy. As far as Dorothy's concerned, Toto is a crucial part of what she considers to be her home. From the start, it's clear that Dorothy belongs with Toto in the same way she belongs in Kansas with Aunt Em and Uncle Henry.

Chapter 2: The Council with the Munchkins Quotes

☝ 'But I thought all witches were wicked,' said the girl, who was half frightened at facing a real witch.

'Oh, no, that is a great mistake. There were only four witches in all the Land of Oz, and two of them, those who live in the North and the South, are good witches. I know this is true, for I am one of them myself, and cannot be mistaken.'

Related Characters: Dorothy, The Good Witch of the North (speaker), The Wicked Witch of the West, Glinda, The Wicked Witch of the East

Related Themes: 

Page Number: 11-12

Explanation and Analysis

After a cyclone whisks her away to the strange Land of Oz, Dorothy soon encounters a woman calling herself the Good Witch of the North. While Dorothy is distressed when she discovers that her farmhouse has landed on a different witch and crushed her, the Good Witch of the North is quick to explain that the dead witch was one of the wicked witches of Oz. This conversation is an early example of the very clear distinctions between good and evil in the novel. Dorothy takes the witch at her word that she's a Good Witch, as there doesn't seem to be any reason to doubt her. Sure enough, the Good Witch of the North turns out to be nothing but helpful and kind toward Dorothy, living up to her title.

While one purpose of this interaction is to deliver important exposition to Dorothy (and the reader), another purpose is to establish Oz as a simple, fairy-tale world of black-and-white morality. The Good Witch's remark that she "cannot be mistaken" about her own goodness is an almost comical sign of how straightforward the Land of Oz promises to be. However, while good and evil are very easily identified in Oz, Dorothy's belief that all witches are wicked is a sign that Oz is still likely to surprise her and challenge her expectations.

Chapter 3: How Dorothy Saved the Scarecrow Quotes

☝ 'I don't mind my legs and arms and body being stuffed, because I cannot get hurt. If anyone treads on my toes or sticks a pin into me it doesn't matter, for I can't feel it. But I do not want people to call me a fool, and if my head stays stuffed with straw instead of with brains, as yours is, how am I ever to know anything?'

Related Characters: The Scarecrow (speaker), Dorothy, The Wizard of Oz

Related Themes: 

Page Number: 23

Explanation and Analysis

On her way to see the Wizard of Oz, Dorothy encounters a living Scarecrow who decides to travel with her. While Dorothy plans to ask the Wizard of Oz to send her back


home to Kansas, the Scarecrow wants to ask the Wizard for some brains. In this moment, the Scarecrow explains his rationale for wanting a brain, which itself is a sign that may already have all the brains he needs. He's able to assess the advantages of his straw body, but his desire for brains reflects his self-doubt and lack of confidence.

Notably, the Scarecrow mentions that he doesn't want other people to see him as foolish. This implies that others' opinions of him strongly inform his sense of self-worth. Despite the Scarecrow's doubts and alleged lack of brains, it's clear from this conversation that he already knows at least a few things and that might instead be his self-doubt that's holding him back. His painless body is also a very literal example of the idea that words can damage a person's self-esteem and so hurt someone more than physical harm.

Chapter 4: The Road Through the Forest Quotes

☞ 'No matter how dreary and grey our homes are, we people of flesh and blood would rather live there than in any other country, be it ever so beautiful. There is no place like home.'

Related Characters: Dorothy (speaker), The Scarecrow, The Wizard of Oz, Aunt Em, Uncle Henry

Related Themes: 

Page Number: 27

Explanation and Analysis

During their journey to the Emerald City, Dorothy and the Scarecrow discuss what they seek to gain from their audience with the Wizard of Oz. When Dorothy mentions she wants to return home to the Kansas prairies, the Scarecrow wonders why Dorothy would want to go back to such a dull and colorless place. Dorothy's response to the Scarecrow perfectly sums up the novel's themes of home and belonging with the famous line. Dorothy knows that the Land of Oz is much more colorful and exciting than the gray landscape of Kansas, but it's her home, and so she wishes to return anyway.

Interestingly, Dorothy doesn't mention Aunt Em or Uncle Henry in this moment. While returning to her family is certainly one major reason why she wants to get back to Kansas, Dorothy also seems motivated by something even deeper. She seems to believe that everyone belongs somewhere, regardless of what that place might be like. Dorothy instinctively knows that she belongs in Kansas, however gray and dreary it may be, and even the wonders of Oz don't complicate this fact.

Chapter 5: The Rescue of the Tin Woodman Quotes

☞ 'While I was in love I was the happiest man on earth; but no one can love who has not a heart, and so I am resolved to ask Oz to give me one. If he does, I will go back to the Munchkin maiden and marry her.'

Related Characters: The Tin Woodman (speaker), Dorothy, The Scarecrow, The Wizard of Oz, The Wicked Witch of the East

Related Themes: 

Page Number: 40-41

Explanation and Analysis

Dorothy and the Scarecrow meet a woodman made of tin on their way to the Emerald City. When they explain that they plan to ask the Wizard of Oz to grant their requests, the Tin Woodman resolves to follow them and ask the Wizard for a heart. As the three of them travel, the Tin Woodman explains how he once loved a Munchkin girl whose mother disapproved of the romance and so had the Wicked Witch of the East curse the man. The curse slowly replaced the man's body with tin, leaving him presumably heartless. The Tin Woodman is the second companion Dorothy finds whose life is defined by self-doubt. While he reminisces about having a heart in this moment, he believes that he is no longer capable of love.


Just like the Scarecrow and his desire for brains, the Tin Woodman seems to contradict himself without realizing it. Despite apparently having no heart, he still wants to marry the Munchkin maiden he once loved, implying that his feelings for her haven't disappeared. He also fondly recalls the feeling of being in love, which means he understands love well enough to remember how nice it feels. This moment hints at the fact that the Tin Woodman might have more of a heart than he thinks. His only problem seems to be his self-doubt; he doesn't believe that he can love anyone, so he's unwilling to try.

Chapter 6: The Cowardly Lion Quotes

☞ Once, indeed, the Tin Woodman stepped upon a beetle that was crawling along the road, and killed the poor little thing. This made the Tin Woodman very unhappy, for he was always careful not to hurt any living creature; and as he walked along he wept several tears of sorrow and regret.

Related Characters: Dorothy, The Scarecrow, The Tin

Woodman, The Cowardly Lion, The Wizard of Oz

Related Themes: 

Page Number: 48

Explanation and Analysis



As Dorothy, the Scarecrow, the Tin Woodman, and the Cowardly Lion travel towards the Emerald City to have their wishes granted by the Wizard of Oz, the Tin Woodman suddenly becomes distressed. His emotional reaction to accidentally killing a beetle is yet another sign that he might already have a heart. While the Tin Woodman is determined to ask Oz for a heart so that he can love again, it's clear from his behavior that he's already a kind and sensitive soul. Hurting a creature as small and seemingly insignificant as a beetle is enough to make the Tin Woodman burst into tears, making it difficult to argue that he has no heart.

Regardless, the Tin Woodman persists in his belief that he's heartless after this incident. This is also just one of many times that the Tin Woodman sheds tears, prompting Dorothy to oil his joints and prevent him from rusting. The incident with the beetle is the first and clearest indication of the Tin Woodman's capacity for love and empathy. If anything, he's much more sensitive than the other members of Dorothy's group, as none of them are quite as prone to emotional moments like this one.

Chapter 7: The Journey to the Great Oz Quotes

☞ 'We are lost, for they will surely tear us to pieces with their sharp claws. But stand close behind me, and I will fight them as long as I am alive.'

Related Characters: The Cowardly Lion (speaker), Dorothy, The Scarecrow, The Tin Woodman, The Wizard of Oz

Related Themes:  

Page Number: 55

Explanation and Analysis

In a dark wood, Dorothy and her new friends encounter fearsome, cat-like creatures called Kalidahs. As the Kalidahs close in and all hope seems lost, the Cowardly Lion steps in front of Dorothy and promises to fend off the Kalidahs as long as he draws breath. This heroic act is an early sign that the Lion isn't nearly as cowardly as he believes himself to be. He joined Dorothy's traveling party in the hopes of asking the Wizard of Oz for some courage, but as the Kalidahs

threaten to destroy him and his new friends, he seems to find an unexpected reserve of bravery.

Not only does this moment demonstrate that the Cowardly Lion already has plenty of courage; it also highlights the strength of the friendship he's forged with Dorothy. Despite only knowing her for a short time, he puts himself at an extreme risk to protect her in what he assumed would be his final moments. Like the Scarecrow and the Tin Woodman, the Cowardly Lion doubts himself and believes that he lacks something fundamental. But when the Kalidahs threaten his friends, the Cowardly Lion suddenly has courage and confidence—whether he realizes it or not.

Chapter 8: The Deadly Poppy Field Quotes

☞ 'Aren't they beautiful?' the girl asked, as she breathed in the spicy scent of the flowers.

'I suppose so,' answered the Scarecrow. 'When I have brains I shall probably like them better.'

'If only I had a heart I should love them,' added the Tin Woodman.

Related Characters: Dorothy, The Scarecrow, The Tin Woodman (speaker)

Related Themes: 

Page Number: 63

Explanation and Analysis

As Dorothy and her companions near the Emerald City they seek, they slow down to admire the field of poppies around them. Only Dorothy seems to fully appreciate the blooms, as her companions come up with reasons why they aren't enjoying the poppies as much. While this might seem like a fairly trivial moment, it illustrates how Dorothy's confidence makes her see the world differently from her friends, who lack confidence. Dorothy knows who she is and where she belongs, but her companions are too wrapped up in themselves to appreciate the world around them.



This once again highlights the conflict between self-doubt and confidence. Because Dorothy is already confident in herself as a person and only needs some help getting home, nothing stops her from enjoying the field of flowers. Meanwhile, the Scarecrow and the Tin Woodman doubt their own ability to understand and appreciate their lives to the fullest. Ironically, it seems to be their self-doubt that keeps them from enjoying life, rather than any brains or heart that they might lack.

Chapter 9: The Queen of the Field Mice Quotes

☞ ‘Is there anything we can do,’ it asked, ‘to repay you for saving the life of our Queen?’

‘Nothing that I know of,’ answered the Woodman; but the Scarecrow, who had been trying to think, but could not because his head was stuffed with straw, said, quickly, ‘Oh, yes; you can save our friend, the Cowardly Lion, who is asleep in the poppy bed.’

Related Characters: The Scarecrow, The Tin Woodman (speaker), Dorothy, The Cowardly Lion

Related Themes:  

Page Number: 68

Explanation and Analysis

After a field of poppies puts the Cowardly Lion into an endless sleep, the Tin Woodman kills a wildcat to save a mouse who turns out to be the Queen of the Field Mice. While the Woodman can't think of any way the Queen can repay them for their help, the Scarecrow has an idea. This moment is yet another example of Dorothy's companions exhibiting the traits they believe they lack. The Tin Woodman shows compassion when he saves the field mouse, and the Scarecrow demonstrates his cleverness as he devises a plan to have the mice rescue the Cowardly Lion from the deadly field of poppies.

The Tin Woodman wants a heart, and the Scarecrow wants a brain, but it's clear from this exchange that they already have what they seek. As usual, what they really lack is self-confidence. The humorous narration in this passage pokes fun at the Scarecrow's baseless self-doubt, highlighting how he's apparently thinking without the capacity to think. The Scarecrow's concern for the Cowardly Lion also emphasizes the strength of their friendship. It would have been easy to keep moving without the Lion and ask the Queen for a different favor. But their journey together has made Dorothy's companions into true friends, and so they're unwilling to leave anyone behind if they can help it.


Chapter 10: The Guardian of the Gates Quotes

☞ ‘Because if you did not wear spectacles the brightness and glory of the Emerald City would blind you. Even those who live in the City must wear spectacles night and day. They are all locked on, for Oz so ordered it when the City was first built, and I have the only key that will unlock them.’

Related Characters: Dorothy, The Scarecrow, The Tin

Woodman, The Cowardly Lion, The Wizard of Oz

Related Themes: 

Related Symbols: 

Page Number: 80

Explanation and Analysis

Dorothy and her friends finally reach the gates of the Emerald City, where they plan to have their wishes granted by the Wizard of Oz. However, before entering the city, the guardian at the gates (the speaker of this quote) explains that they must wear green spectacles, which everyone in the city must wear at all times. This marks the first appearance of the green spectacles, which symbolize the power of illusion and perception that the Wizard uses to make his people happy. Dorothy's group receives the green spectacles as soon as they arrive at the Emerald City, implying that it's a place where not everything is as it seems.

This detail is the first major clue that the Wizard isn't what he appears to be. However, it also foreshadows the more positive aspects of the Wizard's deception. In the same way that he makes the people of the Emerald City happier by making the city look greener, he ultimately makes the Scarecrow, the Tin Woodman, and the Cowardly Lion happier by giving them what they believe they need. The green spectacles at the gates foreshadow that the Emerald City is a place of deception, but this isn't necessarily painted in a negative light. For better or worse, the locks on the spectacles indicate the Wizard's dedication to maintaining his grand illusions.

Chapter 11: The Wonderful Emerald City of Oz Quotes

☞ ‘Send me back to Kansas, where my Aunt Em and Uncle Henry are,’ she answered earnestly. ‘I don't like your country, although it is so beautiful. And I am sure Aunt Em will be dreadfully worried over my being away so long.’

Related Characters: Dorothy (speaker), The Scarecrow, The Wizard of Oz, Aunt Em, Uncle Henry

Related Themes: 

Page Number: 89

Explanation and Analysis

Dorothy finally gains an audience with Great and Powerful Wizard of Oz, who she hopes will send her back home to

Kansas. At this point, Dorothy remains true to what she's believed throughout the novel. Despite traveling through a strange and exciting land and meeting several new friends, she remains committed to returning home. Her demand to the Wizard echoes her earlier conversation with the Scarecrow, when she insisted that home is the best place she can be, no matter how dreary. While she admits that Oz is a beautiful place, she also bravely tells the Wizard that she doesn't like it, emphasizing that Kansas is truly the only place for her.

Dorothy also mentions Aunt Em and Uncle Henry as another reason she must go back to Kansas as soon as possible. The book describes these characters as being just as dull and gray as their surroundings, but Dorothy nonetheless knows they'll be worried about her, and she earnestly wants to see them again. Her unconditional love for her family reinforces how much she values home and a sense of belonging. This moment also demonstrates that Dorothy, unlike her companions, is a static character. She enjoys living in Kansas at the beginning of the novel, she wants to go home as soon as she arrives in Oz, and nothing up to this point has shaken her belief that she belongs in Kansas.

as her mark directly helps Dorothy in a dangerous situation. In contrast to the deceptive Wizard of Oz, the witches of Oz are exactly what they appear to be.



Taking this one step further, the winged monkeys also mention that good is more powerful than evil. This implies that, in the Land of Oz, good and evil are more than just moral positions. They're also magical forces that can outmatch each other and directly influence the world. A fantastical good vs. evil system like this makes Oz feel more like a classic fairy tale.


“‘I'm very sorry, indeed,’ said Dorothy, who was truly frightened to see the Witch actually melting away like brown sugar before her very eyes.

‘Didn't you know water would be the end of me?’ asked the Witch, in a wailing, despairing voice.

‘Of course not,’ answered Dorothy. ‘How should I?’

Related Characters: Dorothy, The Wicked Witch of the West (speaker), The Wizard of Oz, The Wicked Witch of the East

Related Themes:  

Related Symbols: 

Page Number: 112

Explanation and Analysis

After the Wicked Witch of the West steals one of Dorothy's silver shoes, Dorothy furiously dumps a bucket of water over the witch, accidentally killing her. Dorothy kills both of Oz's wicked witches by accident, once again highlighting the theme of pure good vs. pure evil. The cruelty of the Wicked Witch of the West contrasts sharply with Dorothy's innocence, and the side of good wins without stooping to the level of evil. While Dorothy tosses the bucket of water out of frustration, this exchange makes it clear that she had no idea that the witch would melt in water. This reinforces the moral simplicity of Oz and supports the idea that good is stronger than evil, as it seems goodness can win without even trying.

Even as she defeats the monster who enslaved her, Dorothy still expresses compassion as she apologizes to the melting witch. Dorothy once again shows her childlike innocence in this moment, but she also shows a bit of hesitation and self-doubt, which is unusual for her. Of course, she's glad that the Wicked Witch of the West is no more, but she seems momentarily to wonder if melting her was a mistake. This

Chapter 12: The Search for the Wicked Witch Quotes

“‘We dare not harm this little girl,’ he said to them, ‘for she is protected by the Power of Good, and that is greater than the Power of Evil. All we can do is to carry her to the castle of the Wicked Witch and leave her there.’

Related Characters: Dorothy, The Wizard of Oz, The Wicked Witch of the West, The Good Witch of the North

Related Themes: 

Page Number: 107

Explanation and Analysis



Upon entering the territory of the Wicked Witch of the West, Dorothy's group is attacked by the Wicked Witch's winged monkeys (one of whom is the speaker of this quote). The creatures damage or capture Dorothy's friends, but they refuse to harm Dorothy because of the glowing mark placed there earlier by the kiss of the Good Witch of the North. The monkeys' refusal to harm Dorothy reinforces the idea that good and evil are powerful and clearly defined forces in the Land of Oz. It also confirms that the Good Witch of the North is just as good and helpful as she seems,

echoes her hesitation at the beginning of the novel, when she discovers that she's accidentally killed the Wicked Witch of the East. Despite this, her defeat of the Wicked Witch of the West proves that her earlier doubts were unfounded. She didn't believe she could kill a witch as the Wizard of Oz demanded, but she had the potential within her all along.

Chapter 13: The Rescue Quotes

☛ When, at last, he walked into Dorothy's room and thanked her for rescuing him, he was so pleased that he wept tears of joy, and Dorothy had to wipe every tear carefully from his face with her apron, so his joints would not be rusted. At the same time her own tears fell thick and fast at the joy of meeting her old friend again, and these tears did not need to be wiped away.

Related Characters: Dorothy, The Scarecrow, The Tin Woodman, The Cowardly Lion, The Wizard of Oz, The Wicked Witch of the West

Related Themes:  

Page Number: 117

Explanation and Analysis


When the Wicked Witch of the West's winged monkeys captured Dorothy, they also picked up the Tin Woodman and dropped him into an area full of sharp rocks. After Dorothy defeats the Witch, Dorothy calls on the Winkies to rescue the Tin Woodman. While the Tin Woodman constantly doubts his ability to love, his joyful reaction to seeing Dorothy again reveals how much he cares for her. The Tin Woodman still lacks the confidence to believe he has a heart, but this moment is another signal to the reader that his doubts are unfounded.

Dorothy also sheds tears when she sees the Tin Woodman again, revealing that she also cares about him deeply. The Scarecrow, the Tin Woodman, and the Cowardly Lion originally joined Dorothy as a means of reaching the Wizard of Oz and having their wishes granted. But after all they've been through together, Dorothy and her companions have developed a strong friendship that goes beyond what they think they need. At this point, Dorothy and her friends are truly inseparable.

Chapter 15: The Discovery of Oz, the Terrible Quotes

☛ Of course each one of them expected to see the Wizard in the shape he had taken before, and all were greatly surprised when they looked about and saw no one at all in the room. They kept close to the door and closer to one another, for the stillness of the empty room was more dreadful than any of the forms they had seen Oz take.

Related Characters: Dorothy, The Wizard of Oz, The Wicked Witch of the West

Related Themes: 

Page Number: 131

Explanation and Analysis

After successfully killing the Wicked Witch of the West as the Wizard of Oz asked them to do, Dorothy and her companions enter the Wizard's throne room once again. They hope to finally have their wishes granted as the Wizard promised, but they find the room disappointingly empty. This moment echoes the characters' previous encounters with the Wizard, but it's clear that things have changed. Before, Dorothy and her friends visited the Wizard one by one, but after their harrowing adventure in the country of the Wicked Witch of the West, the group is closer than ever. This time, they enter the throne room as one unit, and they huddle together in fear of what might happen next. In the face of a frightening unknown, the group of friends rely on each other for support, just as they have throughout their journey.

The other difference is the apparent absence of the Wizard, which the passage describes as somehow scarier than his earlier, more impressive appearances. The silence of the room is a sign that the Wizard's deceptions and illusions have finally reached their limit—and that the truth is about to be revealed. However, far from a relief, this hidden truth seems to be something unsettling or disappointing. Ultimately, that the Wizard of Oz turns out to be nothing more than a fraud with no real power is much more frightening than the possibility that he's a true Wizard who can help them.

☛ 'You have plenty of courage, I am sure,' answered Oz. 'All you need is confidence in yourself. There is no living thing that is not afraid when it faces danger. True courage is in facing danger when you are afraid, and that kind of courage you have in plenty.'

Related Characters: The Wizard of Oz (speaker), Dorothy, The Cowardly Lion

Related Themes: 

Page Number: 139

Explanation and Analysis

Dorothy and her friends discover that the Wizard of Oz isn't truly great and powerful at all—in fact, he's merely a carnival showman from Omaha who's been tricking the people of Oz for many years. Despite this disappointing revelation, the Wizard still attempts to console Dorothy's group and give them what they want. As the Wizard addresses the Cowardly Lion, he sums up exactly what's been happening throughout the group's adventure. He identifies the Lion's real problem isn't a lack of courage but a lack of confidence. This marks the turning point for the novel's theme of self-doubt vs. confidence, as the Wizard prompts a shift in perspective that each of Dorothy's friends sorely needs.

However, despite his insistence that the characters already have what they desire, the Wizard fails to convince them that they're already complete people. The Wizard's words ring true to the Lion's behavior throughout the novel, but words aren't always enough to inspire confidence. On the other hand, his speech sheds a positive light on his character, painting him as a genuinely well-meaning person who knows how to use both trickery and honesty to make people happy. Rather than trying to save face through empty consolations, the Wizard offers earnest advice about confidence to the discouraged Lion.

Chapter 16: The Magic Art of the Great Humbug Quotes

🗨️ Oz, left to himself, smiled to think of his success in giving the Scarecrow and the Tin Woodman and the Lion exactly what they thought they wanted. 'How can I help being a humbug,' he said, 'when all these people make me do things that everybody knows can't be done?'

Related Characters: The Wizard of Oz (speaker), Dorothy, The Scarecrow, The Tin Woodman, The Cowardly Lion

Related Themes: 

Page Number: 145-146

Explanation and Analysis

After giving Dorothy's friends various trinkets that make them feel more confident in themselves, the Wizard of Oz

reflects on how easy it was to fool them. This is the only moment in the novel that shows the Wizard by himself, and it offers a deeper insight into his character. For the first time, the Wizard's own self-doubt begins to show through his usual façade of confidence. His reflection on how he can possibly "help being a humbug" offers a new perspective on his deception. After all, he isn't tricking anyone out of malice, and it's easy for everyone to believe his lies if they already want them to be true. In this way, it can hardly be the Wizard's fault that he's a fraud, at least in his opinion.

This moment also reveals that the Wizard is, in some ways, a perfect foil for Dorothy's friends. While the Scarecrow, the Tin Woodman, and the Cowardly Lion each have hidden merits but lack self-confidence, the Wizard is the opposite. He has no real magic powers, but his confidence and bold-faced lying allows him to rule the Emerald City and earn everyone's respect. The Wizard may have doubts, but he doesn't allow them to overpower his confidence. From this angle, the Wizard becomes a much more interesting character and another example of how simple confidence can be the key to a happier life.

Chapter 17: How the Balloon was Launched Quotes

🗨️ But the people remembered him lovingly, and said to one another:

'Oz was always our friend. When he was here he built for us this beautiful Emerald City, and now he is gone he has left the wise Scarecrow to rule over us.'

Still, for many days they grieved over the loss of the Wonderful Wizard, and would not be comforted.

Related Characters: Dorothy, The Scarecrow, The Wizard of Oz

Related Themes:  

Page Number: 152

Explanation and Analysis

When the Wizard of Oz departs from the Emerald City in a hot air balloon, and is presumably gone for good, the people of the City lament his absence. This moment is yet another indication that the Wizard is beloved despite the fact that he's been deceiving his people for years. In their view, the beautiful home that he created for them is much more important than any flaws he might have. The Emerald City itself is nearly synonymous with the Wizard, so it's no surprise that they feel the loss of their leader so deeply. But



regardless of whether the Wizard is present or not, they know that they truly belong in the city he inspired them to build.

The fact that the people of the Emerald City consider the Wizard to be their “friend” gives another dimension to the novel’s theme of friendship. Dorothy and her companions were the first people to even see the Wizard in many years, yet the people of the Emerald City still think of him as a friend. This is another result of the Wizard’s constant deceptions and illusions and another instance of his trickery being painted in a positive light. It might be somewhat delusional for the citizens of the Emerald City to consider the Wizard of Oz their friend, but it nonetheless seems to make them feel more at home. Just as he fooled Dorothy’s friends into having more self-confidence, the Wizard has tricked the Emerald City into being a happier place.

Chapter 18: Away to the South Quotes

☝☝ ‘Certainly. 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. So my good luck is all due to her, and I shall never leave her until she starts back to Kansas for good and all.’

Related Characters: The Scarecrow (speaker), Dorothy, The Wizard of Oz, Glinda

Related Themes:  

Page Number: 157

Explanation and Analysis

After the Wizard of Oz accidentally leaves Dorothy behind, Dorothy and her friends discuss how she can possibly get home. They decide to travel south and ask Glinda the Good Witch for help, and the Scarecrow promises to tag along. This heartwarming exchange shows how deeply Dorothy’s new friends have come to care for her. Despite the Wizard putting the Scarecrow in charge of the Emerald City, the Scarecrow insists on accompanying Dorothy until she reaches Kansas again. His decision proves that his journey was never just about getting brains, although that was his main purpose. He also feels a kinship with Dorothy, who always treated him as a dear friend and made him who he is today.

Although the Scarecrow has finally found where he belongs, he won’t be truly happy until Dorothy is home as well. Just as Dorothy’s friendship with the Scarecrow made him a better version of himself, the Scarecrow vows to help

Dorothy find her own happiness. As always, the group’s friendship brings out the best in each of them.

Chapter 19: Attacked by the Fighting Trees Quotes

☝☝ Dorothy said nothing. Oz had not kept the promise he made her but he had done his best, so she forgave him. As he said, he was a good man, even if he was a bad Wizard.

Related Characters: Dorothy, The Wizard of Oz

Related Themes: 

Page Number: 161

Explanation and Analysis

As they leave the Emerald City and head south, Dorothy and her friends consider what they ultimately think about the Wizard now that he’s left the Land of Oz. Dorothy’s mixed feelings about the Wizard reflect how he’s practically the only morally complex character in the novel. In a world defined by pure good and pure evil, the Wizard falls somewhere in the middle, possibly because he isn’t native to Oz. The Wizard’s moral grayness highlights the theme of good vs. evil, reminding the reader of the Land of Oz’s simplicity compared to the real world.

However, despite Dorothy’s complicated opinion of the Wizard, she still reluctantly considers him a good person in the end. He might have deceived her and everyone else, but he did so for a good reason. His dishonesty might have been disappointing, but he ultimately used it to give Dorothy’s friends the confidence they needed. To Dorothy, Wizard still leans toward the side of goodness in rather than sitting squarely in the middle of good and evil. Unlike most of Oz’s inhabitants, the Wizard isn’t a pure embodiment of kindness or wickedness—he’s simply a flawed human being.

Chapter 20: The Dainty China Country Quotes

☝☝ ‘You see, here in our country we live contentedly, and can talk and move around as we please. But whenever any of us are taken away our joints at once stiffen, and we can only stand straight and look pretty. Of course that is all that is expected of us when we are on mantelshelves and cabinets and drawing-room tables, but our lives are much pleasanter here in our own country.’

Related Characters: Dorothy, The Wizard of Oz, Glinda, Aunt Em

Related Themes: 

Page Number: 170

Explanation and Analysis

On their way to the south to see Glinda the Good Witch, Dorothy's group traverses a strange, tiny country where everything—including the people—is made of fragile china. Dorothy asks a china princess if she'd like to follow Dorothy to Kansas and sit on Aunt Em's mantelpiece, but the princess declines. This strange encounter reinforces the novel's themes of home and belonging, as the china princess asserts that she belongs exactly where she is. Just as Dorothy belongs back in Kansas, the china people belong in their china country, which seems just right for them.

The princess even mentions that her people "stiffen" when they leave their country, implying that they lose themselves and their autonomy when they're separated from their home. This is a clear parallel to Dorothy telling the Wizard of Oz that she wants to return to her home in Kansas because it's the only place where she can truly belong. The group's brief visit to the china country highlights the idea that everyone—no matter how unusual—belongs somewhere.

Chapter 21: The Lion Becomes the King of the Beasts Quotes

☹☹ 'It seems gloomy,' said the Scarecrow.

'Not a bit of it,' answered the Lion; 'I should like to live here all my life. See how soft the dried leaves are under your feet and how rich and green the moss is that clings to these old trees. Surely no wild beast could wish a pleasanter home.'

Related Characters: The Scarecrow, The Cowardly Lion (speaker), Dorothy, The Tin Woodman

Related Themes: 

Page Number: 172-173

Explanation and Analysis

Dorothy and her companions pass through thick, dark woods on their way to the south. While these surroundings don't agree with the Scarecrow, the Lion remarks that he'd love to live in a place like this himself. This moment highlights the themes of home and belonging. While Dorothy is closer than ever to returning home to Kansas, her friends also find their places in the world as their journey begins to wind down.


The repetition of this theme in the late sections of the novel builds up a sense of hope and promise that Dorothy will finally make it home again. At the same time, the Lion's insistence that the forest is a perfect place to live is another example of what it means to belong somewhere. The Lion belongs in the woods precisely because it's the perfect place for him specifically, even though it might not suit the Scarecrow, the Tin Woodman, or Dorothy all that well. In the Lion's view, the unique features and flaws of a location are what make it a home and not just a place.

Chapter 23: Glinda Grants Dorothy's Wish Quotes

☹☹ 'Your Silver Shoes will carry you over the desert,' replied Glinda. 'If you had known their power you could have gone back to your Aunt Em the very first day you came to this country.'

Related Characters: Glinda (speaker), Dorothy, The Scarecrow, The Tin Woodman, The Cowardly Lion, Aunt Em

Related Themes: 

Related Symbols: 

Page Number: 185

Explanation and Analysis


Glinda the Good Witch explains to Dorothy that the silver shoes Dorothy has been wearing throughout her entire adventure have always had the power to take her back home to Kansas. This revelation thematically connects Dorothy to her friends, as she discovers that she had what she needed all along. Just as the Scarecrow wanted a brain but was already clever, the Tin Woodman wanted a heart but was already full of compassion, and the Cowardly Lion was already brave, Dorothy could have granted her own wish all along. But while her friends were lacking self-confidence, Dorothy only needed to become aware of her own capabilities. The silver shoes represent the limitless potential that Dorothy carried with her on her journey the whole time.


This shift in perspective also implies that it's better for Dorothy to rely on herself than on authority figures. The Wizard of Oz failed to grant her wish, and even the powerful Glinda only showed Dorothy what she was already capable of. Whether through the Wizard's trickery or the Good Witch's wisdom, Dorothy and her friends discover that they can and should have confidence in

themselves and their own abilities. During her journey, Dorothy doubts she could kill a wicked witch or send herself back to Kansas. But ultimately, she accomplishes both tasks herself; she only needed a push in the right direction.

☛ She threw her arms around the Lion's neck and kissed him, patting his big head tenderly. Then she kissed the Tin Woodman, who was weeping in a way most dangerous to his joints. But she hugged the soft, stuffed body of the Scarecrow instead of kissing his painted face, and found she was crying herself at this sorrowful parting from her loving comrades.

Related Characters: Dorothy, The Scarecrow, The Tin Woodman, The Cowardly Lion

Related Themes:  

Related Symbols: 

Page Number: 187

Explanation and Analysis

Just before she uses the enchanted silver slippers to go home to Kansas, Dorothy tearfully wishes her friends in Oz goodbye. The sadness of their parting is a sign of their deep bond of friendship, without which none of them could have found their place in the world. Now that Dorothy is about to leave them at last, they can't help but feel sorrow at her departure. Their friendship saw them safely through their entire adventure, and they each feel pained at the thought of saying goodbye to a person who changed their lives for the better.

Dorothy herself also sheds tears before leaving, feeling just as connected to her friends as they are to her. However, while this parting is painful for the group of friends, none of them suggests that Dorothy should stay in the Land of Oz with her beloved companions. Even the powerful bonds of friendship can't distract Dorothy from what she knows to be

true: she belongs at her home in Kansas and can only be happy there.


Chapter 24: Home Again Quotes

☛ 'My darling child!' she cried, folding the little girl in her arms and covering her face with kisses. 'Where in the world did you come from?'

'From the Land of Oz,' said Dorothy gravely. 'And here is Toto, too. And oh, Aunt Em! I'm so glad to be at home again!'

Related Characters: Dorothy, Aunt Em (speaker), Toto

Related Themes: 

Related Symbols: 

Page Number: 189

Explanation and Analysis

Dorothy uses the power of the silver shoes to magically transport herself back home to Kansas, where she's finally reunited with her Aunt Em. The joyful tone of this final passage implies that Dorothy made the right choice in returning home, despite how difficult it was to leave her friends in the Land of Oz. Dorothy's story comes full circle as she arrives back where she started: the gray prairies of Kansas that she longed to return to all throughout her adventure.

Aunt Em's overjoyed response to seeing Dorothy again reveals that a significant change has taken place. Whereas Aunt Em seemed stern and distant at the beginning of the novel, her child's return might have made her worry for Dorothy's safety and realize just how much she loves Dorothy. Dorothy may be a static character whose motivations don't change over the course of the novel, but she still inspires positive changes in the lives of the people around her, including Aunt Em.



SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

The color-coded icons under each analysis entry make it easy to track where the themes occur most prominently throughout the work. Each icon corresponds to one of the themes explained in the Themes section of this LitChart.

CHAPTER 1: THE CYCLONE

Dorothy is a young girl who lives on a small farm on the prairies of Kansas. She lives with her Aunt Em and Uncle Henry, and her beloved little black dog, Toto. The land around the farm is flat, bare, and gray for as far as the eye can see. After years of living on the harsh prairie, Aunt Em and Uncle Henry are as gloomy as their environment, but Dorothy keeps a cheerful attitude and always finds something to laugh at. Toto is her main source of joy, and the two of them often play in the family's tiny farmhouse, which has only one room.

One day, a strong wind picks up, and Uncle Henry shouts to Aunt Em that a cyclone is coming. While Uncle Henry runs off to secure the farm animals, a frightened Aunt Em hurriedly descends into the cyclone shelter, accessed through a trapdoor in the middle of the house. She screams for Dorothy to follow her down, but Toto scampers out of Dorothy's arms and hides under the bed. Not wanting to leave her dog behind, Dorothy quickly reaches under the bed, grabs Toto, and hurries towards the shelter. Before she can reach the trapdoor, however, the wind shakes the house and sends Dorothy falling to the floor. In moments, the cyclone picks up the entire farmhouse, carrying it high in the air for miles in the eye of the storm.

Dorothy and Toto ride through the air in the tumbling farmhouse for hours as the wind howls around them. Once, Toto falls through the open trapdoor and Dorothy is afraid she's lost him. But the air pressure fortunately keeps Toto aloft, allowing Dorothy to grab him and shut the trapdoor. While the cyclone scares both of them, Dorothy eventually pushes past her fear and resolves to accept her fate, whatever it might be. She calmly lies down on her bed and decides to wait out the cyclone and see what happens. Eventually, she falls asleep.

The beginning of the novel establishes that Dorothy is happy where she is. While her surroundings might be dull and gray, her friendship with Toto makes her life feel more meaningful. She doesn't seem to feel like her life lacks anything; instead, she is exactly where she belongs.



The arrival of the cyclone marks a sudden turning point in Dorothy's simple but peaceful life. It seems to promise that Dorothy's happy existence is in danger, as even her parental figures openly worry about what the storm might bring. Dorothy's willingness to risk her own life to save Toto reinforces how much she cares for him. It also emphasizes her childlike innocence and kindness. Despite the danger, her friendship with Toto is more important than her own safety.



Dorothy once again rescues Toto, emphasizing their strong bond. She also displays remarkable bravery and confidence in this terrifying situation. Her willingness to stoically face her unknown fate is yet another sign that Dorothy might not need to change or grow much as a character. After all, she's already a brave and surprisingly mature young girl who's loyal to her best friend Toto.



CHAPTER 2: THE COUNCIL WITH THE MUNCHKINS

Dorothy awakens as the house lurches suddenly and violently. After seeing the sunlight outside and noticing that the house is no longer moving, she and Toto rush to the front door to see where they've landed. They find themselves in a beautiful country, full of colorful flowers, fruits, trees, and singing birds. As she admires the interesting landscape, Dorothy spies a group of strange people approaching. The people are roughly Dorothy's size, but they appear to be adults wearing blue clothing and pointed hats. One of the figures, however, is an older woman wearing all white. She bows and calls Dorothy a sorceress, thanking her for killing the Wicked Witch of the East.

A confused Dorothy explains to the woman that she, Dorothy, hasn't killed anyone. But the woman shows Dorothy that the farmhouse landed on someone whose legs are clearly sticking out from underneath the building. While Dorothy is distressed at this sight, the old woman explains that the victim of this accident was the Wicked Witch of the East, who's been keeping the Munchkins (the people of this area) enslaved for years. The woman goes on to explain that she's also a witch herself, but that she's a good witch and a friend of the Munchkins: the Witch of the North. She tells Dorothy that there were only four witches in the Land of Oz, and now that the Witch of the East is dead, the only wicked witch left is the Witch of the West.

Dorothy mentions that Aunt Em told her that there haven't been witches in the world for many years. The Witch of the North explains that this is only true in "civilized countries," and mentions that she's never heard of Kansas. The Munchkins suddenly interrupt their conversation, pointing to where the feet of the Witch of the East have disappeared, leaving only a pair of **silver shoes** behind. The Witch of the North explains that the Witch of the East was so old that exposure to sunlight turned her to dust, and that the silver slippers belong to Dorothy now.

The colorful land that Dorothy finds herself in is a stark contrast to the gray prairies of Kansas. This place couldn't be more different from Dorothy's home, emphasizing that the cyclone has completely uprooted her from where she belongs. Even the small people's attire suggests that this land is as far from ordinary as possible. Dorothy can be sure she's landed in a place of fairy tales when the old woman mentions a wicked witch. The dreary mundanity of Kansas is gone, and a strange new world of goodness and wickedness has taken its place.



During this conversation, the Witch of the North fully confirms the idea that Dorothy has landed in a fantasy world of good vs. evil. The Witch's open admission that she's one of the "good" witches is a sign of how straightforwardly the Land of Oz defines good and evil. Dorothy doesn't question whether this witch is good or the dead witch is wicked because it seems to be self-evidently true. The fact that Dorothy killed the Wicked Witch of the East by accident also highlights her childlike innocence.



This moment marks the first appearance of the silver slippers, a symbol tied to the theme of self-doubt vs. confidence that will become more important later. Meanwhile, the Wicked Witch's withering away in the sunlight is yet another sign that good and evil are absolute in the Land of Oz. It seems the wicked witches of Oz are decrepit and fragile, while the good witches are beautiful and wholesome. In other words, it seems like everything in Oz is just as it appears to be.



Dorothy figures that Aunt Em and Uncle Henry must be worried about her, so she asks how she might get home to Kansas. The Witch of the North and the Munchkins tell her that the entire Land of Oz is surrounded by a vast, uncrossable desert, and that Dorothy must therefore live here with them. Dorothy begins to cry at the thought of never returning home, at which point the Witch of the North conjures a slate that seems to tell her what to do. She tells Dorothy to travel to the Emerald City, as the powerful Wizard of Oz who lives there could help her return to Kansas. The Witch cannot accompany Dorothy on this journey, but she kisses Dorothy's forehead and leaves a shining mark there. She explains that no one would dare to harm someone who has the blessing of the Witch of the North.

The Witch of the North once again proves her essential goodness by blessing Dorothy's journey and seemingly giving her some extra protection. Notably, however, despite the beauty of Oz and the kindness of its good inhabitants, Dorothy is eager to express her wish to go back home. This is a sign that she hasn't changed her mind one bit; she still believes that she can only belong in Kansas, no matter what Oz is like. Once more, Dorothy reveals herself to be a static character with a strong resolve.



CHAPTER 3: HOW DOROTHY SAVED THE SCARECROW

Dorothy washes up, gathers a breakfast for herself, and prepares for her journey. She changes into a blue and white checkered dress and decides to wear the silver slippers, as they seem unlikely to wear out. Dorothy and Toto set off on the road of yellow brick which, according to the Witch of the North, eventually leads to the Emerald City. Despite her desire to get home, Dorothy enjoys her walk through this colorful and pleasant country. She passes farmland and plenty of strange little blue houses, as blue seems to be the favored color in the land of the East. She spends a night at the home of a wealthy and friendly Munchkin named Boq, who considers Dorothy to be a good witch and appreciates her blue clothing.

Dorothy's encounter with Boq and the other Munchkins builds on the themes of home and belonging in a very straightforward sense. Between the Emerald City, the blue land of the Munchkins, and Dorothy's gray home in Kansas, the locations in the novel are practically color-coded. Everyone belongs somewhere, and the consistent color choices make it very clear who belongs where. Boq mistaking Dorothy for a good witch also illustrates how all of Oz seems to view the world through a binary lens of good vs. evil.



On the next day of her journey, Dorothy rests on a fence by the road as it passes by a large cornfield. As she stares curiously at a Scarecrow in blue clothing, she suddenly sees it wink at her. She wanders over to it and discovers that it can speak as well. The two of them introduce themselves, and the Scarecrow tells Dorothy that he'll be very grateful if she could take him down from the pole he's affixed to. Dorothy does as he asks, and the Scarecrow delights in moving around freely. He soon explains to Dorothy that he's ashamed of having straw instead of brains in his head. Dorothy explains that she's on her way to see the Wizard of Oz, who might be able to give the Scarecrow a brain as well as send Dorothy home. They resolve to continue the journey together.

Unlike Dorothy, the Scarecrow seems to doubt himself due to his alleged lack of brains. However, there may already be some holes in his beliefs about himself, as he seems perfectly capable of speaking, thinking, and walking around like a person, even without a brain in his head. Regardless, his willingness to follow Dorothy on her potentially dangerous journey emphasizes how committed he is to feeling more confident in himself. And Dorothy's earnest compassion for him makes their fast friendship possible.



CHAPTER 4: THE ROAD THROUGH THE FOREST

As the landscape around them gradually becomes wilder and more untamed, Dorothy and the Scarecrow share stories about their lives. Upon hearing about Kansas, the Scarecrow wonders why Dorothy would want to return to such a gray and dull place after landing in the colorful Land of Oz. Dorothy replies that humans always love their home most of all, no matter how gray it is. The Scarecrow assumes that he doesn't understand this point of view because he doesn't have any brains.

As they rest, the Scarecrow tells Dorothy the story of how he was created by a Munchkin farmer to scare the crows away from his crops. Despite how lonely he felt in the cornfield by himself, the Scarecrow felt useful and important as he scared the crows off. This changed when the birds caught onto the trick and began eating the crops, anyway, making the Scarecrow feel more useless and alone than ever. One of the crows took pity on him and told him that he'd be just as good as any man if he had brains instead of straw in his head. Back in the present, the yellow brick road takes Dorothy and the Scarecrow into a dark wood, but they find a lone cottage to rest in for the night.

This is the point when Dorothy utters the famous line: "There's no place like home." Her conversation with the Scarecrow makes her beliefs clearer than ever: home is where someone belongs, no matter the circumstances. Even after making a new friend in Oz, Dorothy remains steadfast in this belief. Meanwhile, the Scarecrow once again reveals his self-doubt as he mentions his lack of brains.



The Scarecrow's story explains why he's so full of self-doubt and insecurity. Because he wants to feel useful to the people around him, he can't be happy with himself unless he meets their expectations. In this case, others expect him to have a brain in his head rather than straw, and the Scarecrow is afraid of appearing foolish. This implies that the Scarecrow doubts himself because he seeks validation from others instead of finding contentment within himself.



CHAPTER 5: THE RESCUE OF THE TIN WOODMAN

The next morning, Dorothy hears a groaning nearby as she has breakfast by a stream. Dorothy and the Scarecrow follow the noise to a man made of tin, who seems to be frozen in the middle of chopping down a tree. The Tin Woodman says he's been groaning for more than a year, but only now has someone finally heard him. Moved by his sad voice, Dorothy asks how she can help, and the tin man explains that he needs to be oiled so he can move his joints again. Dorothy quickly finds his oil can in the cottage and uses it to oil all of the Tin Woodman's rusty joints and give him freedom of movement again. He thanks her for saving him and asks her what brings her here.

When Dorothy explains that she and the Scarecrow are on their way to the Wizard of Oz, the Tin Woodman asks if the Wizard could give him a heart. Assuming that this is also within the Wizard's power, Dorothy and the Scarecrow gladly accept the Tin Woodman into their party, and they continue down the yellow brick road together. During the journey through the dark woods, the Tin Woodman explains why he wants a heart so badly. He wasn't always made of tin, and he once loved a Munchkin girl who promised to marry him when he earned enough money to build a house for the two of them. But the girl's mother wanted to keep her daughter in her own house forever to do all the chores for her, so she sought out the Wicked Witch of the East to spoil the union.

Dorothy once again demonstrates her kindness and childlike innocence as she immediately helps the Tin Woodman move again. The Tin Woodman is the second person Dorothy has befriended on her journey, which highlights how easily she connects with others and empathizes with their struggles.



Just like the Scarecrow, the Tin Woodman feels that he lacks something essential—something that would make him a complete person. The two characters clearly parallel each other in their self-doubt. While the Scarecrow doubts he can think, the Tin Woodman doubts he can love another person. Once again, a character allows another person's opinion of them to determine their self-worth.



The Wicked Witch of the East enchanted the woodman's axe so that the blade would slip off the handle. The first time this happened, the blade cut off his left leg, which he soon replaced with a tin leg. The axe continued to slip and cut off more and more of the woodman's body until he was made entirely of tin replacements. The Tin Woodman lost his heart and his feelings for the Munchkin girl in the process. He continued his woodcutting duties and was careful to oil his joints when he needed to. But one day, he forgot to bring his oil can with him, and a heavy rain rusted him and froze him in place. Even after hearing the Tin Woodman's story, the Scarecrow would still rather have a brain than a heart, but the Woodman believes a heart is more important.

The Tin Woodman's story once again reinforces the fairy-tale nature of Oz. Rather than suffering from a random accident, the Woodman lost his limbs due to an evil witch's curse. His innocent love for the Munchkin girl contrasts with the girl's selfish mother and the evil witch she employs. Back in the present, the Tin Woodman continues to doubt his own ability to love, but there's a hole in his story as well. If he's truly heartless, it's puzzling why he still wants a heart so that he can love the Munchkin girl again—surely he would only care about love if he had a heart. Nonetheless, the Scarecrow's belief that a brain is more important than a heart suggests that neither character is likely to change the other's mind about what the other believes they need.



CHAPTER 6: THE COWARDLY LION

As the travelers make their way through a darker and more intimidating stretch of the woods, a Lion suddenly bounds out of the bushes and attacks the Scarecrow and the Tin Woodman. Toto begins barking at the beast, who opens his mouth as if to eat the little dog. Startled and furious, Dorothy rushes forward and slaps the Lion on the nose, berating him for trying to harm such a small and helpless creature. She calls him a coward, and the Lion can't help but agree with her, ashamed of himself. He guesses that he was born that way, and he explains that he's always been easily frightened, despite the other animals instinctively thinking of him as the king of the beasts. Up to this point, he had simply roared at any creature he feared, knowing that this would scare them off.

The novel once more reinforces its theme of self-doubt vs. confidence as Dorothy encounters another character who's wracked with insecurities. The Lion's apparent cowardice is especially apparent in contrast to Dorothy, who bravely attacks a lion to protect Toto. If Dorothy represents invincible self-confidence, her new companions embody the opposite: a strong sense of self-doubt that makes life more difficult.



When Dorothy, the Scarecrow, and the Tin Woodman explain that they're going to see the Wizard of Oz to gain what they desire, the Cowardly Lion asks if he can join them. He hopes that the Wizard can grant him some courage. Dorothy lets him come along, figuring that his presence will keep away the other wild animals in the area. They all set off down the yellow brick road again, quickly becoming friends with the Lion despite his harrowing introduction. At one point, the Tin Woodman accidentally steps on a beetle on the road, killing it. This brings him to tears, as he hates to hurt any creature and assumes he must be more careful than most, as he has no heart. His tears cause his jaws to rust, but Dorothy quickly oils them.

As he can't summon any confidence in himself, the Cowardly Lion believes that he needs a powerful figure to banish his fear and make him into the person he wants to be. Meanwhile, the Tin Woodman shows signs of having the heart he believes he lacks. When he cries over accidentally killing a mere insect, it suggests that he already has a great deal of compassion for other creatures. In the same vein, this strange group of four travelers begins to form and strengthen their friendship as they bond over their shared desires.



CHAPTER 7: THE JOURNEY TO THE GREAT OZ

As the group makes camp in the forest, the Lion offers to kill a deer for Dorothy to eat, as her supplies are running low. The Tin Woodman begs the Lion not to kill a deer, as this would surely make the Tin Woodman cry and rust again, so the Scarecrow gathers some nuts for Dorothy to eat instead. The next day, they come to a wide, deep ditch that seems impossible to cross or to go around. After some thinking, the Lion guesses he can jump across and carry another member of the party on his back one by one. The Scarecrow insists that he should be the first to cross the gorge with the Lion, as the sharp rocks at the bottom pose no threat to his straw-filled body if he falls.

Despite his fear, the Lion successfully carries each member of the group across the ditch by jumping back and forth across it. The forest on the other side of the ditch is even darker and gloomier than before, and the Lion whispers a fearful warning about the local Kalidahs: ferocious beasts with tiger heads and bear bodies. The group soon comes to yet another wide gorge, and this one seems truly impossible to cross, even for the Lion. Eventually, the Scarecrow has an idea: the Tin Woodman should chop down a tree so that they can lay it across the ditch and use it as a bridge. Just as they set this plan in motion and begin to cross the makeshift bridge, Kalidahs emerge behind them in pursuit.

The group hurries desperately across their thin bridge to flee from the Kalidahs. The Lion seems to swallow his fear and roar at the beasts, but they only stop momentarily, for they know that they're bigger than the Lion and have him outnumbered. The Lion tells Dorothy to stand behind him, and he promises to fight the creatures to his last breath. Just then, the Scarecrow gets another idea. He urges the Tin Woodman to quickly chop the end of the tree on their side of the ditch, and the Kalidahs fall with the tree as they try to cross. The Kalidahs are killed by the sharp rocks at the bottom of the ditch, and the relieved group continues on their way. When they come to a broad river blocking their way, the Scarecrow suggests that the Tin Woodman should construct a raft for them to ride across.

During this sequence of events, all three of Dorothy's new friends unwittingly prove that they might already have what they want. The Tin Woodman compassionately asks that an innocent creature be spared, the Scarecrow cleverly finds an alternative source of food for Dorothy, and the Cowardly Lion bravely offers to jump across a dangerous gorge several times. In light of these actions, it might be possible that all three of them simply need self-confidence more than they need brains, a heart, or courage.



Once again, the Scarecrow unknowingly proves that he might have some brains after all as he comes up with a clever plan to cross the ditch. The Lion swallowing his fear as he jumps over the gorge is also a sign of courage that he doesn't seem to notice. During this sequence, the group works together and relies on one another's skills, illustrating how each of them becomes more useful as a team. As their friendship grows stronger, they each grow stronger individually as well.



When faced with a terrifying and life-threatening danger, the Cowardly Lion demonstrates his hidden reserve of bravery more strongly than ever. His newfound friendship with Dorothy inspires him to push past his fear and find the self-confidence to be brave. Similarly, the Scarecrow hatches another clever plan despite not having any brains. The group's willingness to kill the Kalidahs also brings the theme of good vs. evil back into focus. While the Tin Woodman shed tears over accidentally stepping on an innocent beetle earlier in their adventure, he doesn't hesitate to brutally end the lives of evil creatures.



CHAPTER 8: THE DEADLY POPPY FIELD

The travelers slept by the river the previous night, as the Tin Woodman needed time to work on the raft. All of them are cheered to see beautiful and sunny meadows on the other side of the river—a welcome break from the dark forest. They set out on the raft as soon as it's completed, but the rushing river pulls them away from the yellow brick road and towards the west. The long poles they're using as oars no longer seem to touch the bottom of the river, but the Scarecrow is determined not to let them drift off course. He plants his pole so deeply in the bottom of the river that it gets stuck, and he clings desperately to the pole as the raft speeds away from him. The Scarecrow is now trapped in the middle of the rushing water.

The rest of the party is sorry to leave the Scarecrow behind. Eventually, the Lion manages to swim through the rushing river and drag the raft to shore behind him as the Tin Woodman holds onto his tail. When they're safely on land again, they make their way back towards the yellow brick road, walking by the river bank. They eventually reach the part of the river where the Scarecrow remains trapped, clinging to the pole. They wonder how they can possibly save him, and eventually a friendly stork offers to help them. The stork easily carries the Scarecrow to the river bank, as he's full of light straw, and everyone is overjoyed to have him back. The stork wishes the group good luck before departing.

Dorothy admires the colorful flowers all about them in the meadow, but the bright red poppies become more and more common until the group is walking through a massive field of poppies. The scent of this many poppies is enough to make anyone sink into a deep sleep that's difficult to wake from, and it isn't long before Dorothy and Toto collapse on the ground, fast asleep. The Lion struggles to stay awake as he hurries through the field, but eventually he succumbs to slumber as well. The poppies don't affect the Scarecrow or the Tin Woodman, as they aren't made of flesh. They carry Dorothy and Toto out of the poppies, but they sadly admit that the Lion is too heavy to carry and leave him to his fate.

CHAPTER 9: THE QUEEN OF THE FIELD MICE

As the Scarecrow and the Tin Woodman wait for Dorothy to awaken, they spot a ferocious wildcat chasing a mouse through the field. Not wanting such a tiny and helpless creature to be killed, the Tin Woodman raises his axe as the wildcat runs by and chops its head off. The mouse he saved turns out to be the Queen of the Field Mice, who thanks him for saving her life and asks if there's anything she can do to repay him. The Tin Woodman can't think of anything, but the Scarecrow asks the Queen to save their friend, the Cowardly Lion.

It becomes easy for self-doubt and despair to consume the Scarecrow as he accidentally traps himself in the river. As he finds himself alone and stuck on a pole once more, he might assume that this is the only fate that's meant for him.



The group's concern for the Scarecrow reveals how close they've become in so short a time. While the Scarecrow's ideas have been useful on their quest so far, the other three don't just see him as a means to an end. At this point, the Scarecrow isn't only considered a fellow traveler but also a dear friend. When all four of them are reunited, it's clearer than ever that the characters are stronger and better off as a team.



Once again, the group of friends is torn apart by another dangerous obstacle in their path. These ordeals test the strength of their bond, and they always show concern for those they have to leave behind. Just as the others were sorry to abandon the Scarecrow in the river, the Scarecrow and the Tin Woodman hesitate to leave the Lion in the field of poppies. It's clear that their close friendship is mutual at this point, and the group feels weaker and sadder for the loss of one of their companions.



Another example of Oz's clear-cut good vs. evil appears here, as the Tin Woodman kills a wicked creature without hesitation, performs a good deed, and is rewarded accordingly. Meanwhile, the Scarecrow's choice to save the Cowardly Lion reaffirms what close friends they've become. The Scarecrow could have asked for anything he desired from the Queen, and he chose to rescue his friend.



The Scarecrow tells the Queen of the Field Mice to gather all of her subjects, and to tell all of them to bring string. He also orders the Tin Woodman to construct a wooden platform on which to carry the Cowardly Lion out of the poppy field. Dorothy awakens as this plan is being put in motion, and it isn't long before all of the mice join together with their strings and the wooden platform to pull the Lion to safety at last. When the job is done, the Queen of the Field Mice tells the group to call whenever they might need her help again. Dorothy thanks the Queen for saving the Lion before the mice depart, and the group waits for the Lion to awaken.

The Scarecrow's complex plan to save the Lion from the poppy field is another example of his surprising brainpower. While he never seems to notice that he's coming up with clever plans, his friends nonetheless rely on his strategic planning time and time again. Whether he realizes it or not, the Scarecrow might be slowly developing confidence in his own abilities. Ironically, the key to overcoming his self-doubt might be caring for others, rather than staying caught up in himself.



CHAPTER 10: THE GUARDIAN OF THE GATES

The Cowardly Lion comes to consciousness after a while, and his friends explain what happened. The group proceeds onward in high spirits until they find the yellow brick road and follow it once again. They notice that all of the houses and people's clothes are green in this land, and they figure they must be getting close to the Emerald City. They have supper and spend the night at the house of a kind man in green, who's surprised to hear that they want to see the Great Oz. He explains that no one is allowed inside the Wizard's throne room, and that the Wizard never leaves that room. He also mentions that the Wizard can transform into any shape he wishes. The man believes that Oz can grant the group's wishes, but he warns them that gaining an audience with the Wizard may be difficult.

Once again, Oz's color-coded nature reappears, highlighting the themes of home and belonging. It's clear that everyone here belongs in this land of green, just as Dorothy belongs in the gray world of Kansas back home. The man's warning about the Wizard of Oz hints that the group's quest might not be as simple or straightforward as they hope.



The next morning, Dorothy and her companions set off along the yellow brick road again, and it isn't long before they finally reach the Emerald City. The city is surrounded by a high green wall, which is decorated with brilliant emeralds. They pass through the gates and into an antechamber, where they encounter a small green man dressed, of course, in green. The man is shocked when they tell him they wish to see the Wizard of Oz, but he agrees to take them to the Wizard's palace. He gives each of them a pair of **green spectacles** which he locks onto their heads with a small chain, explaining that the brilliance of the Emerald City would blind them otherwise. Apparently, everyone in the Emerald City wears these spectacles at all times.

This area's fixation on green continues, as Dorothy enters a place that seems strange to her but where many other people feel perfectly at home. The green spectacles make the Emerald City seem even stranger, especially as they must be locked onto their heads at all times. This symbolic item immediately associates the Emerald City with sight and perception, implying that not everything might be as it seems here.



CHAPTER 11: THE WONDERFUL EMERALD CITY OF OZ

The short green man leads the group through the magnificent streets of the Emerald City. The group marvels at how beautiful and green everything is, and eventually they reach the palace in the center of the city. A green-clad soldier enters the throne room to speak with the Wizard about Dorothy's request, and he soon returns with good news. He explains that the Wizard has agreed to see Dorothy and her friends, but he'll only speak with one person per day. Therefore, each of them is given a room of their own in the palace, as they'll be expected to stay in the Emerald City for several days. The rooms are luxurious, and Dorothy's room contains new green clothes for her to wear. She puts a green apron on herself and a green ribbon on Toto before going to see the Wizard the next morning.

After Dorothy waits in the hall outside the Wizard's throne room, the signal bell rings, meaning it's finally time for Dorothy to see the Wizard of Oz. She enters the enormous throne room and sees a green marble throne, on which sits a large head with no body—the Wizard himself. In a voice less terrible than Dorothy expected, he asks her where she got her **silver slippers** and the mark on her forehead. After she explains that she killed the Witch of the East and was blessed by the Witch of the North, she tells Oz that she wants to return to Kansas. After some thought, the Wizard only agrees to grant her request after Dorothy has killed the Wicked Witch of the West. To Dorothy's dismay, Oz is very firm on this point, insisting that Dorothy must complete this dangerous task for him.

Dorothy leaves the throne room and sadly breaks the bad news to her friends. She's never killed anything on purpose, and she doubts she could ever kill the Witch of the West. On the following days, the Scarecrow, the Tin Woodman, and the Cowardly Lion each have their own meetings with the Wizard, who takes a different form for each meeting. He takes the form of a beautiful woman for the Scarecrow, a beast for the Tin Woodman, and a ball of fire for the Lion, but his message is always the same. He refuses to grant any of their requests until they've helped Dorothy kill the Witch of the West. Reluctantly, the four of them eventually agree to attempt to kill the Witch, as their wishes will never be granted otherwise. They decide to leave the Emerald City the next morning.

The fantastical sights of the Emerald City build excitement and anticipation for the possibility of Dorothy and her friends finally having their wishes granted. In such a marvelous place, it almost feels as though their troubles are over. Even so, the constant presence of the color green reminds Dorothy (and the reader) that she isn't yet back where she belongs: back on the gray prairies of Kansas. Despite this, the Emerald City still seems full of hope and promise as Dorothy and the others wait for the Wizard of Oz.



Even after meeting new friends and experiencing the wonders of the Emerald City, Dorothy remains adamant in her desire to return home. Her beliefs haven't changed since her previous conversation with the Scarecrow; there's a place where she belongs, and it isn't the Land of Oz. The Wizard's disappointing reply is a reminder that Oz doesn't work like Dorothy's ordinary world. It isn't as simple as going home right away, for the Land of Oz is defined by its conflict between good and evil. This conflict must be resolved before Dorothy's adventure here can come to an end. In the Wizard's view, Dorothy's silver shoes and the mark on her forehead single her out as a special individual who is capable of nearly anything.



The conflict of good vs. evil persists, and none of Dorothy's friends can achieve what they wish to until they defeat the remaining evil of the land. Notably, Dorothy also shows her first significant sign of self-doubt after her discouraging meeting with the Wizard of Oz. While she has confidence in her ability to somehow get back to Kansas, she doubts that she can kill a witch on purpose. This shows that even Dorothy's confidence has its limits and that all four of the traveling companions struggle with self-doubt to some extent. They believed that the Wizard could solve all their problems, but now they must rely on themselves once more.



CHAPTER 12: THE SEARCH FOR THE WICKED WITCH

The small man at the gates of the Emerald City takes the group's **green spectacles** as they leave and tells them that there's no road to the Witch of the West's domain, as no one ever wants to go there. As they set off towards the west, Dorothy notices that the green silk that she and Toto are wearing has somehow become pure white. The companions travel deeper into the west, and the landscape becomes rougher and wilder. As they stop to take a rest, the Wicked Witch of the West spots them from her castle, as her one eye can see through vast distances. Furious at the sight of these uninvited visitors in her domain, she resolves to destroy them.

The Wicked Witch of the West's silver whistle allows her to summon wolves, crows, and bees to do her bidding. She orders these creatures to destroy Dorothy and her friends, but each attempt is thwarted. The Tin Woodman beheads the wolves, the Scarecrow strangles the crows, and the bees die after unsuccessfully stinging Dorothy, Toto, and the Lion, each of whom covered themselves in the Scarecrow's straw. The Witch also sends the Winkies—people she's enslaved—to destroy the travelers, but the Lion scares them away with a fearsome roar. As a last resort, the Witch dons her enchanted Golden Cap, which allows her to command an army of winged monkeys. The cap only lets her command the monkeys three times, and she's already used it twice. She orders the monkeys to destroy everyone except the Lion, as she might have a use for him.

The winged monkeys fly swiftly to Dorothy and her friends and do as they were commanded. They pick up the Tin Woodman and drop him onto sharp rocks from a great height, leaving him battered and immobile. They pull all the straw out of the Scarecrow and throw his clothes into tree branches. They tie up the Cowardly Lion and bring him to the Witch's castle, but they refuse to harm Dorothy because of the shining mark on her forehead. Instead, they gently pick her up and fly her to the Witch's castle, explaining that they wouldn't dare to harm someone protected by the Power of Good. Even the Wicked Witch doesn't dare to hurt Dorothy when she sees the mark, but she decides to enslave Dorothy instead.

Dorothy's suspicious observation about the green spectacles once again hints at possible deception taking place in the Emerald City. It seems to be a place where perception is somehow skewed, and appearances can be deceiving. In contrast, the Wicked Witch of the West is just as evil as her namesake, as she immediately decides to kill the visitors to her country. Unlike the mysterious Emerald City and its enigmatic Wizard, the witches of Oz generally behave along predictable lines of good vs. evil.



The Witch's relentless attempts to kill the four companions continue to place her firmly on the side of evil in Oz's black and white morality system. Likewise, Dorothy's friends don't hesitate to use gruesome violence to fight back against the forces of evil. The usually polite and compassionate nature of the Scarecrow and the Tin Woodman contrasts sharply with the violent beheadings they perform in this sequence. This highlights the fact that pure evil is an extreme that simply isn't tolerated by the "good" characters in the Land of Oz.



This attack represents the lowest point and darkest hour for Dorothy and her friends. As half the group is enslaved and the other half is torn apart, it seems like evil might triumph over goodness, despite the flying monkeys' belief in the Power of Good. Nonetheless, the shining mark that the Witch of the North left on Dorothy's forehead represents the one flicker of hope Dorothy has left, as the good witch's magic protects her from even the most powerful wicked person in Oz. Even so, this is the point of the story when things look bleakest for Dorothy and her companions.



Dorothy begins working for the Wicked Witch of the West, becoming sadder each day, as getting home seems more impossible than ever. The Witch keeps the Lion in a yard and intends to have him pull her chariot, but he refuses to do as she commands. He roars and scares her off whenever she visits him, and the Witch threatens to starve him until he obeys. He continues defying her, as Dorothy secretly brings him food when she can, but both of them live miserably in the Witch's castle. Before long, the Witch grows jealous of Dorothy's **silver slippers**, which Dorothy never takes off, even while sleeping. The Witch knows how to use the slippers' power, but she's too afraid of the dark to steal the slippers while Dorothy sleeps. She also doesn't attempt to steal the slippers while Dorothy bathes, as she's terribly afraid of water.

Eventually, the Witch comes up with a clever plan to steal the **silver slippers**. She leaves a bar of iron in the middle of the kitchen floor and casts a spell to turn it invisible. When Dorothy walks through the kitchen to begin the day's chores, she trips over the invisible object and falls flat on the floor, letting one of the silver slippers fall off. The Witch immediately grabs the slipper and puts it on, mocking Dorothy and promising to steal the other slipper as well someday. Furious, Dorothy calls the Witch a wicked creature and empties a bucket of water over the Witch's head. To Dorothy's surprise, the Wicked Witch of the West begins to melt like brown sugar, screaming and asking Dorothy if she knew her weakness was water. Dorothy admits she had no idea, and the Witch melts away to nothing.

CHAPTER 13: THE RESCUE

After putting the **silver slipper** back on, Dorothy tells the Lion and the Winkies that the Wicked Witch of the West no longer enslaves them. They all rejoice, and the Winkies make the day into a holiday from then on. However, Dorothy and the Lion's happiness is dampened by the absence of their missing friends, and the Winkies agree to rescue the Scarecrow and the Tin Woodman from their fates. Both of them are recovered and repaired, and the four companions are overjoyed to be together again. After a few more happy days in the castle, they resolve to leave for the Emerald City. The Winkies give golden gifts to the travelers, begging the Tin Woodman to stay and rule over them. But the four friends are determined to have their wishes granted at last, and they depart for the Emerald City.

As the Wicked Witch of the West continues to demonstrate her capacity for pure evil, Dorothy and the Lion just barely hold on to what shreds of hope they have left. Even after they're captured and enslaved, they prolong the struggle of good vs. evil as they endure the witch's cruelty. Being in this extreme situation also seems to give the Lion a surprising bit of confidence, whether he realizes it or not. While he calls himself a coward and doubts his courage, he nonetheless stands up to a powerful witch and refuses to surrender to her demands. His concern for Dorothy likely fuels this rebellious attitude, and their friendship is ultimately what keeps them going in these dark days.



For a second time, Dorothy kills a wicked witch through sheer luck. Dorothy's accidental success makes her a perfect contrast to the deliberate cruelty of the Wicked Witch of the West. In true fairy tale fashion, good defeats evil without even meaning any real harm. This might be why the flying monkeys mention that the Power of Good is stronger than the Power of Evil. This victory also seems to make Dorothy question the self-doubt she expressed earlier, as she's somehow managed to kill a witch after all. She didn't believe that she could, but this sudden burst of anger and confidence was the key to victory.



After enduring their darkest hour, the four friends reunite with their dangerous conflict finally resolved. In addition, their temporary but terrible loss of one another seemed to have strengthened their friendship. Just as Dorothy and the Lion's bond helped them endure their enslavement by the wicked witch, seeing one another again emboldens the four reunited friends. Additionally, with the defeat of the Witch of the West, the group has returned the Winkies' home to its proper state of freedom. The Winkies' request to the Tin Woodman suggests that maybe this newly liberated country could be where the Woodman ultimately belongs.



CHAPTER 14: THE WINGED MONKEYS

Despite their high spirits, Dorothy and her friends become discouraged as they lose their way on the journey back to the Emerald City. Eventually, Dorothy remembers that she can still call upon the Queen of the Field Mice for help by blowing the whistle that the Queen gave her. She does so, and the Queen of the Field Mice explains that they're quite a ways off from the Emerald City. However, she points out the Golden Cap that Dorothy is wearing; Dorothy took it from the Witch's castle without knowing what it was. The Queen tells Dorothy how to use the cap's charm to summon the winged monkeys for help. Dorothy thanks the Queen for her advice and uses the charm of the Golden Cap.

The winged monkeys arrive immediately, and they agree to fly Dorothy and her companions directly to the Emerald City. On the way, the King of the monkeys tells Dorothy the history of the winged monkeys, and how they came to be commanded by the wearer of the Golden Cap. The winged monkeys were once free and mischievous creatures, but they came close to being executed after pulling a practical joke on the suitor of a princess long ago. The furious princess agreed not to destroy the monkeys on the condition that they obey three commands of whoever wears the Golden Cap from that moment on. The monkeys finally arrive at the gates of the Emerald City as the King finishes his story.

In this moment of need, Dorothy's ability to easily make friends pays off. While the four companions are mostly friendly with one another, their friendships with the other inhabitants of Oz continue to prove invaluable. Despite her doubts about losing her way, Dorothy also discovers that she had the power to travel back to the Emerald City all along, reinforcing the theme of self-doubt vs. confidence.



The monkey king's story gives more color and lore to the Land of Oz. It confirms that the winged monkeys aren't as wicked as their former ruler but instead were only pawns in the struggle of good vs. evil. Now that Dorothy owns the Golden Cap, the monkeys become tools for the side of good instead. The king's story also adds another interesting dimension to the theme of good vs. evil. The princess in the story was widely considered to be good, yet she threatened to destroy the monkeys over a harmless prank. This conflict complicates the binary of pure good and pure evil.



CHAPTER 15: THE DISCOVERY OF OZ, THE TERRIBLE

The guardian of the gate is shocked and delighted to learn that Dorothy destroyed the Wicked Witch of the West. He gives everyone their spectacles and lets them back into the Emerald City, where crowds gather around them and follow them to the palace. To the friends' disappointment, the Wizard makes no reply to their requests for an audience, even after he's informed that the Wicked Witch is dead. Dorothy and her friends wait several days as they wait for the Great Oz to speak with them again, but they quickly lose their patience. The Scarecrow has word sent to Oz that if he doesn't see them soon, they'll use the winged monkeys against him. Fearfully, the Wizard agrees to hold court with them the following morning. The four of them hardly sleep that night, and Dorothy dreams of Kansas and Aunt Em.

After the distressing distraction of the wicked witch, Dorothy once again has the space to focus on her ultimate goal of getting back home. Through all her trials in Oz, her determination to return to where she belongs has never wavered. The group's harsh experiences in the western country also seem to have given them a much-needed boost of confidence as well. While they were mostly fearful and reverent toward the Wizard before, they now threaten to attack him if he doesn't give in to their demands. All in all, their ordeal with the Witch of the West has made them stronger and even more focused on achieving their goals.



When the four companions finally enter the Wizard's throne room the next day, they're surprised to find it empty and silent. They suddenly hear Oz's voice speaking to them, telling them that he's everywhere, yet invisible to mortals. He pretends to forget the promises he made them, and he asks if the Wicked Witch is truly dead. Dorothy confirms that this is the case, and the Wizard tells them to come back tomorrow, after he's thought about it. The group is outraged, and the Lion tries to scare the Wizard with a ferocious roar. The roar scares Toto, who bumps into a nearby screen, which falls over to reveal a surprised old man. When the Tin Woodman asks who he is, the man answers that he is Oz, the great and terrible.

The man admits that he was only pretending to be a great wizard this whole time, much to the anger and disappointment of Dorothy and her friends. He begs them not to tell anyone that he's not really a wizard, as he's maintained the ruse for many years. He shows them how he used illusions and special effects to conjure the images of the forms they'd seen in the throne room before, and he sheepishly decides to explain himself. He was an entertainer and a balloonist from Omaha who accidentally landed in Oz when an air current carried his hot air balloon far away. The people of Oz thought he was a great wizard after seeing him descend from the sky, and he humored their delusions to amuse himself. He ordered the Emerald City built and established himself as the Wizard of Oz.

The Wizard also explains that the city isn't really greener than any other place; he only makes everyone wear the **green spectacles** to make the "Emerald City" name more fitting. While he's made his people happy for many years, he's always feared the wicked witches who had real magical powers, unlike himself. This is why he wanted Dorothy to kill the Wicked Witch of the West, and now he's ashamed that he can't keep his promise to her. The group still insists that Oz give them what they asked for, and he tries to explain to the Scarecrow, the Tin Woodman, and the Lion that they already have what they seek. They still aren't convinced, so the Wizard agrees to give them what they desire tomorrow.

The four friends once again display their newfound confidence as they confront the Wizard directly. Rather than doubting themselves, they now have reason to doubt that the Wizard of Oz is really who he says he is. The silence of the empty throne room is scarier than any form the Wizard took before, as a powerless Wizard who can't help them is much more frightening than a powerful Wizard who can.



This is the critical turning point of the group's adventure: the deceptions of the Emerald City finally fall away to reveal the disappointing truth. They can no longer rely on a Wizard to solve their problems, as he seems to be nothing but a fraud. Rather than hoping that some external force can make them complete, Dorothy's friends must now face the fact that all they really have is themselves. At this point, it appears that a feeble old man won't be able to banish their self-doubt. Interestingly, the Wizard's backstory also makes him an odd reflection of Dorothy. While both characters fell from the sky, landed in Oz, and were believed to be magicians, the Wizard was the only one who supported the lie that he had magical powers.



The truth about the green spectacles is the perfect representation of the Wizard's character. He doesn't lie out of malice; instead, he gives an added tint of illusion to the world to make his people happier. His good intentions combined with his selfish deceptions make the Wizard a uniquely morally gray character when compared to the other characters in Oz. While the witches are either purely good or purely evil, the Wizard of Oz lies somewhere in the middle. This may be because he comes from the (literally and figuratively) gray country that Dorothy calls home, where good and evil aren't as clearly defined. While the Wizard tries to convince Dorothy's friends that they already embody the qualities they believe they lack, it's clear that they won't stop doubting themselves without further help.



CHAPTER 16: THE MAGIC ART OF THE GREAT HUMBUG

The next day, Oz is true to his word, in his own way. He gives the Scarecrow brains by removing the Scarecrow's head and filling it with bran, pins, and needles along with the straw. He gives the Tin Woodman a silk heart full of sawdust, inserting it into his chest after cutting a hole through the tin and patching it afterwards. And finally, he gives the Lion a green drink and tells him it's courage. All three of them are finally content, fully convinced that they've been given what they desired. When he's alone, the Wizard wonders how he can help being a fraud when everyone expects him to do the impossible. It was easy for him to give Dorothy's friends what they wanted because they believe in him, but he still isn't sure how to help Dorothy get home.

The Wizard's trickery reveals a counterintuitive secret to self-confidence: the placebo effect. While Dorothy's friends were never willing to believe that they already had what they needed—despite ample evidence to the contrary—they became willing to believe in themselves through a bit of harmless self-deception. The Wizard did nothing to them except increase their confidence, though he did it in the only way he knew would convince them. In this way, the Wizard himself is a perfect foil to Dorothy's three friends. The Scarecrow, the Tin Woodman, and the Cowardly Lion already have the merits they believe themselves to lack, and all they really need is confidence and self-esteem. The Wizard, on the other hand, has no real powers; instead, he's managed to become a beloved figure through sheer confidence alone. In the conflict between self-doubt and confidence, the latter ultimately proves to be much more powerful.



CHAPTER 17: HOW THE BALLOON WAS LAUNCHED

While her friends are overjoyed to have gotten their wishes granted, Dorothy forlornly waits to hear back from the Wizard for three days. He finally sends for her on the fourth day, and he explains that the only way to cross the great desert surrounding Oz is to fly over it in a hot air balloon. He explains that he will accompany her, as he's tired of living a false life in Oz and longs to return to the circus in Omaha. The two of them work hard for several days to craft a hot air balloon, and the Wizard spreads the news that he's visiting a brother wizard in the clouds. He makes the wise Scarecrow the ruler of the Emerald City until he returns.

In her time of need, Dorothy once again reaps the benefits of a friendship she's forged in Oz. Across her entire journey, the Wizard is the only other person she's met whom she can truly relate to, as both of them come from the same country and long to return there. This connection gives her hope, even as the Wizard's lack of real power disappoints her. Meanwhile, the Wizard's decision to put the Scarecrow in charge of the Emerald City is another successful attempt to boost the Scarecrow's confidence. Now that the entire city believes in the Scarecrow, he can't help but believe in himself as well.



However, when the day finally comes to take off in the balloon, Dorothy is accidentally left behind. She loses Toto in the chaos of the crowd watching the Wizard depart, and by the time she finds her dog, the balloon has already taken off. The Wizard has no way of bringing the balloon down again, so Dorothy is once again stranded in the Land of Oz. The people of the Emerald City are sorry to see their great wizard leave them, but they're grateful for all he's done for them, and they're eager to obey the Scarecrow in his stead.

Dorothy's frantic attempt to catch Toto in this moment echoes her earlier attempt at the beginning of the novel, as the cyclone approached the farmhouse. Now, a second time, Dorothy's unwavering friendship with Toto inadvertently causes her to be left behind. Just as Dorothy is once again ripped away from the possibility of returning home, the people of the Emerald City lament the loss of a central piece of their own home. The Wizard is the person who made the Emerald City what it is, and it might not be the same without him.



CHAPTER 18: AWAY TO THE SOUTH

Dorothy is heartbroken to have missed her chance to make it home again, and the next morning, the four friends discuss what can be done. The Scarecrow, the Tin Woodman, and the Lion are each satisfied with their lot, but they still care for Dorothy and want to see her happy. The Scarecrow wonders if Dorothy can ask the winged monkeys to fly her over the desert, but upon summoning them a second time, Dorothy learns from the Monkey King that the monkeys cannot leave Oz nor cross the desert. The Scarecrow then asks the green-clad soldier how Dorothy might cross the desert. The soldier is unsure, but figures that Glinda, the Good Witch of the South, might know. He mentions that the journey to the south is treacherous, but that Glinda is sure to be helpful. All three of Dorothy's friends resolve to travel to the south with her.

Even after countless disappointments and setbacks, Dorothy still refuses to entertain the idea that she might never return home. Her motivations have remained constant throughout her adventure, and in this moment, all her close friends support her determination. While Dorothy's friends have finally achieved what they've always wanted, they still aren't happy unless Dorothy is happy. This speaks to the strength of their friendship, which has grown and flourished during their long and harrowing journey together. One last time, the four characters unite to become something greater than the sum of their parts. Dorothy's friendship with Toto might have caused her to miss the balloon launch, but now her friendship with the Scarecrow, Tin Woodman, and Cowardly Lion holds more promise than ever.



CHAPTER 19: ATTACKED BY THE FIGHTING TREES

After the four companions say their goodbyes to the people of the Emerald City and begin their journey, they look back at the city and reflect on all that's happened. The Scarecrow must return soon to rule the Emerald City with his wise new brains, and the Tin Woodman and the Lion have also gotten their wishes granted, so they can't help but think fondly of the Wizard. Even Dorothy forgives him, thinking of him as a bad wizard but a good man. The group sets off in high spirits, believing more strongly than ever that they can get Dorothy home to Kansas at last. After a brief scuffle with some angry trees, the party trudges through a deep wood until they come upon a strange, high wall made of white china. The Tin Woodman decides to build a ladder to help them over it.

Dorothy's final reflections on the Wizard of Oz highlight his unusual moral complexity one last time. She ultimately decides that he's more good than bad, though her silence on the matter reveals her lingering uncertainty. In a land that has an absolutist notion of good vs. evil, the Wizard was a unique figure in that he wasn't fully good or fully evil. Just like the people of the Emerald City, Dorothy thinks fondly of the Wizard and considers him a friend despite his deceptions. Ironically, the showman from Omaha might have been the strangest friend Dorothy made while in this land of bizarre creatures.



CHAPTER 20: THE DAINTY CHINA COUNTRY

After mounting the wall, the friends behold a strange sight: the wall surrounds an entire country made of china. All of the buildings, people, and animals of the country are tiny and made of china, and the four travelers resolve to be careful as they move southwards through this fragile place. They frighten a china cow, who breaks its leg and upsets the china milkmaid, who mentions that she'll have to take the cow to the mender's shop to get its leg glued back on. The Tin Woodman reminds his companions to be especially careful, as he would hate to harm any of these little people.

The Tin Woodman's behavior in the china country is identical to his behavior before the Wizard gave him a sawdust heart. Just as he would try to avoid stepping on innocent beetles, he now walks carefully among these small, fragile people. It's clear that the only real change that's affected the Tin Woodman is his increased level of confidence and his belief that he's capable of love and sensitivity. The existence of a tiny china country reiterates the idea that everyone has somewhere they belong, no matter how unusual they might be.



Dorothy begins following a beautiful china princess. The princess insists on not being chased, as she might fall and crack, and no one is nearly as beautiful once they've broken and been mended. Dorothy asks the china princess if she'd like to come home with her and sit on Aunt Em's mantelpiece, but the princess explains that china people are happiest in their own country, where they don't have to stand still all day. After an hour of travel, the four friends reach the end of the china country and climb over the southern wall. The Lion accidentally breaks a china church on his way up the wall, and the travelers reflect on how brittle these tiny people are. The Scarecrow considers that there are much worse things to be than a scarecrow.

This conversation with the china princess further examines the concepts of home and belonging. Not only do the people made of china belong in their own tiny country, but they even lose their own identity and mobility when they leave home, becoming lifeless statues. In this way, the china people mirror Dorothy's pressing need to get home. Just as Aunt Em's mantel might be a pleasant place where the china people would nonetheless be unhappy, Dorothy cannot stay in Oz if she belongs in Kansas. If the china people lose the ability to move when they leave their country, it might only be a matter of time before Dorothy loses herself if she doesn't return to the place where she's meant to be.



CHAPTER 21: THE LION BECOMES THE KING OF THE BEASTS

On the other side of the china wall, the party finds themselves in a swampy and gloomy-looking country. Most of them find the area unpleasant, but the Lion feels perfectly at home. He considers this to be an excellent place for a wild beast like himself to live. The group soon comes upon an enormous gathering of many different types of animals, who bow to the Lion in respect when they see him. They explain that a giant spider has been terrorizing these woods lately, and that if the Lion could slay the creature, they would make him their king. The courageous Lion agrees without a second thought, and he mauls and beheads the monstrous spider with ease. He promises to return and rule as the King of the Beasts after he's helped Dorothy reach Kansas.

The Lion completes his character arc not when he kills the giant spider but when he bravely agrees to kill it. This level of courage was always present within him, but it was hidden by self-doubt until the Wizard tricked him into having confidence. Now that he believes himself to be courageous, the Lion faces frightening dangers with ease, having completely changed his outlook without really changing at all. His conversation with the Scarecrow and his agreement to become King of the Beasts are sure signs that he's found a place where he truly belongs. The Lion finding a proper home contributes to the hopeful sense that maybe Dorothy will soon find her own way home.



CHAPTER 22: THE COUNTRY OF THE QUADLINGS

Shortly after finding their way out of the forest, the travelers encounter a steep hill covered with large rocks. As they begin to climb it, they're interrupted by strange and unpleasant creatures with no arms, flat heads, and wrinkly necks. They forbid the party from passing over their hill, and when the Scarecrow tries to cross them anyway, the creatures' necks rapidly extend and their heads knock the Scarecrow back down the hill again. Try as they might, the party cannot get past the Hammerheads until Dorothy calls the winged monkeys one more time and orders them to carry the group high over the hill. With this last trial behind them, Dorothy and her friends have finally reached the southern Country of the Quadlings, which is pleasant and decorated in red. The group is permitted an audience with Glinda as soon as they arrive at her castle.

The Hammerheads represent one final obstacle that Dorothy and her friends must overcome to complete their adventure. While the Scarecrow, the Tin Woodman, and the Lion have been the most frequent problem-solvers throughout the novel, Dorothy is the one who resolves this final challenge. Now that they're safe in the Country of the Quadlings, getting Dorothy home seems more likely than ever. The consistent red colors of this country are one more reminder that everyone belongs somewhere. At long last, Dorothy might finally be going back to the gray country where she belongs.



CHAPTER 23: GLINDA GRANTS DOROTHY'S WISH

After making themselves presentable, Dorothy and her friends approach Glinda the Good Witch in her ruby-colored throne room. Glinda asks what brings them here, and Dorothy recounts her entire story to the Good Witch, explaining that she wants to go home to Kansas more than anything. Glinda agrees to help Dorothy in exchange for the Golden Cap, which Dorothy happily surrenders, having used all three of its commands anyway. Glinda then asks Dorothy's companions what they will do once Dorothy is back in Kansas. The Scarecrow will go back to live in the Emerald City and rule there, the Tin Woodman will rule over the Winkies who treated him so kindly, and the Lion will rule in the forest as the King of the Beasts.

Glinda promises to use the Golden Cap's three commands to have the winged monkeys carry Dorothy's three friends to where they wish to go. Then she'll give the Golden Cap to the King of the Monkeys so that his people can be free forever. As for Dorothy herself, Glinda explains that the **silver slippers** can magically transport Dorothy to wherever she wishes to go, if she only clicks her heels together and tells them where to take her. Dorothy could have used the slippers to go home the whole time, but her companions point out that they might have never found their brains, heart, or courage without her help. She admits she's glad she helped her friends find their happiness, but now that all is said and done, she's finally ready to return to Kansas.

Dorothy and her friends share a tearful goodbye before she clicks her heels together and orders the **slippers** to take her home to Aunt Em. She takes three steps, and to her delight, she finds herself back on the Kansas prairie, right in front of Aunt Em and Uncle Henry's new farmhouse. As Toto runs ahead, barking madly, Dorothy notices that she isn't wearing the silver slippers anymore. They must have slipped off as she was whisked away from Oz, and now they're lost in the great desert forever.

It quickly becomes evident that Dorothy isn't the only one who'll be returning to where she belongs. The Scarecrow, the Tin Woodman, and the Lion have homes of their own now, and life will continue after their adventure has ended. In the end, their journey with Dorothy has showed all three of them where they belong. Dorothy was the only member of the group whose wish was to go home, but with the good witch's help, it seems possible that all four of them will return to a place that welcomes them.



Ultimately, Dorothy's silver shoes make her more similar to her friends than she realized. She was always more confident and self-assured than her three companions, but she also had unrealized potential the entire time. Just as the Scarecrow always had brains, the Tin Woodman always had a heart, and the Lion always had courage, Dorothy always had a means of returning home to Kansas. Where her friends lacked confidence, she only lacked self-knowledge. However, she knows that her adventure wasn't pointless, as she reflects on how she helped her friends out of their misery. By not recognizing her own potential, Dorothy accidentally allowed her friends to discover theirs.



Dorothy's sad parting marks the end of the group's adventure and the end of their time together. The sorrow of their goodbyes highlights the strength of their friendship, but it also reveals just how determined Dorothy is to return home. Even her deep love for her friends can't keep her away from the place where she belongs. In this moment, her strong desire to return to Kansas outweighs her sadness.



CHAPTER 24: HOME AGAIN

Aunt Em comes out of the farmhouse to water the cabbages when she's suddenly surprised and overjoyed to see Dorothy running towards her. She embraces Dorothy and showers her with kisses, asking where in the world she's been. Dorothy explains very seriously that she and Toto have been in the Land of Oz, and that she's so happy to be home again at last.

As she magically arrives back home at last, Dorothy knows that leaving her dear friends behind—while painful—was the right thing to do. At the novel's conclusion, Dorothy joyfully goes back to where she truly belongs. As a character, Dorothy hasn't fundamentally changed. She wanted to go back to Kansas during her entire adventure in Oz, and now she's gotten her wish. But while Dorothy hasn't changed, she's certainly changed the people around her for the better. Her friends in Oz now have the confidence to live happy lives, the Wizard has given up his life of trickery, and the formerly gloomy Aunt Em is ecstatic to see her child again. For more than one character, the end of the novel is a homecoming, and there's no place like home.





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