

CHILDREN'S GUIDE TO THE THEATRE

THE WIZARD OF OZ



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THIS GUIDE BELONGS TO:



CYCLONE a storm with huge, swirling winds

WOODSMAN a worker who cuts down trees to be turned into firewood

COURAGE the ability to do something scary or frightening

QUEST a long search for something

The Story

Dorothy Gale lives with her Auntie Em and Uncle Henry on a farm in Kansas. She just had a run-in with a cranky, old neighbor named Miss Gulch. Dorothy's dog, Toto, ran through Miss Gulch's garden and bit her on the leg. Miss Gulch wants to take Toto away from Dorothy, so Dorothy decides to run away from home.

Dorothy meets Professor Marvel, a traveling fortune teller, who convinces her to return home to her Aunt and Uncle. Once Dorothy arrives back home, her house is lifted in the air by a **cyclone**. The cyclone drops Dorothy's house in a faraway land called Oz. She is greeted by Glinda the Good Witch who tells her that the house has fallen on top of the Wicked Witch of the East. Little people called Munchkins celebrate Dorothy for setting them free from the Wicked Witch's evil spell.

Suddenly, the Wicked Witch of the West appears to claim her sister's magical ruby red slippers. Glinda the Good Witch gives the magical shoes to Dorothy and tells her they will protect her. Glinda then tells Dorothy that if she wants to return home to Kansas, she must follow the yellow brick road to meet the Wizard of Oz. His powers will help Dorothy return home.

Dorothy follows the yellow brick road and meets a Scarecrow without any brains, a Tin **Woodsman** without a heart, and a Lion without any **courage**. All three characters join Dorothy on her **quest** to see the Wizard of Oz.

The Wicked Witch of the West makes a magical field of poppies to put Dorothy to sleep, but Glinda wakes Dorothy up with a snowstorm. Once Dorothy and her friends meet the Wizard of Oz in the Emerald City, he tells them he will grant their wishes if they bring him the broomstick of the Wicked Witch of the West.

On their way to the Witch's castle, Dorothy and her friends are attacked by the Jitterbug, which makes them dance wildly, and then by flying monkeys, who bring Dorothy to the Witch. The Scarecrow, Tin Woodsman, and Lion try to rescue Dorothy, but the Witch catches them. Dorothy throws a bucket of water on the Witch and melts her.

The friends bring the Witch's broomstick back to the Wizard and discover he is not really a Wizard at all. He offers to bring Dorothy back to Kansas in a hot-air balloon, but when the balloon fails, Glinda teaches Dorothy how to use her ruby red slippers to return home to Kansas.

Help Dorothy find all of the words from the box below!

- Dorothy
- Toto
- Scarecrow
- Lion
- Glinda
- Miss Gulch
- Auntie Em
- Munchkin



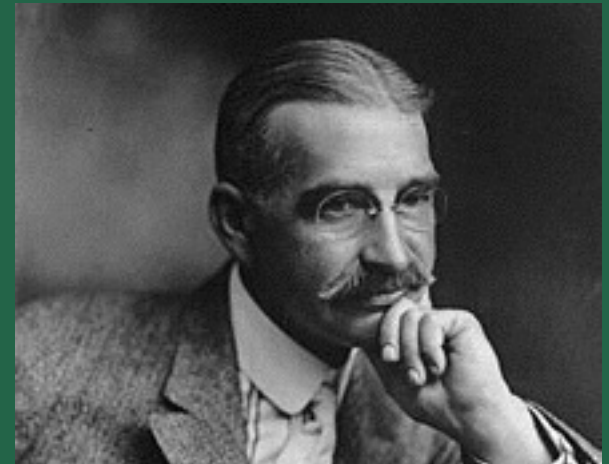
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E	J	X	E	C	L	N	D	V	E	Z	M	R	K	M
Q	J	B	Q	E	C	L	T	B	T	C	T	O	T	U
D	O	R	O	T	H	Y	K	I	N	I	R	W	J	N
I	J	T	P	L	D	M	K	A	E	H	D	O	X	C
Z	S	T	O	T	O	M	Z	D	S	E	C	P	W	H
M	I	A	X	P	I	B	U	R	X	K	M	S	H	K
I	S	R	F	E	U	Z	R	G	R	V	G	B	M	I
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The History

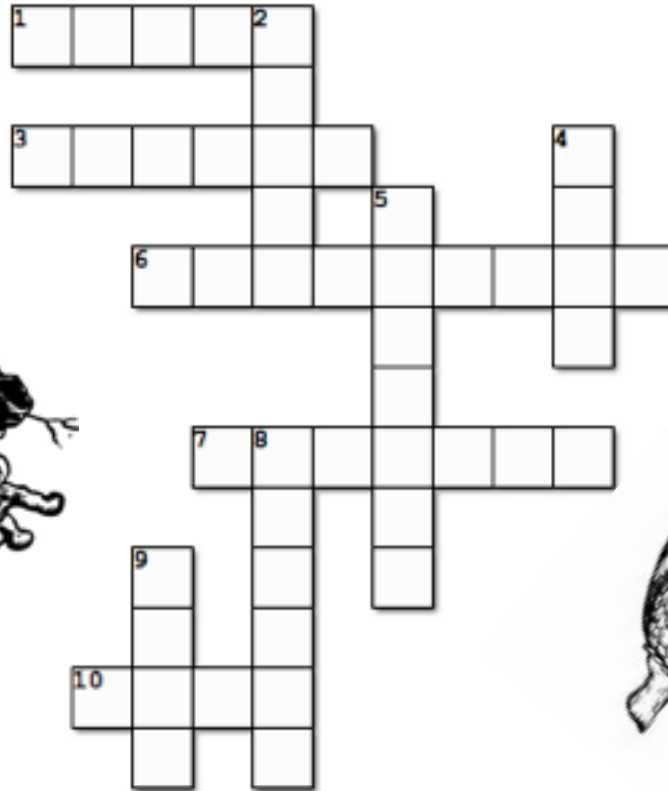
- In 1900, Lyman Frank Baum, or L. Frank Baum, published the children's book *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, illustrated by W.W. Denslow.
- In 1903, the book was **adapted** into a popular musical show for the **Vaudeville** stage featuring many of the characters from the book along with a talking cow named Imogene.
- In 1939, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer turned *The Wizard of Oz* into a major musical movie in order to compete with Walt Disney's very successful movie, *Snow White and the Seven Dwarves*. *The Wizard of Oz* was one of two 1939 MGM movies that was made in full color. Before that, most movies were only seen in black and white. To take full advantage of the technology, MGM turned the magical silver shoes from the book into ruby red slippers and made the Wicked Witch of the West bright green.
- In 1942, the Municipal Theatre of St. Louis created a stage production of *The Wizard of Oz* using songs from the movie. They performed this show for many years. In this version, Dorothy and the Wizard attempt to return to Kansas in a spaceship.
- In 1987, the Royal Shakespeare Company in England created a stage production more faithful to the movie. Imelda Staunton (an actress who plays the mean teacher, Professor Umbridge, in Harry Potter) played Dorothy. The Family Performing Arts Center's production is based on this interpretation of the story.

ADAPTED to make something right for a new use or purpose

VAUDEVILLE a popular form of entertainment that mixed music, dance, comedy, and special acts



Use the clues to help the Scarecrow finish the puzzle!



Across

- 1. Dorothy's mean neighbor is named Miss _____
- 3. Dorothy comes from this state
- 6. This type of bug makes Dorothy and her friends dance
- 7. Dorothy's house is carried away by this type of storm
- 10. Dorothy's dog's name

Down

- 2. The Tinman wants the Wizard to give him this
- 4. The Wonderful Wizard of Oz was written by L. Frank _____
- 5. The Wonderful Wizard of Oz was illustrated by W.W. _____
- 8. Glinda tells Dorothy to follow the _____ brick road
- 9. This character has no courage

FOCUS ON DESIGN:

The Costumes

The Costume Designer works with the director to decide what each character will look like. Mary Hurd, the costume designer for *The Wizard of Oz*, looked at historical pictures of what children would wear on Kansas farms to design Dorothy's costume.



The Wardrobe Crew makes sure all of the costumes are taken care of. They also help the actors by making sure their costumes and makeup are ready to be worn when they are needed. In *The Wizard of Oz* the wardrobe crew has to work quickly to help the actors play many different characters. At one part of the show, they need to make sure 10 actors change into their red poppy costumes very quickly.



DID YOU KNOW?
The costumes for the movie *The Wizard of Oz* were designed by a famous man named Adrian. Dorothy's ruby red slippers had over 5 thousand sequins sewn onto them. Today, one pair of the shoes from the movie can be seen at the Smithsonian Museum of American History in Washington, D.C. They are thought to be worth 2 million dollars.

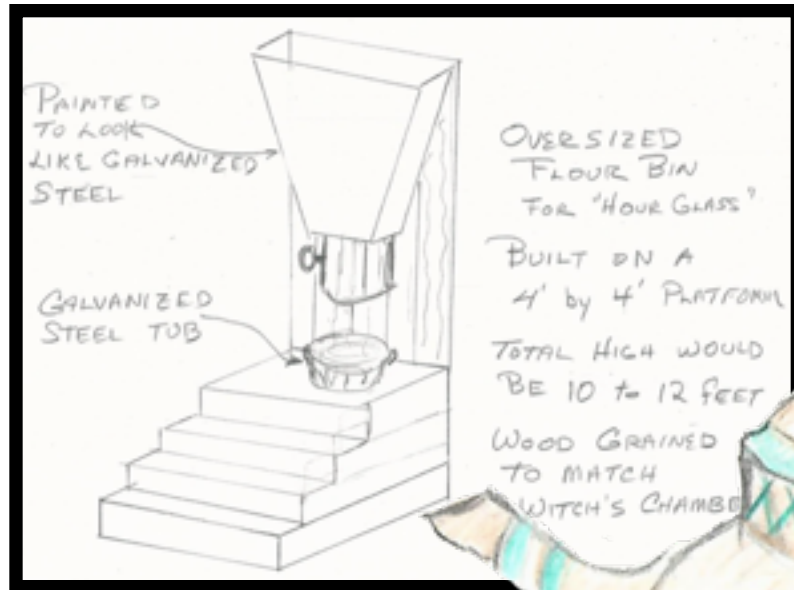
Costume Renderings are the drawings the designer makes so that everyone can see what the finished costumes will look like. The renderings are shown to the director and the other designers. At the first rehearsal, the actors get to see what their costumes will look like. This helps them know how their character may act. What can you tell about the farmhand characters based on Mary's rendering?

CHECK THE PROGRAM

There are over 100 different costumes in this production of *The Wizard of Oz*. How many people are dressers for this production? What are their names?

Renderings by Mary Hurd

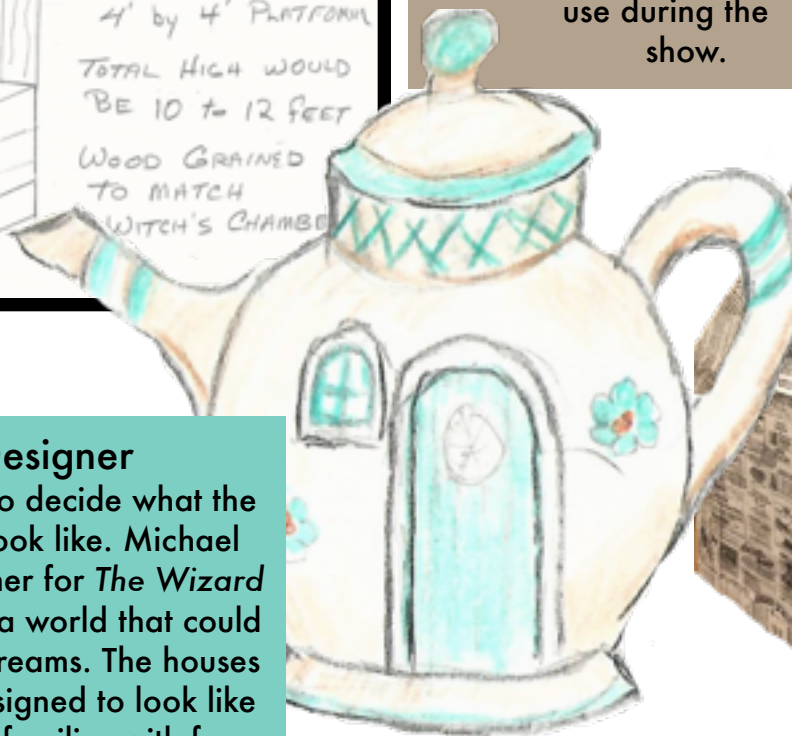
FOCUS ON DESIGN: The Sets & Props



Props
(short for 'properties') are anything the actors hold in their hands or use during the show.

The Props Designer builds or finds all of the properties used during the show. For *The Wizard of Oz*, props designer, Sara Kenney, had to create many special pieces like the miniature house made of newspapers pictured below. See if you can spot some of her other creations in the production:

- a picnic basket
- a crystal ball
- a flying cow
- a pair of fake legs
- a rubber duck
- a box of cornflakes
 - an axe
 - black rubber gloves



FUNKY WORK

Not only does the props designer have to build pieces, sometimes their work gets a little strange. Sara had to take Miss Gulch's old-fashioned bicycle to a specialty bike repair shop to have new tires put on.

The Scenic Designer

works with the director to decide what the world of the play will look like. Michael Duarte, the scenic designer for *The Wizard of Oz*, drew sketches of a world that could only exist in Dorothy's dreams. The houses in Munchkinland are designed to look like objects Dorothy may be familiar with from her Kansas farm. The Witch's hourglass is based on an old-fashioned flour mill.

Renderings by Michael Duarte
Photograph by Sara Kenney

The DOs and DON'Ts of the Theatre

- Do laugh when the performance is funny.
- Do applaud when the performance is over. Applause is how you say "Thank you" to the performer. The actors will bow as you applaud. That is how they say "Thank you for coming."
- Do stand and applaud if you thought the show was outstanding.
- Remember that the Overture (introductory music) in musical theatre is part of the performance, so remain silent when the show begins.

- Don't forget to turn off your cell phone. A ringing or buzzing phone can be very distracting. It can also be embarrassing for you if it is your phone that is disrupting the show!
- Don't text during the performance.
- Make sure to visit the restroom before the production begins.
- Don't speak or whisper during the performance. It can disturb those around you!
- Do not take pictures during the performance. It can be very distracting to the actors and it can result in an accident.
- Do not put your feet up on the seats, or kick the seat in front of you.

adapted from *How to be an Awesome Audience Member*, prepared by Katherine Griswold for the Goodspeed Opera House, 2010

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