

## **Wizard of Oz Curriculum Guide**

Thank you for attending our show! This curriculum guide for Vital Theatre's company production of *The Wizard of Oz* is designed to extend our work into your classroom community. Our curriculum guide is designed for grades K-4.

Produced by Vital Theatre Company  
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New York, NY 10024  
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By: L. Frank Baum  
Music and lyrics by: Harold Arlen & E.Y. Harburg  
Background music by: Herbert Stothart  
Dance and vocal arrangements by: Larry Wilcox  
Adapted by: John Kane for the Royal Shakespeare Company  
Based upon the Classic Motion Picture owned by Turner Entertainment Co.  
And distributed in all media by Warner Bros.  
Adaptation and support materials for the Young Performers' Edition developed by  
iTheatrics under the supervision of Timothy Allen McDonald

### **Description**

This classic tale, in which a Kansas farm girl travels over the rainbow to discover the magical power of home, has been entertaining audiences for generations. Michael Schloeg's one hour adaptation of the classic tale features Munchkin puppets and is tailored for audiences 2-7 years old. Rediscover the joy of following the yellow brick road with Dorothy, Scarecrow, Tinman, and Cowardly Lion as they travel through a re-imagined world of Oz.

### **Review and Recall**

1. What was your favorite part of the story? Why?
2. Who was your favorite character? Why?
3. What will you remember the most a week from now?
4. Why was Dorothy upset?
5. Is the Wizard of Oz a good guy or a bad guy? Why?
6. What problem did Dorothy have to solve? How was her problem solved?

### **Learning**

1. Lots of different words were used when Dorothy went over the rainbow. Did you learn any words to add to your vocabulary? List three.
2. How was the play different from the book? How was it the same? (Compare and contrast between the book and play.)
3. If you could turn any book into a musical, what would it be? Why?

### **Reflection**

1. If you were Dorothy what would you do to get back home?
2. Do you think it is okay for Dorothy to feel upset?
3. What did Dorothy learn about home when she was in Oz?
4. How did Scarecrow, Lion, and Tinman help Dorothy?
5. What did the other characters learn from Dorothy?

### **Vocabulary Words**

When we begin to discuss the musical or the book, we must first learn some vocabulary to go along with our discussions. Try to use the vocabulary when you speak. Here are some words that can help.

Courage- the ability to face fear or danger; bravery

Twister- a tornado or cyclone; whirlwind

Muddled- to think or act in a confused way

Munchkin- The little people who live in Oz

Miracle- an extremely outstanding or unusual event thing or accomplishment

Satisfy- to give what is wanted or needed

Goblins- an evil or mischievous spirit

Accident- a chance and usually sudden event bringing loss or injury

Rubbish- nonsense

Ruby Slippers- the magical slippers that help get Dorothy home

Oz- a magical land over the rainbow

Wizard- a person who is believed to have magic powers

Yellow Brick Road- the road that leads to the Emerald City

Emerald City- the magical land where the Wizard of Oz lives

Echo- the repeating of a sound caused by reflection of sound waves

Ashamed- suffering from or expressive of a feeling of responsibility for wrongdoing

Diploma- a certificate issued to a student by a school

Galvanized- to coat with zinc to prevent rust

## **Animals**

Dorothy encounters a lot of different animals in *The Wizard of Oz*. What are these animals like in real life? Here are some fun facts about the animals featured in the book and musical:

*Lions*- Dorothy meets the Cowardly Lion on her journey to meet the Wizard. Lions are the second largest big cat species in the world, second to tigers. The roar of a lion can be heard from 5 miles away. Most lions found in the wild live in southern and eastern parts of Africa. Lions in the wild, lions rest for around 20 hours a day.

*Crows*- Scarecrow's job is to keep the crows out of the gardens. Crows have the biggest brain to body ratio of all bird species. That means crows are pretty smart birds; their brains are even similar to the human brain. Crows are very social birds and can even bond with humans. They are migratory birds and they gather in large flocks to migrate during autumn and winter seasons. Crows have a very complex form of language and their distinctive 'cawing' has different meanings at different times. They have also been known to mimic sounds of other animals and can associate different commotions to different events.

*Dogs*- Dorothy's dog, Toto, travels to Oz with her. Toto is a Cairn Terrier. Cairn Terrier's are tiny dogs weighing only up to 13-14 pounds at most. They are also fearless and assertive dogs. Historically, farmers used the Cairn Terrier to rid their property of vermin. Cairn Terrier's have courage, tenacity, and intelligence, which makes them a great breed for pets!

*Monkeys*- Dorothy encounters, Nikko, the flying monkey, while in Oz. Monkeys are primates who live in groups and have families. Primates are more like humans than any other animals! They use screeches, howls, and screams to communicate with one another. Monkeys mostly eat plants and fruit, and sometimes bugs!

*Tigers*- Dorothy and the Tinman are afraid of meeting wild animals, like tigers, on their way to meet the Wizard. Tigers are the biggest species of the cat family. Many subspecies of the tiger are either endangered or already extinct. Humans are the primary cause of this through hunting and the destruction of habitats. Tigers are very good swimmers and they usually hunt alone at night. Tigers are fast runners and can reach speeds of up to 40 miles per hour!

*Bears*- Dorothy and the Tinman are afraid of meeting wild animals, like bears, on their way to meet the Wizard. Bears are large and very strong omnivores, which means they eat both meat and plants. Bears hibernate during the winter- that means they take a very long nap! Bears have great senses because it's important for their survival. They are excellent at smelling, seeing, and hearing.

*Sheep*- The Tinman tells the Cowardly Lion that he should count sheep to sleep, but the Lion is scared of them! Sheep were one of the first animals to be domesticated by humans. They live in the mountains or grasslands and they eat grass and plants. Sheep have very poor eyesight, but they are great at hearing. Sheep are timid and nervous by nature, which is why they flock together.

## Science

### *Anatomy*-

Anatomy is a fancy scientific word for parts of the body. The Tinman needs a heart and the scarecrow needs a brain. Have students draw around themselves on craft paper and add cut-out or drawn hearts, brains, and other internal organs appropriate to your grade level.

Build a life-size scarecrow and label the skeletal systems and the bones of the body!

### *Weather*-

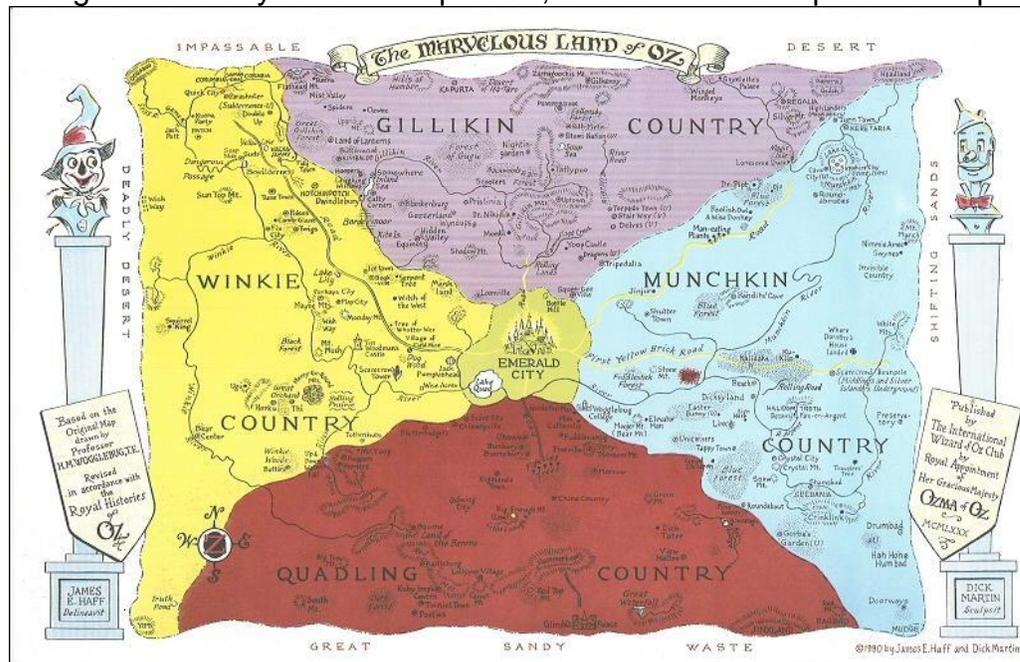
Make a tornado! Take two 2-liter soda bottles; fill one with water and some food coloring, and connect the two bottles with duct tape. One bottle will be upside down, the other right side. Move the water filled bottle to the top, give the bottles, a twist, and a vortex will flow into the lower bottle.

## Social Studies

### *Maps*-

Learn more about Kansas, where Dorothy is from.

Design and color your own map of Oz, or use this one to practice map reading!



## **Culture & History**

*The Wizard of Oz* has been translated into over 60 languages! Find all of the countries where those languages are spoken. What was it like in that country during 1900, the year in which *The Wizard of Oz* was published? How have things changed since then?

Dorothy is an immigrant of Oz. What is an immigrant? Can you name two or three famous immigrants and compare and contrast their experiences with Dorothy's?

## **Crafts & Activities**

Please NOTE: The following activities are designed for teachers and children to do together. Supervision of children with materials such as glue, scissors, etc. is strongly recommended.

### *Character Portraits*

Use this activity to use art as to explore the characters in *The Wizard of Oz*. The show is full of colorful and imaginative characters. Have each student choose a character to analyze. Then sketch or paint a portrait of their chosen characters as they imagine them.

Materials:

- Construction Paper
- Kids scissors
- Markers/paint/crayons

### *Yellow Brick Road in Your Classroom-*

Use yellow construction paper to build your own yellow brick road in your classroom.

Materials:

- Construction Paper
- Kids scissors
- Glue/Tape

1. Cut out bricks and piece them together, creating a road to different areas of your classroom!

### *Over the Rainbow Paper Bags*

Materials:

- Brown lunch bags
- Markers
- Construction Paper

1. Paint/draw a rainbow and clouds on your paper bag
2. Write out things you would hope to find over the rainbow and fill your bag with them!

**We want to hear from you!  
Write to us and send us your reviews.**

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