

Name \_\_\_\_\_



## Hidden Strength

Dorothy and her friends—the Scarecrow, the Tin Woodman, and the Cowardly Lion—set out on a journey to see the great Wizard of Oz, each believing they were missing something important. Dorothy wanted to go home, the Scarecrow wished for a brain, the Tin Woodman longed for a heart, and the Cowardly Lion hoped for courage. They believed the Wizard was the only one who could help them, but their

adventure taught them a different lesson.

The Scarecrow always thought he wasn't smart because he was made of straw. Yet, time and time again, he came up with clever ideas to help the group. He figured out how to cross a deep river, helped escape dangerous situations, and even outwitted the Wicked Witch's guards. In the end, the Wizard gave him a diploma, but the truth was, he had been intelligent all along—he just needed to believe in himself.

The Tin Woodman thought he had no heart and worried he couldn't feel love. However, he was the most caring and emotional of them all. He cried when he accidentally stepped on a bug, showed kindness to his friends, and always helped those in need. The Wizard gave him a heart-shaped clock, but he didn't need it to prove his kindness—he had a heart inside him the whole time.

The Cowardly Lion believed he was not brave because he felt fear. But being brave doesn't mean never being afraid—it means facing fears and doing what is right. The Lion defended his friends, fought off fierce creatures, and stood up to danger even when he was scared. The Wizard gave him a medal, but his true courage had been inside him all along.

Dorothy, too, thought she needed someone else's help to return home. But in the end, Glinda, the Good Witch, told her she had always had the power to go back. She just had to believe in herself.

Through their journey, Dorothy and her friends learned an important lesson: they already had everything they needed inside them. They just had to have confidence in themselves to see it.