

Name _____



A New Kind of Fairy Tale

Traditional fairy tales often follow the same patterns—there is a helpless princess, a brave prince, a magical kingdom, and an evil villain. But *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* challenges many of these fairy tale tropes and creates a unique adventure with a strong, independent heroine, unusual heroes, and a surprising twist on magic.

Unlike classic fairy tales where a prince or knight saves the day, Dorothy is the one who leads the adventure. She does not wait for someone else to rescue her—she takes control of her own journey. When her house lands in Oz, she sets out on a quest to find the Wizard, believing he will help her return home. Along the way, she shows courage, kindness, and leadership, proving that heroes do not always have to be warriors.

Another way *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* is different from traditional fairy tales is the characters who help Dorothy. Instead of noble knights or powerful wizards, Dorothy is joined by a Scarecrow who thinks he lacks a brain, a Tin Woodman who believes he has no heart, and a Cowardly Lion who feels he has no courage. These characters seem weak at first, but they turn out to be just as brave and clever as any fairy tale hero. They show that strength comes in many forms and that even those who doubt themselves can accomplish great things.

The story also challenges the idea of powerful magic solving all problems. In many fairy tales, a wizard or fairy godmother grants wishes or casts spells to fix everything. But in Oz, the great and powerful Wizard is not magical at all—he is just a regular man using tricks to seem impressive. Dorothy learns that she does not need magic to succeed; she has the power to solve her own problems. Even the silver shoes, which eventually take her home, only work because she believes in herself.

Through these changes, *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* creates a new kind of fairy tale—one where the hero is an ordinary girl, the companions are not typical warriors, and magic is not the answer to everything. The story teaches that bravery, intelligence, and kindness are what truly make someone a hero.