

Name _____



A Story for All Time

Since it was first published in 1900, *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* has remained one of the most beloved and influential stories in literature. Its timeless themes, memorable characters, and powerful lessons continue to inspire readers of all ages. But why has this story lasted for so long?

One reason is that Dorothy's journey is a story that anyone can relate to. She is an ordinary girl who suddenly finds herself in a

strange and magical world. Like many people, she faces challenges that test her bravery, intelligence, and kindness. Her adventure teaches an important lesson: no matter where we go, the strength we need is already inside us. This theme of self-discovery makes the story meaningful to every generation.

The characters in *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* also make it unforgettable. Dorothy's friends—the Scarecrow, the Tin Woodman, and the Cowardly Lion—each believe they are missing something important. But by the end of the story, they realize they had those qualities all along. These characters remind readers that we often underestimate our own abilities. The story also introduces famous villains like the Wicked Witch of the West, whose cruelty makes Dorothy's kindness and courage shine even brighter.

Another reason *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* remains popular is its imaginative world. From the sparkling Emerald City to the eerie castle of the Wicked Witch, each setting is full of wonder and adventure. Readers love exploring the magical Land of Oz, where talking scarecrows, flying monkeys, and good and bad witches make the journey exciting.

Finally, the story teaches the importance of home and belonging. Dorothy learns that while adventure is thrilling, there is no place as special as home. This message has connected with readers for more than a century, reminding them that love and family are what truly matter.

Whether through books, movies, or musicals, *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* continues to inspire people around the world. Its timeless lessons about courage, friendship, and believing in oneself make it a story that will always be remembered.