

youth
& stages

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OZ

by

Patrick Shanahan

based upon
L. Frank Baum's

The Wonderful Wizard of Oz

produced by special arrangement with Dramatic Publishing

directed by Pamela Hoffman

set and puppets by Jean Prall Rosolino

STARRING

Joey Rizzolo

and

Laurie Hardy

.....**BEFORE THE SHOW**.....

√ **DISCUSS THE MOVIE** then **COMPARE THE PLAY**
(all grades) **WORKPLACE READINESS: CRITICAL THINKING**

The 1939 MGM movie, *The Wizard of Oz*, is one of the world's most classic movies. Everyone who sees our production of *OZ* has probably seen the movie... more than once! Judy Garland will forever be the consummate Dorothy. We corollate Billie Burke's high-pitched voice with the Good Witch of the North. Ray Bolger's rubbery legs and physical antics are synonymous with the Scarecrow. Bert Lahr's "courage" and tail swatting are ingrained in our heads as the Cowardly Lion. Jack Haley's clanking and rusting go hand-in-hand with our vision of the Tinman. Frank Morgan's Oz (and the numerous other characters he plays in the Emerald City) carries a fearsomeness, humor, and warmth. But it's probably Margaret Hamilton's portrayal of the Wicked Witch of the West, which will be the standard by which all future witches are measured!

However, it is important to remember, that L. Frank Baum's books (14 of them) came before the movie! His imagination begot the cyclone, all the characters in the movie, and many others beside. W.W. Denslow and John R. Neill were the first illustrators to envision our beloved characters. Other authors took the adventure books to a count of forty in the *OZ* series. *The Wiz* and *Wicked* have reinvented the story as musical theatre. In 1994, playwright Patrick Shanahan re-envisioned *OZ*. His script, *OZ*, is the basis of the Youth Stages production you will see.

The job of Youth Stages' director, Pamela Hoffman; actors, Joey Rizzolo and Laurie Hardy; and set designer, Jean Prall Rosolino, was to bring this classic story to life, in yet a new way. As you watch our production of *OZ*, push MGM's classic creations to the back of your mind, and allow yourself to take a new journey down the yellow brick road and meet all your old friends in their new forms!

Jean Prall Rosolino, founder, Youth Stages



√ **MAKE DOROTHY'S CYCLONE!**
(all grades) **SCIENCE CONNECTION**

MATERIALS:

Two 2-Liter Clear Plastic Soda Bottles
(empty and clean with labels removed)
Water
Food Coloring
Duct Tape (or you can go to a science store and get a 'tornado tube' that will connect the two 2-liter bottles together)

PROCEDURE:

Fill one of the bottles two-thirds full with water.
Add food coloring to the water to see the swirl.

Turn the empty bottle upside down on top of the water-filled one with the openings of the bottles together. Make sure the bottle openings are clean and dry.

Use duct tape (or a 'tornado tube') to hold them together. Wrap the duct tape around several times, so that it doesn't leak. (If it does leak, add more duct tape.)

Turn the cyclone-maker so that the bottle with the water is on top. Swirl the bottle in a circular motion to get the tornado started. A cyclone will form in the top bottle as the water rushes into the bottom bottle.

WHY?

Gravity pulls the water down into the bottom bottle. However, the bottom bottle is not "empty," it is full of air. The air in the lower bottle flows up through the hole in the center of the swirling water, causing a vortex to form. Technically, you are creating a whirlpool, not a cyclone, but it works the same way. In a real cyclone, the water in the top bottle would actually be cool air and the air in the lower bottle would be hot air. Hot air trapped under cold air rises and forms the swirling wind of a cyclone's vortex.

.....**BEFORE THE SHOW**.....

√ **YOUR PERFECT HOME:** LANGUAGE ARTS
DISCUSS (preK-2nd) • WRITE (3rd-6th) CONNECTION

Think about the perfect place to live. This will be different for different people. Discuss/write about the climate: Would you like to live somewhere warm? The desert? Florida? Would you like to live where it snows a lot? Colorado? The Alps? Would you want to live near water? Under water? In outer space? What would be your perfect family? Would you have lots of brothers and sisters? Would you be an only child? Would you have the same parent(s) or would you trade (him/her) for a neighbor or grandparent? Would you share a room or have a room to yourself? What color would you paint the walls? Think about, talk about, write about, or even draw a picture of: **"Home Sweet Home."**

√ **CHARACTER WALKS:** VISUAL AND PERFORMING
(preK-6th grade) ARTS CONNECTION

Imagine that you are cast in a production of *The Wizard of Oz*.

- How would you walk as the Tinman?
Try making stiff movements with your arms and legs.
- How would you walk as the Scarecrow?
Try making wobbly movements with your legs and arms.
- How would you walk as the Cowardly Lion?
Your knees might get sore! Can you be a lion on two legs?
- How would you walk as the Wicked Witch of the West?
Try different arm movements to accompany your walk.

.....**AFTER THE SHOW**.....

√ **WRITE A LETTER/
DRAW A PICTURE:** LANGUAGE ARTS/
ARTS VISUAL
(preK--2nd grade) CONNECTION

Youth Stages would like to know what you thought of OZ. Write us a letter and/or draw us a picture about your favorite part of the show. Maybe you have a question you'd like to ask us. We love to get mail so send your letters and pictures to:

 **Youth Stages, LLC**
287 Walnut Lane
Princeton, NJ 08540

or e-mail them to us at:
manager@youthstages.com

√ **CREATE THE YELLOW BRICK ROAD:** MATHEMATICS CONNECTION
(2nd-6th grade)

Give each student a piece of yellow construction paper (9"x12"). Have them lay the paper down in the hallway end-to-end. Have them estimate how long their yellow brick road will be... in inches... in feet... in yards... in meters. Do they need to measure each sheet of paper? Can they figure it out? What if the sheets of paper were laid side-by-side. How does that effect the length of the yellow brick road? What if they were laid out; vertical, horizontal, vertical, horizontal? What if there were 60 sheets?

√ **WRITE A THEATRE REVIEW:** LANGUAGE ARTS/
(4th-6th Grade) WORKPLACE READINESS

Write a review of OZ. You might begin by cutting out reviews of plays from two different newspapers. Compare a *New York Times* review of a Broadway show to a review of a local theatre company from a local newspaper. Note some of the following things reviewers discuss:

- **ACTING:** the actors' ability to portray the characters
Were they believable? Did they change their voices and bodies?
- **DIRECTION:** the movement of the actors on stage
Did the action flow well? Was the stage space used well?
- **SET:** the furniture, props, and overall look of the show
Was it a unified look? Did the choices make sense?

Now write your own review of OZ. Be sure to state what you liked as well as your suggestions to improve the performance. Send your reviews to:

 **Youth Stages, LLC**
287 Walnut Lane
Princeton, NJ 08540

or e-mail them to us at:
manager@youthstages.com

We look forward to reading them!

.....**AFTER THE SHOW**.....

√ **MAKE YOUR OWN PUPPETS
WITH FOUND OBJECTS**

(all ages)

VISUAL AND
PERFORMING ARTS
CONNECTION

Teacher/Parent note: with preschool-Kindergarten you can simplify this activity and pre-make the base puppets if you choose

Collect clean junk!

styrofoam meat trays, recyclable tin pans, paper towel tubes, egg cartons, strawberry baskets, muffin tins, plastic soda bottles, margarine tubs, bubble wrap, packing peanuts, cardboard boxes, fabric scraps, etc.

Add to that some purchased items for craft projects:

straws, popsicle sticks, sandwich and lunch bags, ribbon, streamer, balloons, stickers, oaktag, construction paper, markers, etc.

Pull together some items to adhere the components

scissors, duct & masking tape, glue sticks, staplers, paper fasteners, etc.

With some friends (in groups of about 4), decide who's going to create a Tinman, who's making a Scarecrow, who wants to make a Dorothy, and who's going to create a Cowardly Lion. Agree on the size of the characters. (Will they all be finger puppets about 2 inches tall? Paper bag puppets about 10 inches high? Popsicle-size stick puppets? Or creations of a foot tall that you can manipulate on a desktop?)

Using your imagination, make your character!

Use these same items to create the Land of Oz! Crumpled paper could be craggy rocks. Popsicle sticks and construction paper could combine to become trees. Paper towel tubes could be the buildings in the Emerald City...
let your imagination soar!

√ **PUT ON YOUR OWN
PUPPET SHOW**

(all ages)

VISUAL AND
PERFORMING ARTS
CONNECTION

Pick a scene in the story. Let's say it's the scene where Dorothy meets the Scarecrow. The students who made those characters, become the puppeteers and act out that scene.

Create the dialogue.

What are some things Dorothy says to the Scarecrow?

"In Kansas, our scarecrows don't talk." & "Come with me to Oz."

What does the Scarecrow say to Dorothy?

"I can't get down. There's a pole stuck up my back" and
"I'm stuffed. I have no brains at all."

Create the action.

Move the puppets as each one is talking.

- If they are paper bag puppets (mouth puppets) be sure to open and close the mouth as you speak.
- If they are popsicle stick puppets (rod puppets), move them up and down or side to side as they speak.

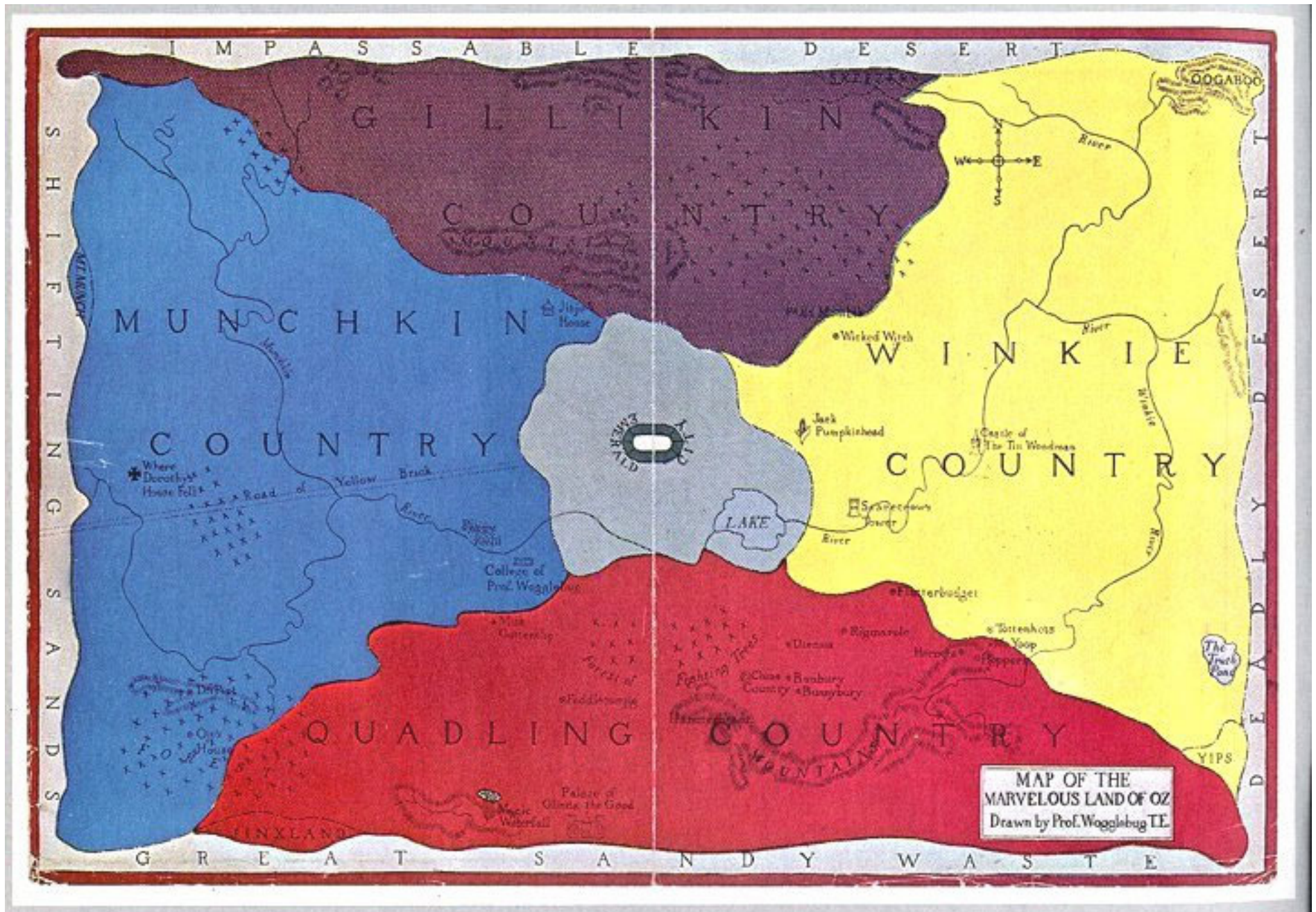
Do the same for the scenes where Dorothy meets the Tinman and the Cowardly Lion.

If you have time, make a Toto, a Witch, and a Wizard and add more scenes!

Map of the Marvelous Land of OZ (all grades)

SOCIAL STUDIES CONNECTION

1. Find where Dorothy's house fell.
2. When she walked the Yellow Brick Road to the Emerald City, in what direction did she travel?
3. What country is south of the Emerald City?
4. From the Emerald City, if Dorothy wanted to go to the Impassable Desert, in which direction would she head?
5. Oogaboo is _____ of the Emerald City.
6. If Toto wanted to swim in the lake, Dorothy should travel _____ from the Emerald City.



This is a reproduction of L. Frank Baum's MAP OF THE MARVELOUS LAND OF OZ