

The Wonderful Wizard of Oz

L. Frank Baum

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Congratulations! You have been selected to embark on an enchanting journey through the land of Oz by reading L. Frank Baum's classic novel, *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*. This captivating tale has captured the hearts and imaginations of readers for over a century, and now it's your turn to explore its magical world.

To ensure that you get the most out of your reading experience and deepen your understanding of the story, we have prepared a comprehensive summer reading assignment for you. This assignment will encourage you to analyze the characters, themes, and symbols in the book, while also providing opportunities for creativity and critical thinking. Let's begin!

Pre-Reading Activity:

- Before you start reading the novel, research the author, L. Frank Baum. Find information about his life, influences, and the historical context in which he wrote *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*. Write a brief biography highlighting the key aspects of his life and work.

Character Analysis:

- Choose three main characters from the book (such as Dorothy, the Scarecrow, the Tin Woodman, the Cowardly Lion, or the Wicked Witch of the West) and create character profiles for each. Include their physical descriptions, personality traits, motivations, and any significant changes they undergo throughout the story. Use textual evidence to support your analysis. Write one paragraph per character.

Theme Exploration:

- Identify and discuss three major themes present in *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*. Some possible themes include friendship, the power of belief, the search for identity, and the nature of home. For each theme, provide examples from the text and explain how they contribute to the overall meaning of the story. Reflect on how these themes resonate with you personally. Write one paragraph per theme.

Symbolism:

- Analyze the symbolic elements in the book, such as the yellow brick road, the Emerald City, or the silver slippers (later changed to ruby slippers in the famous movie adaptation). What do these symbols represent, and how do they enhance the story's meaning? Discuss their significance within the context of the novel. Write one paragraph per symbol.

Creative Project:

- Choose one of the following creative projects to showcase your understanding of the novel:
- Design a new book cover or create a movie poster for *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, incorporating key elements and symbols from the story.
- Write an alternative ending to the book, imagining what would have happened if Dorothy had made different choices. Explain your reasoning behind this alternate ending.
- Compose a song or poem inspired by the characters, themes, or settings of the novel. Perform it or record it, and include a written reflection explaining the creative choices you made.

Remember to keep a reading journal throughout the summer, recording your thoughts, questions, and favorite quotes as you progress through the book. This will help you reflect on your reading experience and prepare for any further discussions or assignments related to *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*.

Happy reading, and may your journey through the land of Oz be filled with wonder and discovery!

This will be due the first day of school!