

The Wizard of Oz

(Adventure/Musical) (1939)

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“Toto, I don’t think we’re in Kansas anymore...”

Major Characters

- Dorothy Gale**.....**Judy Garland**
A sweet and very innocent girl who lives on a farm in Kansas with her Aunt, Uncle and dog. After being hit on the head during a tornado, Dorothy falls into a long and deep dream in which she visits the magical “Land of Oz.”
- Auntie Em**.....**Clara Blandick**
Dorothy’s Aunt Emily, who has to take care of her niece as well as manage the family farm.
- Uncle Henry**.....**Charley Grapewin**
Auntie Em’s husband, and a loving uncle to Dorothy.
- Hunk/The Scarecrow**.....**Ray Bolger**
Hunk is one of the workers on Auntie Em’s farm, but in the land of Oz, he’s a gentle scarecrow who is very sad because he doesn’t have a brain (A scarecrow is an object that is made of straw and shaped like a man, that is placed on farmland to scare birds away from the crops).
- Hickory/The Tinman**.....**Jack Haley**
Hickory is another farm worker, but in the land of Oz, he’s a gentle man made out of tin metal, who is sad because he doesn’t have a heart.
- Zeke/The Lion**.....**Bert Lahr**
Zeke is also a worker on Auntie Em’s farm, but in the land of Oz, he is a lion who is very sad because he does not have any courage.
- Miss Gulch/The Wicked Witch of the West**.....**Margaret Hamilton**
Miss Gulch is an old, rich and very mean woman who is determined to have Dorothy’s dog killed because he had chased her cat around her garden. In the land of Oz, she is the Wicked Witch of the West, who threatens to kill Dorothy and her dog (A person who is “wicked” is very evil and bad, and a “witch” is usually an old, ugly woman who has magical powers).

Glinda, the Good Witch of the North.....Billie Burke
 A “witch” who is not ugly and evil, but in fact very kind and beautiful!
 She helps Dorothy get to the city of Oz while protecting her from the
 Wicked Witch of the West.

Professor Marvel/The Wizard of Oz.....Frank Morgan
 Professor Marvel is a kind of travelling peddler or salesman, with a
 strong interest in magic. In the Land of Oz, he is the Wizard of Oz
 himself (A “wizard” is a man who also has great and magical powers).

Toto.....Toto
 Dorothy’s much loved pet, and perhaps the most
 famous dog in the history of the movies.

Plot Summary

This film is the amazing story of Dorothy Gale, a very sweet and innocent girl who lives with her aunt and uncle on a poor farm in the state of Kansas (It’s not clear *when* it was supposed to take place, since the book *The Wizard of Oz* was written in 1902, but the movie was not made until 1939, and there are no obvious references to suggest an exact date). One day Dorothy decides to run away from home in order to protect her little dog, Toto, after a horribly mean woman named Miss Gulch threatens to have him killed. Dorothy and Toto leave to discover the world, but after meeting a strange yet kind man named Professor Marvel, she decides to return to her home a few hours later, just as a tornado hits the farm. She is hit on the head as the tornado strikes, and instantly falls into a deep, color filled and magical dream.

Dorothy finds herself in a fascinating world called the Land of Oz, where evil witches and good witches, tiny people called Munchkins, and various talking animals all live. She is treated as a hero by the Munchkins, because her house had fallen on, and thus killed, the Wicked Witch of the East. But Dorothy soon discovers that this Witch had a sister, the Wicked Witch of the West, who is still very much alive. Glinda, the good and beautiful Witch of the North, makes sure that Dorothy is protected from this other Wicked Witch, by placing on Dorothy’s feet magic ruby slippers (red shoes), that have great powers, and that the Wicked Witch of the West very much wants to have.

Although Dorothy loves many of the wonderful things about this new world, she very much wants to return to her home and family in Kansas. Glinda tells her that unfortunately, the only person who could help her get back to Kansas is the great and powerful Wizard of Oz, who lives far from Munchkinland, in the city of Oz. Thus, while wearing the magical slippers, Dorothy heads off with Toto on a long journey to Oz, by carefully following the famous yellow brick road that will lead them there.

On the way to Oz, Dorothy becomes friends with three magical characters, all of whom decide to join her, both to protect her, and to see if the Wizard can also help each of them. Her three new friends are the Scarecrow, who wants the Wizard to give him a brain, the Tinman, who wants the Wizard to give him a heart, and the Lion, who wants the Wizard to give him some courage. Dorothy meets one after the other, and all the while, she must face the constant threats of the Wicked Witch of the West, who does everything she can to prevent Dorothy and her friends from reaching their destination.

Eventually though, they do reach the city of Oz, but before the Wizard will give them what they desire, they must face the Wicked Witch one last time. After doing so, all of Dorothy's friends seem to get what they had wished for, and Dorothy herself learns an amazing lesson about friendship, family and the way to get back to her beloved home in Kansas....

A quick note on the film's popularity: At least in the United States, *The Wizard of Oz* is probably the most widely known and recognized movie in the history of the cinema. It is shown every year on national television, and it is often the first movie that every generation of new parents show their young children. The songs within the movie may be as familiar to most people as anything by the Beatles or Beethoven, and word for word, there are probably as many famous and universally recognized lines as any play by Shakespeare. Beyond all this, it has become one of the most loved films ever made, by both children and adults.

A quick note on the language: Although this is "a children's story," the vocabulary in this movie is extremely rich, and a lot of the language is said with great sarcasm and humor that only adults would really appreciate. Being over 60 years old, some of the English is now very dated, but most of the dialog remains surprisingly fresh. Most importantly though, many of the characters speak very quickly and with strange accents, although you should get used to them as the movie goes on.

A note on the asterisk (*): Much of the dialog is sung in wonderful songs, which are sometimes difficult to understand. An * before any entry in the glossary below means that the words being explained are sung rather than just spoken.

Some Words and Expressions that You May not Know

Dorothy arrives home, upset and scared after Miss Gulch threatens Toto.

This story has given faithful service to the young in heart.

Note that the correct expression today is “the young *at* heart.”

We’ll go tell Uncle Henry and Auntie ‘Em.

Put here to remind you that an *immediate* future should take the “pronoun+will contraction” form, even though “we’ll” is a bit difficult to pronounce for many.

This old incubator has gone bad, and we’re likely to lose a lot of our chicks.

An “incubator” is a small box or machine for keeping eggs alive until they hatch. “Chicks” are baby chickens, and, of course, a colloquial word for teenage girls or young women.

She hit Toto right on the back with a rake just because he gets in her garden and chases her cat!

A “rake” is a gardening tool with a long handle.

He can’t catch that nasty old cat anyway!

A great little adjective meaning very unpleasant, mean, or even ugly.

And now she says that she’s going to get the sheriff!

The “sheriff” is the head of the local police department.

Listen honey, I got them hogs to get in.

A “hog” is another word for a pig.

You ain’t using your head about Miss Gulch.

When someone tells you to use your head, they’re telling you to be smart or think carefully. Note that ‘ain’t’ is used throughout the dialog, but you should avoid it. In this case, you’d say ‘aren’t.’

I have so got brains! :: Why don’t you use them?!

A bit old-fashioned but cute way of referring to intelligence in general.

Your head ain’t made of straw, you know!

A dry material made from dead plants, often used to make baskets.

Get in there before I make a dime bank out of you!

A funny thing to tell a pig, but there it is! I have never heard the expression “dime bank,” though you should know a dime is 10 cents.

Listen kid, are you going to let that old Gulch heifer go and buffalo you?!

“Kid” is a very common word for a child, used here affectionately. The sentence as a whole makes no sense today, though it’s probably worth knowing that a “heifer” is a pregnant cow and a buffalo is a large cowlike animal...ie... “Are you going to let that woman scare you?”

The next time she squawks, walk right up to her and spit in her eye!
 “To squawk” is to make a loud, high crying sound, the way birds do.

What’s the matter? Going to let a little pig make a coward out of you?
 A critical word for a person who is always scared, or has no courage.

What’s all this jabbering when there is work to be done?
 “To jabber” is to talk quickly and unclearly.

I know three shiftless farmhands who will be out of a job before they know it!
 “Shiftless” is an interesting word for lazy, and “farmhands” are people who work, obviously, on a farm.

I saw you tinkering with that contraption! Now get back in the wagon!
 “To tinker” is a nice little verb meaning to try and fix something, often when you don’t really know what you’re doing. A “contraption” is a machine that looks unfamiliar or confusing, and a “wagon” is a four wheeled vehicle for carrying things that is often pulled by horses.

Someday they’re going to erect a statue to me in this town. :: Well, don’t start posing for it now!
 “To erect” means to put up something (such as a statue).
 “To pose” is to sit very still, usually for a photographer or artist.

Crullers.

These are fried pastries, often made with lots of sugar.

Dorothy toppled in! :: It’s no place for Dorothy in a pigsty.
 “To topple” is to fall over. A “pigsty” is a small fenced area for pigs, though it is frequently used as a word for a very dirty room or house.

Go feed those hogs before they worry themselves into anemia!
 “Anemia” is a condition of weakness caused by too little iron in the blood. It’s unlikely anyone would say anything like this sentence today.

Dorothy, you always get yourself into a fret over nothing!
 “To get into a fret” over something is to get upset, worried or angry.

* There is a land I heard of, once in a lullaby.
 A “lullaby” is a gentle song used to get children to fall asleep.

* The dreams that you dare to dream really do come true.
 “To dare” to do something is to do it, even if it may be very dangerous.

“What’s she done?” I’m all but lame from the bite on my leg.
 “Lame” is a dated word for physically disabled or handicapped.

That dog is a **menace** to the community;
I'm taking him into the sheriff to be **destroyed**!

“Menace” is a powerful word meaning threatening or dangerous. Note animals are often “destroyed,” which is a curious way to say killed.

I'm the one who ought to be punished!
You can send me to bed without **supper**!

“Supper” is a very old-fashioned way to say dinner.

Hand over the dog, or I'll bring a **suit** that'll take away your **damn** farm!

“To hand over” something is to physically transfer it. A “suit,” in this case, is a law suit, and “damn” is a somewhat crude adverb used to show intensity or emotion (and perhaps the only crude word used in this movie!)

What if he's kept **tied up**?

“To tie up” an animal is to keep it roped or chained to something like a fence, so that it can't move beyond a certain distance.

Here is the **order** allowing me to take him,
unless you want to go against the law!

In this case, this is a legal order from the sheriff, though in reality, it's usually a judge who would write up such demands.

Now you're seeing reason.

Another way to say “Now you're acting logically.”

You **wicked** old witch!

“Wicked” is a wonderful adjective that means completely evil or bad, and is often applied to witches.

Just because you own half the **county** doesn't
mean you have the power **to run** the rest of us!

A “county” is an administrative division of a state. Most states have a dozen or more counties. Here, Auntie Em uses “to run” as a way of meaning to control or rule.

For 23 years I've been **dying** to tell you what I've thought
of you, but being a Christian woman, I can't say it!

If you are “dying to do something,” this means you very much want to do it. Note that “Christian women” are not allowed to use dirty words.

I'm so **glad**!

A useful alternative adjective for happy or satisfied.

***Dorothy and Toto run away from home,
and soon meet the mysterious Professor Marvel.***

We've got to get away, to run away!

“To run away” is a key phrasal verb, used when children leave home because they're upset or feel their parents don't understand them.

[sign] Professor Marvel presents the crowned heads of Europe.

A “crown” is the decoration of jewels that kings and queens wear on their heads to show their power or position.

And who might you be?

A poetic way of saying “Who are you?”

You're travelling in disguise.

If one travels in disguise, they are usually claiming to be a person that they are not.

It's just like you could see what was inside of me!

Today, one would say “It's just like you could read my mind.”

I never do anything without consulting my crystal first.

“To consult” is an official verb meaning to talk with, in order to get information or advice. The “crystal” here refers to a “crystal ball,” which is used by wizards and others to predict the future.

This is the same genuine, magic, authentic crystal used in the days of the pharaohs of Egypt.

“Genuine” and “authentic” both mean real or true, as opposed to fake or imitation. The pharaohs were the kings of Ancient Egypt.

Julius Caesar first saw the approach of Cleopatra, and so on and so on...

“And so on” is a way to end a sentence when there are too many details to continue saying everything.

Close your eyes, in order to be better in tune with the infinite.

For most people, this is a nonsense sentence that means nothing. Yet even today, a person into “new age” philosophy might say that being “in tune with the infinite” is a way to “know” the universe.

We'll gaze into the crystal.

“To gaze into” something is to look carefully at, or stare into it.

I see a house with a picket fence and a barn with a weather vane.

A “picket fence” is a type of low pointed fence that millions of Americans put in their front yards when they buy a house in the suburbs. A “weather vane” was a common object found on farms, used to see how strong the wind was blowing.

She’s wearing a polkadot dress, and her face is careworn.

“Polkadot” is a pattern for clothes, with lots of dots of different sizes.

“Careworn” is a nice way to describe a face that has aged from worrying.

I had the measles once.

A common childhood disease (like chicken pox and the mumps).

Better get under cover; There’s a storm blowing up, a whopper!

In this case, “to get under cover” is to find physical protection.

A “whopper” could be anything that’s huge or powerful, though today, alas, it’s most commonly known as a Burger King hamburger.

Speaking in the vernacular of the peasantry...

“Vernacular” is an educated word for language, and the “peasantry” refers to poor farmers, although strictly speaking, peasants existed in Europe, but never really in America.

***Dorothy tries to return home, but soon finds
herself in Munchkinland, far far away.***

It’s a twister!

A tornado, or the powerful and deadly storm with a whirlwind center.

Everybody in the storm cellar!

Underground hiding shelters that are common in the American Midwest, because twisters are a frequent menace.

We must be up inside the cyclone.

Another word for twister or tornado.

Toto, I have a feeling we’re not in Kansas anymore.

One of the most famous lines in the history of the movies!

I’m a little muddled.

“Muddled” is a nice little word meaning confused.

I beg you're pardon, but I've never heard of a beautiful witch before.

This is a somewhat dated but still used expression that is used when the listener either didn't hear or doesn't understand what was just said.

It's Muchkinland, and you are their national heroine, my dear.

A female hero. In fact, "hero" can be used for a man or woman.

*The wind began to switch, the house,
to pitch, and then the hinges unhitched...

You don't really need to know that "to pitch" can, as here, actually mean to fall forward, but you should know that hinges are the connecting parts that hold doors to walls while they swing, and if something becomes "unhitched," it becomes disconnected.

*And the witch went flying on her broomstick
thumbing for a hitch....and what happened then was rich!

"Broomsticks" are the long wooden sticks that all evil witches use to fly through the air. Note that even today, one can still "hitch a ride," which is to stick out one's thumb in hopes that a passing car will stop and pick you up (i.e....to hitchhike). In this context, if something is "rich," this means that it is wonderful, or possibly clever or ironic.

*The house landed on the wicked witch in the middle of a ditch!

A "ditch" is a shallow U-shaped hole in the ground, which is often used for water to flow.

*She began to twitch, and was reduced to a stitch!

"To twitch" is to move suddenly and quickly, and often refers to a body part that moves just before a person dies. A "stitch" is the movement of a needle while sewing, but in this context, it has no real meaning.

Let the joyous news be spread, the wicked old witch at last is dead!

"Joyous" is a powerful adjective referring to those things which cause great happiness. "To spread" means to distribute widely across an area (News can spread around the world, though you can also spread butter on toast). "The" is noted here because it's use in this scene is a stunning violation of grammatical rules, because in fact, much to Dorothy's confusion, there were *two* wicked witches!

* Ding dong, the witch is dead....which old witch?...The wicked witch....

This is the sound a door bell makes when you ring it (at least in English!)

*Wake up, you sleepyhead, rub your eyes, get out of bed.

A great and still used word for a person who is very sleepy, especially when they first wake up.

*She's gone where the goblins go...below, below, below.....

"Goblins" are evil spirits or ghosts, and a word feared by children.

As mayor of the Muchkin City, in the county of the Land of Oz, I welcome you most regally...

To welcome a person "regally" is to treat them as if they were a king or queen.

We've got to verify it legally, to see if she is morally, ethically, spiritually, physically, positively, absolutely, undeniably and reliably dead.

"To verify" something is to confirm that it is true. This sentence may be one of the greatest uses of the English adverb ever.

*As coroner, I must aver, I thoroughly examined her, and she's not only merely dead, she's really most sincerely dead.

A "coroner" is a person who examines dead bodies to determine the cause of death. "To aver" is a legal verb meaning to officially declare. "Thoroughly" means completely, and "merely," in fact, means only.

This is a day of independence for all the munchkins and their descendants!

"Descendants" are one's children, grandchildren and the future generations that come from them.

*We represent the lullaby league, and in the name of the lullaby league, we welcome you to Muchkinland.

A "league" is a group of people or organizations that join together to work for some goal, in this case the singing of lullabies.

*We represent the lollipop guild...

"Lollipops" are candy suckers that kids love, and a "guild" is an organization of people that share the same profession or interests.

*From now on, you'll be history and we will glorify you're name.

"To glorify" a person is to greatly praise, respect or honor them, often beyond what they really deserve.

*You'll be a bust in the hall of fame!

A "bust" is a statue of a person's head, and the "hall of fame" is a building where the greatest people of a particular profession or place are honored for their accomplishments.

The Wicked Witch of the West appears, but the Good Witch of the North makes sure that Dorothy is protected by the magic ruby slippers, as both Dorothy and Toto begin the long trip to the city of Oz.

Aren't you forgetting the ruby slippers?

"Ruby" is a deep red color, and "slippers" are a type of soft shoe for wearing indoors. Here, though, they are hard, and worn everywhere.

Keep tight inside of them; Their magic must be very powerful or she wouldn't want them so badly.

An interesting way of telling Dorothy to never take them off.

You stay out of this, Glinda, or I'll fix you as well!

If you tell someone to "stay out of this," you're telling them to not get involved in the situation. Here, "to fix" someone means to cause them harm, although this usage is a bit old-fashioned.

Rubbish! You have no power here!

"Rubbish" means trash, although, as here, it can also mean nonsense!

Be gone! :: Very well, I'll bide my time.

"To bide one's time" is an interesting expression meaning to wait patiently for the right moment to act. A classic line for a witch!

It's true, I can't attend to you as I'd like, but just try and stay out of my way!

A witch's way of saying "take care of you."

I'll get you, my pretty!

I imagine that only a witch would use "pretty" as a noun!

Oh, what a smell of sulfur!

A chemical powder, created, for example, when you strike a match.

He lives in the Emerald City, and that's a long journey from here.

An "emerald" is a smooth green stone, and while the Emerald City refers to the city of Oz in this movie, it is also used today for Seattle.

Never let those slippers off your feet, or you'll be at the mercy of the wicked witch of the West!

To be "at the mercy" of someone is to be completely helpless to stop them from doing whatever they want to you.

All you do is follow the Yellow Brick Road!

"Bricks" are a type of clay stone used for making buildings, roads, etc.

*You're off to see the Wizard, the Wonderful Wizard of Oz!

If a person is "off to" do something, they are in the process of leaving.

* You'll find he is a wiz of a wiz, if ever a wiz there was!

"Wiz" is short for wizard, and in fact is often used colloquially in the expression "a whiz kid," which refers to a very smart child.

Dorothy meets the Scarecrow, who decides to go with her to Oz.

That's funny; Wasn't he pointing the other way?

"To point" is a critical verb meaning to signal or show direction with one's hands or fingers.

Some people without brains do an awful lot of talking, don't they?

To do "an awful lot of" anything is an interesting alternative to the simpler "a lot of." This whole sentence is a clever reference to people in general, and perhaps politicians in particular.

It's very tedious being stuck up here all day long with a pole up your back.

"Tedious" is an excellent adjective meaning boring, or long and tiring. If a person is "stuck" someplace, they cannot move or free themselves. A "pole" is a thin round stick or post, usually made of wood or metal.

That's very kind of you!

This is an excellent but underused word meaning nice or polite.

Boo! Scat! You see, I can't even scare a crow.

"Boo" and "scat" are words you would scream if you want to scare an animal or child.

*I could while away the hours, conferring with the flowers, consulting with the rain.

"To while away" time is to pass time doing nothing in particular, except perhaps relaxing. "To confer" with a person is to talk with them.

*My thoughts would be busy hatching...

"To hatch" is what an egg does, when it cracks open to let loose a chick.

* I'd unravel any riddle for any individual.

"To unravel" a riddle is to solve it, and the "riddle" itself is a difficult question or mystery.

*With the thoughts you'd be thinking, you could be another Lincoln.

Reference to President Lincoln, who was in office during the American Civil War, and is considered one of the best leaders in US history.

Would the wizard give me some brains? :: I couldn't say, but even if he didn't, you'd be no worse off than you are now.

Note that in certain contexts, "I couldn't say" means "I don't know."

I'd face a whole box full of lighted matches for a chance of getting some brains.
 "To face" something can mean to fight, or survive against it.

What do you think you're doing?! How would you like someone to come along and pick something off of you?
 This is the type of a question a parent would ask a child who just did something that they considered bad or inappropriate.

Are you hinting my apples aren't what they ought to be?
 In this context, "to hint" is to gently suggest, with indirect words.

Little green worms!
 Tiny grey and yucky tube shaped insects, that are often found in apples.

***Dorothy and the Scarecrow meet the Tinman,
 who joins them on their trip to Oz.***

Oil can.
 A can for carrying motor oil and other similar liquids.

My goodness, he can't talk!
 An old-fashioned but still used way to express surprise.

I've held that ax up for ages.
 An "ax" is a tool with a sharp blade used for cutting trees. If you have done something "for ages," you have done it for a very long time.

I was chopping that tree.
 "To chop" is a strong verb meaning to cut with a heavy tool, like an ax.

I rusted solid, and have been that way ever since.
 When metals start "to rust," they become covered with reddish brown particles that makes it difficult for the metal to be moved in any way.
 If the Tinman "rusts solid," no part of his body will be moveable.

Bang on my chest if you think I'm perfect.
 "To bang" is to strike or hit forcefully, often while making lots of noise.

What an echo!
 An "echo" is a sound that is repeated after reflecting off of a wall or other surface. They are commonly heard in caves.

The tinsmith forgot to give me a heart. No heart, all hollow.

A “tinsmith” is an old word for a worker who makes things out of tin or metal. If something is “hallow,” it is empty.

* When a man’s an empty kettle, he should be on his mettle, and yet I’m torn apart.

A “kettle” is a metal pot with a lid, while “mettle” refers to the courage or desire to continue. In this case, to be “torn apart” means to be emotionally upset or miserable.

* I’d be friends with the sparrows, and the boy who shoots the arrows, if I only had a heart.

“Sparrows” are pretty birds. The boy who shoots the arrows refers to Cupid, the figure from Greek mythology who shot arrows into the hearts of others so that they would fall in love.

* Just to register emotion, jealousy, devotion, and really feel the part.

“Devotion” is a powerful word that means dedication or loyalty. In this case, “the part” refers to an acting part in a play or movie.

* I could stay young and chipper.

“Chipper” is a cute little colloquial word meaning happy and playful.

Suppose the wizard wouldn’t give me one when we got there.

“Suppose” at the beginning of a sentence means “What if...?”

Helping the little lady along?

“To help someone along” simply means to help them make progress.

I’ll stuff a mattress with you and I’ll use you for a beehive!

This is the wicked witch’s way of saying that she will take the straw that the Scarecrow is made of and use it to make a mattress. A “beehive” is a home for bees, which, I suppose, would be a painful thing to be if you were a scarecrow.

I don’t like this forest; It’s dark and creepy.

“Creepy” is a great adjective which describes anything that causes a feeling of strong fear or disgust, such as snakes or ghosts.

Lions, tigers and bears, oh my!

An alternative way of saying my goodness, or wow!

The Lion joins Dorothy, the Scarecrow and the Tinman on their trip to Oz.

Put'em up, put'em up! Which one of you first?

This is the Lion's way of telling the Scarecrow and the Tinman to raise their hands and fight. Note that in rapid speech, "Put them up"----> "put'em up."

I'll fight you with one paw behind my back.

A "paw" is the word for a cat or other animal's hand.

Oh, pulling an ax on me, eh? Sneaking up on me, eh?

"To pull something on" someone is to threaten to harm them, in this case with an ax. "To sneak up on" someone is to secretly approach them from behind, so that the person cannot see what is happening.

Come on! Get up and fight, you shimmering junkyard.

"Come on" is the greatest and most versatile phrasal verb in English, often taking on the meaning of the words that follow. Here, it is simply used as a challenge to fight. "Shimmering" means shining or reflecting light, and a "junkyard" is a place with lots of junk, like used car parts.

Put your hands up, you lopsided bag of hay!

"Lopsided" refers to anything that is too heavy on one side, or not balanced. "Hay" refers to dried grass or straw, such as the type with which the Scarecrow is made.

Now, that's getting personal, Lion!

If words start "getting personal," this means they are insulting to the person themselves, as opposed to what the person believes.

Yes, get up and teach him a lesson!

In this context, to "teach a person a lesson" is to punish them for their abuse of power or other mistakes.

Shame on you!

What a parent might say to their child who has badly misbehaved.

It's bad enough picking on a straw man,
but when you go around picking on poor little dogs...

"To pick on" someone is to physically or emotionally threaten them, in order to scare them or make them feel vulnerable.

My goodness, what a fuss you're making!

"To make a fuss" about something is to get emotionally upset or angry about it, even if it is not that important or significant.

Why don't you try counting sheep? ::

That doesn't do any good, I'm afraid of them.

A clever line; Doctors will often tell their patients to count sheep jumping over a fence, as a way of getting them to fall asleep.

Wouldn't you feel degraded to be seen in the company of a cowardly lion?

"Degraded" is an excellent and powerful adjective which means humiliated or highly embarrassed. A person (or lion) who is "cowardly" is one who is always afraid, or has no courage.

Gee, that's awfully nice of you. My life has been simply unbearable.

"Gee" at the beginning of a sentence is used to express emotion such as happiness or surprise. If something is "unbearable," it is extremely difficult to deal with or support.

It's been in me so long, I want to tell you how I feel.

The Lion's way of saying he's kept his feelings and fears to himself.

* It's sad, believe me missy, when you're born to be a sissy...without vim or verve.

A "sissy" is a word children use to describe a person who is always scared. "Vim" and "verve" both refer to joy and energy.

* But I could show my prohess (be a lion, not a mou-ess), if I only had the nerve.

"Prohess" refers to great skill or strength. In this case, "the nerve" refers to courage.

*There is no denying...I'm just a dandy lion.

A phrase made famous by this scene; A lion that is harmless or even agreeable, but not dangerous or threatening.

*a blizzard...lizard.....gizzard....

A "blizzard" is a storm, a "lizard" is a reptile that looks like a snake, and a "gizzard" is an organ near the stomach in certain birds.

***The Wicked Witch tries to stop Dorothy
and her friends before they get to Oz.***

When I gain those ruby slippers, my power will be the greatest in Oz!

A very dated use of the verb. Today, you would say "When I *get*..."

Something with poison, but attractive to the eye, and soothing to the smell.

"Attractive" is an important adjective meaning pleasant.

"Soothing" means calming or comforting.

Poppies.

A type of well known and pretty flower.

Come to think of it, **40 winks** wouldn't be bad.

"Come to think of it" is an excellent expression one would use after having reflected further on a situation. Another way to say this would be "On second thought..." / "40 winks" is a colloquial expression referring to a nap or short period of sleep.

I can't **budge** her an **inch**.

"To budge" something is to move it just a little. An "inch" is a small unit of measure, about .025 meters long.

This is a **spell**, this is!

A "spell" is a strong fascination or other odd condition often caused by a magic powder, created by witches and others with magic powers.

It's **no use** screaming at a time like this.

If it is "no use" doing something, this means that there is no point in trying, because it will not help. A very useful and common expression.

Curses! Somebody always helps that girl.

A funny little word that expresses anger when used alone. In the singular, a "curse" is an appeal to the Gods to bring harm to a person.

I'm still great enough to **conquer** her, and **woe to those** who try and stop me.

"To conquer" someone is to completely defeat them. "Woe" is an old but fun little word meaning great misfortune or sadness, and is usually used in the curious expression "woe to those who..."

Let's get out of here!

A very common and colloquial way to say "Let's leave."

March up to the gate and bid it open!

A very dated way of saying "Ask them to open the gate."

What **notice?!** :: It's on the door, as plain as the nose on your face.

A "notice" is a written document, and, as here, can be posted anywhere, including a door. The second sentence is a colloquial way of saying that it's easy to see or notice.

[sign] Bell **out of order**, please **knock**.

If something is out of order, it doesn't work. "To knock" is to hit or tap, and the verb to use when dealing with a door.

That's more like it! Now, state your business.

An old-fashioned way of asking "Why are you here?"

Prove it!

"To prove" something is to show clearly that it is true. This is a common way to express doubt when you don't believe what was said.

Well, bust my buttons, why didn't you say that in the first place?

A wonderful but completely ridiculous and dated expression which shows great surprise or delight. "To bust" something is to break it.

That's a horse of a different color! Come on in!

Another wonderful and ridiculous expression, but this one is still used today. Another way to say "That's a different or unrelated situation."

***Dorothy and her friends enter
the City of Oz and finally see the Wizard.***

Cabbies take you any place in the city? :: We does!

A cab is a taxi, and thus "cabbies" are taxi drivers (or in this case, horse Carriage drivers). Note the intentionally strange verb conjugation in the sentence that follows.

I'll take you to a place where you can tidy up a bit.

"To tidy up" is an important phrasal verb meaning to wash oneself, or to clean up a room. "A bit" is another way of saying a little.

And you never will, I fancy.

"I fancy" is a very British way of saying "I think."

There's only one him, and he's it.

A grammatically interesting way to describe the colored horse.

* That's how we laugh the day away, in the merry old land of Oz.

"To laugh the day away" is, naturally enough, to spend all your time laughing. "Merry" is an old but still used word for happy or cheerful.

* Pat, pat here, pat, pat there, that's how we keep you young and fair.

"To pat" is to tap, or hit gently. In this case, "fair" is an old-fashioned way to say attractive or handsome.

* We can make a dimple out of a frown.

A "dimple" is a tiny hole in the surface of the skin. A "frown" is a face that shows displeasure or anger by the way the mouth is formed.

* Can you even dye my eyes to match my gown?! Jolly old town!
 “To dye” something is to change its color. “To match” two things is to make sure they look good together. A “gown” is a long or formal dress. “Jolly” is a dated word for happy or cheerful.

* Clip clip here, clip clip there, we even give
the roughest paws that certain air of savoir faire.
 “To clip” something is to cut or trim it, and is often done to nails or hair. “The roughest paws” are those paws (cat hands) that have long nails. To have “a certain air” of something is to clearly have something that others can see. “Savoir faire” is a French expression that is used in English, and means social grace, elegance or perhaps tact.

Surrender Dorothy!
 “To surrender” is to accept defeat, or more colloquially, to give up.

Whatever shall we do?!
 A poetic way to simply ask “what should we do?”

Everything is all right.
 A widely used and important alternative to OK.

The great and powerful Oz has got matters well in hand.
 One way of saying that Oz has the situation under control.

Nobody can see the great Oz! Not nobody, not nohow.
 A rare and very colloquial way of saying “not in any possible way.”

I got a permanent just for the occasion.
 In this case, a type of haircut that is designed to last a long time.

He'll announce us at once!
 “To announce” the presence of someone is to let it be known that they have arrived, though this is a bit old-fashioned way of saying it.

I've as good as got my brain.
 A very slangy way of saying “I almost have my brain”

Long live the king!
 What people often scream to a king as he looks down on them from a high balcony in his castle.

* My real robes would be satin, not cotton and not chintz.
 “Satin” is a type of very smooth, shiny and expensive cloth, while “chintz” is a type of cheap cotton cloth.

- * I'd command each living thing, be it fish or fowl...with a royal growl.
Note the use of a "be it x or y" grammatical structure to express a choice. "Fowl" refers to chickens or other similar birds. A "growl" is the noise a lion makes ("rarrhrrrrrr...")
- * Each rabbit would show respect to me, the chipmunks genuflect to me.
A "chipmunk" is a cute little animal similar to a squirrel.
"To genuflect" is to bow down or bend's one knee, in order to show great respect.
- * Monarch of all I survey.
A "monarch" is a ruling king or queen, and in this case, "to survey" is another way of saying to see, or look out on.

Your majesty, if you were king, you wouldn't be afraid of anything?
This is the way people are supposed to address kings and queens.

What makes the muskrat guard his musk? Courage!
A "muskrat" is a cute animal that lives in the ocean. "Musk" is the type of strong smelling chemical that animals like the muskrat secrete.

Courage! :: You can say that again!
An excellent expression to use when you strongly agree with something that was just said.

The Wizard says "Go away!"
A critical alternative way of simply saying leave!

I'd sooner wait outside.
A curious way of saying "I'd prefer to wait outside," but there it is.

If you please, I am Dorothy...the small and the meek.
"If you please" is a very respectful way of starting to address a person.
"Meek" is a nice little word meaning humble, submissive or weak.

Oh, Jimmeny Crickets!
A very dated way to express emotion such as surprise or anger.

You clinking, clanking, clattering collection of caliginous junk.
An insult without mercy! "Clinking, clanking" and "clattering" all refer to the kind of noise that might be made from a glass or plate which is breaking. "Caliginous" is a very educated word for dark or gloomy or very sad, and "junk" is an important word for trash or discarded objects that are no longer useful.

Yes Sir, yes, Your Honor.
The words you use to address a judge, or, perhaps, a wizard.

You have the effrontery to ask for a brain,
you billowing bale of bovine fodder.

“Effrontery” is a strong but somewhat dated word for nerve or boldness. “To billow” means to rise in waves, while a “bale” is a tightly packed mass of straw, cotton or other material. “Bovine” is a wonderful word that simply means cow-like, and “fodder” is food for animals such as horses. Another insult without mercy!

Yes, I mean your excellency, your wizardry.

Some may still address a very powerful political or religious figure as “your excellency,” but I wouldn’t it! “Your wizardry” is just ridiculous.

You ought to be ashamed of yourself, **frightening** him like that.

“To frighten” is an excellent alternative verb meaning to scare.

Silence, whipper snapper!

A “whipper snapper” is a funny expression that usually refers to little children who have lots of energy.

The beneficent Oz has every intention of granting your requests.

“Beneficent” is an educated adjective used to describe a person who does good for others. “To grant” means to agree to give or permit.

But you must prove yourselves worthy by performing a very small task.

In this context, “worthy” is another way to say deserving.

A “task” is small job or assignment that needs to be done.

Dorothy and her friends head off to find the broomstick of the wicked witch, and soon find themselves in very big trouble.

[Sign]: Haunted Forest: I’d turn back if I were you!

If a house (or forest) is “haunted,” it contains ghosts, or perhaps the spirits of dead people. And speaking of dead things that aren’t, note the use of the subjunctive verb tense (“were”), still used to this very day!

I believe there are spooks around here.

A “spook” is a spirit or ghost, and is usually scary (or “spooky”).

You’ll believe in more than that when I’m finished with you.

In this context, note that “to finish with” someone is to severely punish or even kill them.

I sent a little insect on ahead to take the fight out of them.

“To take the fight out of” a person is a way to say exhaust or tire them.

They sure knocked the stuffing out of you!

“To knock the stuffing” out of someone is to seriously physically harm, or beat them up. “Stuffing” is the material that a thing is made out of.

And you my dear, what an unexpected pleasure.

This is what some would say to a person who comes by their house without calling ahead of time, even if it’s not really a pleasure at all!

Give him back to me! :: All in good time, my little pretty!

A classic witch’s line; “All in good time” is a way of saying eventually, or perhaps, sometime in the future.

Throw that basket in the river and drown him!

“To drown” a person (or dog) is to kill them by forcing them to stay underwater so they cannot breath.

Fool that I am, I should have remembered.

A poetic use of grammatical variation, with the noun before the verb; Rare, but correct! A “fool” is a silly or perhaps stupid person

These things must be done delicately, or you hurt the spell.

An excellent adverb meaning carefully, and when said by this witch, a wonderfully evil word!

Drat, you and your dog!

A very dated way to say damn (i.e....express emotion such as anger).

Come on, fellows!

A “fellow” is a British way of saying guy.

I hope my strength holds out.

“To hold out” is a phrasal verb meaning to last, or continue.

That’s the castle of the wicked witch!

A castle is a huge building made of rock, and often the preferred home of various European kings.

We haven’t got the oil can with us and you’ve been squeaking enough as it is.

“To squeak” is the high sound that metal parts make when rubbed together, especially if there is not enough oil between them.

Who’s “them?”

Note that pronouns can be used like proper names in Wh questions!

Guard or no guards, I'll tear them apart.

“To tear apart” somebody is a violent phrasal verb meaning literally to rip into several pieces.

Talk me out of it!

“To talk someone out of something” is to try and convince them not to do it.

Do you think it will be polite, dropping in like this?

This is a classic line from the Lion. “Polite” is an important word meaning nice or well behaved. “To drop in” on someone is to visit them, usually at their home, without telling them, before arriving.

The hourglass is almost empty!

An “hourglass” is an instrument with two glass chambers, in which the passing of sand from one to the other takes exactly one hour.

Stand back!

The imperative command to use when you think people are standing too close, or are in the way.

Going so soon? I wouldn't hear of it!

One way of saying “I will not allow that.”

Trapped like mice---Rats!

A nice play on words. “Rats” are, of course, animals that are similar to mice, but when said alone, it is a way of expressing anger or frustration.

Seize them! Stop them, you fools!

“To seize” is to physically grab or hold

Well, ring around the rosy, a pocket full of spears!

This is a reference to a children's poem that begins “ring around the rosy,” but the word “spear,” which is a deadly weapon with a long handle and pointed arrow, is not in the original poem!

Thought you'd be pretty foxy, didn't you?

This is a somewhat old-fashioned way of saying clever, tricky or sly.

The last to go will see the first three go before her!

This is the witch's way of telling Dorothy that she will be the last to die.

And her mangy little dog, too!

A sad little adjective referring to dogs that have many bald spot because their hair is falling out, and are just generally not healthy.

Good defeats evil (!!!), and Dorothy and her friends return to the see the Wizard of Oz.

You cursed brat!

“Cursed” is a dated and funny adjective that means detestable, or literally, deserving to be cursed, or doomed. A “brat” is a defiant, rude or ill-behaved person, especially a child.

Who would have thought that you could destroy my beautiful wickedness?

A wonderful sentence with the rarely used nominal form of “wicked”!

Hail to Dorothy, the wicked witch is dead!

“Hail to...” is a dated and ridiculous way of offering great praise and admiration to a person. Heard in the movies, but not in real life.

We melted her. ∴ You liquidated her, eh? Very resourceful.

“To liquidate” a person is to kill them, though it doesn’t have to be literally with water, as was the case here. “Resourceful” is an excellent adjective that refers to a smart person who knows how to effectively use whatever they have available to them.

Do not arouse the wrath of the great and powerful Oz!

“To arouse” is to excite or possibly awaken.

“Wrath” is a very strong word for anger or fury.

Do you presume to criticize the great Oz, you ungrateful creatures?

A “creature” can be any kind of animal, though it usually does not refer to human beings.

You, humbug! I’m a humbug.

A dated word for an imposter or person who tries to trick others.

Anybody can have a brain; That’s a very mediocre commodity.

“Mediocre” is a adjective that means just average. A “commodity” is a usually a natural product that can be sold, like corn or oil.

Every pusillanimous creature that crawls on the earth or slinks through the slimy seas has a brain.

“Pusillanimous” is an educated word for a person who has no courage.

“To crawl” is to move on one’s hands and knees, the way a baby does.

“To slink” is to move around very quietly, but this is rarely used.

“Slimy” is a great adjective to describe anything covered with a wet and sticky surface, such as a worm. It can also mean dirty or immoral.

What they have is a **diploma**.

An official document showing a student has completed the required classes needed to get a degree, such as a Ph.D.

Therefore, by virtue of the authority vested in me, I hereby confer upon you the honorary degree of ThD---That's doctor of thinkology.

“By virtue of the authority vested in me” is a fancy way to say “because of the power that I have been given...” / “Hereby” is a connecting word meaning therefore or thus, and “to confer,” in this case, means to officially give or transfer. Universities will often give “honorary degrees” to people for their accomplishments, even though they never actually went to school there.

The sum of the square root of an isosceles triangle is equal to the square root of the remaining sides. Oh joy, rapture, I've got a brain!

The “sum” is the result of two numbers multiplied together, while the “square root” of 64 is 8 (It's easier to show than define!) An “icocelles triangle” is one in which two of the three sides are the same length. “Rapture” means great happiness or ecstasy.

You are under the unfortunate delusion that simply because you run away from danger, you have no courage.

A “delusion” is a strongly held belief that is in fact completely wrong.

You're confusing courage with wisdom.

“Wisdom” is an important word meaning intelligence, as well as the quality of having good judgement and common sense.

Once a year, they take their fortitude out of mothballs and parade it down the main street of the city.

“Fortitude” is an educated word for mental strength or courage.

“Mothballs” are small balls put in clothes that are hung in closets, to keep moths away.

But they do have a medal, and therefore, for meritorious conduct, extraordinary valor and conspicuous bravery against wicked witches, I award you the triple cross.

A “medal” is any type of metal with pictures or words on it, made to honor a person for their bravery or various accomplishments.

“Meritorious conduct” refers to any worthy or deserving behavior or actions, while both “extraordinary valor and conspicuous bravery” are fancy words for great courage. “The Triple Cross” is a famous medal given to people for their bravery.

Shucks folks, I'm speechless.

“Shucks” is an old fashioned but still used way of expressing emotion such as embarrassment or surprise (similar to gosh or gee). “Folks” is an old-fashioned but still used word for people, or possibly parents. A person who is “speechless” is usually too emotional to be able to talk.

As for you, my galvanized friend...

This word means both covered with metal, and motivated into action!

Where I come from, there are men who do nothing all day but do good deeds.

“Good deeds” are little selfless acts that help other people.

They have one thing you haven't got, a testimonial.

An official word for any type of written declaration that describes a person's character.

This is a small token of our esteem and affection.

A “token” is a small symbol, such as a ribbon or medal, which is often used to show “esteem,” which means respect or admiration.

Remember my sentimental friend, a heart is not judged by how much you love, but by how much you are loved by others.

“Sentimental” is an excellent adjective that means highly emotional, in a tender or romantic way. I myself, am a sentimental guy.

It ticks!

“To tick” is to make the short, repeated sound that a clock or watch makes.

***Dorothy finally gets her greatest wish,
and learns a lesson she will never forget.***

You forced me into a cataclysmic decision!

This is a powerful word that means very serious or even violent.

Are you a clever enough wizard to manage it?

“Clever” is an excellent word for intelligent, or resourceful. To be able to “manage” something can simply mean to be able to do it.

You cut me to the quick!

An old-fashioned but interesting way of telling someone they just said what you were already thinking of planning to do.

I'm an old Kansan man myself, born and bred in the Western wilderness.
 Note that "to breed" means to reproduce when speaking of animals, but if a person is "bred" somewhere, this means they were raised there. "Wilderness" refers to land in the country or nature, away from cities.

A balloonist par excellence.

A French term occasionally used in English for the adjective excellent, but note that as in French, it comes after the noun.

One day, performing spectacular feats of stratospheric skill never performed by civilized man, an unforgettable phenomenon occurred.

"Spectacular" is an alternative way of saying amazing or sensational. A "feat" is a little word meaning a great accomplishment, and "stratospheric" refers to a part of the atmosphere that is very high above the earth's surface. A "phenomenon" is simply any fact or event, although it often refers to something unusual or strange.

You're looking at a man who has sneered at doom and chuckled at catastrophe. I was petrified.

"To sneer" is to make a face that shows disgust or contempt. "Doom" is a great word that means complete destruction or death. "To chuckle" is to laugh or giggle, and a "catastrophe" is a sudden disaster that causes great suffering. If you are "petrified," you're very scared or terrified.

I was instantly proclaimed the first Wizard deluxe. In that balloon, you and I will return to the land of 'e pluribus unum.'

"Deluxe," which means of excellent quality, is an adjective that can also come after the noun in order to be more poetic or stylish. "e pluribus unum" is a Latin term that means "one out of many," and while you don't really need to know that, it's written on a lot of American money! No joke---look at that one dollar bill in your pocket!

This is the first exhibition ever to be shown.

An "exhibition" is a public show of interest, often in a museum.

Be that as it may, we are about to embark on a hazardous and technologically unexplainable journey to the outer stratosphere.

"Be that as it may" is a useful expression that means "Even though that is the situation..." / "To embark" is to begin a trip on a boat, or in this case, a balloon. "Hazardous" is another word meaning dangerous.

I will confer, converse and otherwise hobnob with my brother wizards.

In this case, "to confer" is to discuss, as is "to converse." "To hobnob" is a great verb meaning to talk, drink and be friendly with, often with people who are powerful and famous.

I hereby decree that Scarecrow, by virtue of his superior brain, shall rule in my stead.

This is the Wizard's way of saying that because he is now so smart, the Scarecrow should rule in his place.

This is a highly irregular procedure, absolutely unprecedented.

If something is "unprecedented," this means it's never occurred before.

I learned that if I ever go looking for my heart's desire again, I won't look further than my own backyard.

A sweet way to refer to great wants or wishes.

Toto too? :: Toto, too!

Two of the most famous lines in the history of the movies!

Don't cry, you'll rust so dreadfully.

A nice adverb meaning horribly.

I'll miss the way you used to holler for help before you found your courage.

"To holler" means to yell or scream.

Close your eyes and tap your heels together three times, and think to yourself, 'There's no place like home.'

"To tap" is to very gently hit against something. "Heels" are the back part of the foot, or the raised part of a shoe underneath the foot.

She got quite a bump on the head. We thought she was going to leave us.

"Quite a + noun" is an excellent way of implying that the noun, in this case Dorothy's bump, is serious or noteworthy. The second sentence is Uncle Henry's way of saying they thought she was going to die.

The Wizard Of Oz

Some Potential Questions for ESL Class Discussion

1. Was this movie made for children or adults?
2. Does the fact that it was made in 1939 seem important?
3. Many people today still use the phrase “I don’t think we’re in Kansas anymore.” In what situations are people likely to say that?
4. Who were your favorite characters?
5. Between the Scarecrow, the Tinman, and the Lion, who do you relate to the most?
6. Why do you think this film is still so popular?

