

THE WIZARD OF OZ

By L. Frank Baum

Adapted for a Large Cast Version
of Young Performers

By
Kathryn Schultz Miller

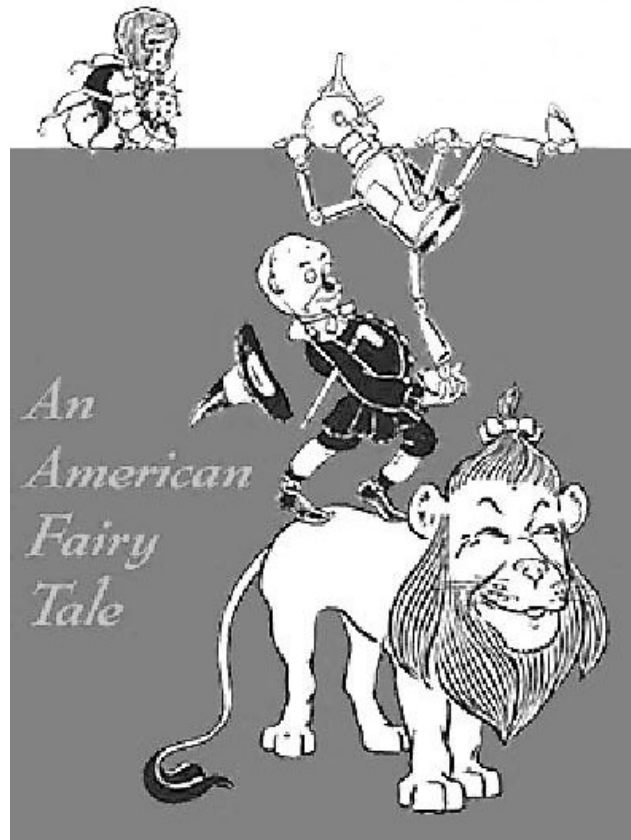


Illustration by W. W. Denslow, original Oz series illustrator.

TEACHERS GUIDE

ChildrensTheatrePlays.com
3936 Millsbrae Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45209

© Copyright, ChildrensTheatrePlays.com, 2003

Wizard of Oz **TEACHERS GUIDE**

INTRODUCTION

Like all artistic expression, theatre is a celebration of life's experiences. For children it is even more. It is a reaching for the future, an exploration of what is to come, a lovely excuse to dream about the path that lies ahead. Any child can ride a giant crane or become a princess, a wizard or a knight in shining armor. Any child can kick around all the reasons why princesses do what they do; experience all the obstacles and triumphs involved in slaying that pesky dragon. Navigating through a theatre world is daydreaming in motion. And it can be a wondrous and nurturing place to grow.

This guide offers lots of information and suggestions to enhance the learning experience and many tips on directing the play. You can pick and choose what makes the most sense for you and your students. You know what to do with it – you're the teacher!

But remember this. Our children have a long dream ahead of them. This is the place for them to test their creativity, explore their farthest limits, and to begin to understand the place they will take in the real world. All the things that might worry you, the things you might think are important – costumes, scenery, learning lines, getting it right, making it “good” – have very little to do with the blossoming that is going on in a young player's mind. This play has been written to take the emphasis off of all that, leaving you to concentrate on what really matters. It's the process, that feeling around in the dark, that means the most. Place your emphasis on the joy of creation. At every bump in the road choose the path of fun and exploration. Give your young friends a safe place to “play” and imagine. Give them roots and wings...

And guess what? I promise you – the play will be better than your wildest dreams!

Kathryn Schultz Miller

CONTENTS

STUDY GUIDE

The first part contains information about the play's subject that you can use to enhance the play project. You'll find background, history, resources, bibliography, along with suggested classroom activities, studies, and discussions.

PERFORMANCE GUIDE

The second part contains information, ideas, and suggestions to help you and your students create, rehearse, and perform the play.