



WALNUT STREET THEATRE

The WIZARD of OZ



**Study Guide**



## SHOW SYNOPSIS

When a tornado rips through Kansas, Dorothy and her dog, Toto, are whisked away in their house to the magical land of Oz. They follow the Yellow Brick Road toward the Emerald City to meet the Wizard, and en route they meet a Scarecrow that needs a brain, a Tin Man missing a heart, and a Cowardly Lion who wants courage. The wizard asks the group to bring him the broom of the Wicked Witch of the West to earn his help.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### BEFORE THE SHOW

1. Have you ever seen a live play before? What is the difference between a play and a musical?
2. Have you ever seen the movie, "The Wizard of Oz" before?
3. What's your favorite part about returning home after a long trip? Do you ever get home-sick?
4. Why is it important to have dreams? What are some of your dreams?
5. Have you ever wanted to run away from a problem?

### AFTER THE SHOW

1. What was your favorite part of "The Wizard of Oz?" Who was your favorite character?
2. What does Dorothy's famous saying, "There's no place like home," mean to you?
3. Why was it important for Dorothy to lean on her friends when she was in trouble?
4. What did Dorothy learn by the end of the show about appreciation?



## THEATRE 101



### Ever wondered how to put on a play?

There are many different elements that go into putting a show up on its feet. Please review the following with your students:

**PLAYWRIGHT** The playwright writes the script.

**DIRECTOR** The director is in charge of orchestrating the entirety of the production. They lead the actors, designers, and production crew to put the show on its feet.

**COSTUME** What the actors wear during the show.

**SCENERY** Everything on stage (*except props*) used to represent the place at which action is occurring.

**PROPS** All physical items on stage with the exception of the scenery. This includes lamps, chairs, pens, paper, books, and more!

**LIGHTS** Stage lights illuminate the actors so that they look their best. The colors used, focus of the light, and amount of lighting can really set the mood and environment of a scene.

**SOUND** Everything that you hear during a performance that does not come from the actors.

**ACTORS** The actors are the people that perform the show onstage.

**AUDIENCE** The lucky people that get to watch the show. New to being an audience member? Follow these rules and you will be a natural!

### AUDIENCE RULES

- ◆ Unlike a movie, the actors are performing in front of you. They can see everything that you do. Talking, sleeping, poking your neighbor, or making noise during the performance distracts the actors and others around you.
- ◆ Don't bring electronics to the performance. The use of cell phones, cameras, computers, tablets, and video game devices are **not allowed**.
- ◆ Use your better judgment on when to laugh, clap, and/or cry during the performance. But don't forget to clap at the end of the show!
- ◆ Stay in your seat during the performance.
- ◆ Make sure you go to the bathroom *before* the show starts.

## TRY IT YOURSELF!

Give students a chance to act out a scene from *The Wizard of Oz*. Before jumping into the performance, think about all of the elements that go into a play. Are there any props that we can use to help improve the scene? Where are the characters when this scene is taking place? What might the scenery look like?



## SAMPLE SCENE

**DOROTHY:** Ouch!

**FIRST TREE:** What do you think you're doing?

**DOROTHY:** We've been walking a long ways and I was hungry and—did you say something?

**FIRST TREE:** She was hungry!

**SECOND TREE:** She was hungry!

**THIRD TREE:** How would you like it to have someone come along and pick something off of you?

**DOROTHY:** I'm sorry! I keep forgetting I'm not in Kansas.

**SCARECROW:** Come along, Dorothy—you don't want any of those apples. Yuck!

**FIRST TREE:** Are you hinting my apples aren't what they ought to be?

**SCARECROW:** Oh, no! It's just that she doesn't like little green worms!

**FIRST TREE:** Worms! Did he say we had worms?

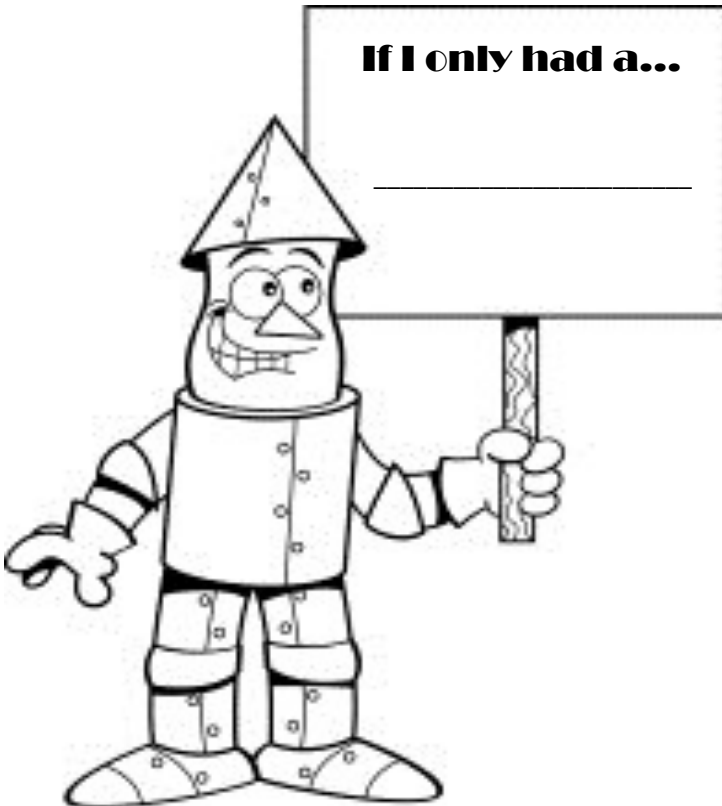
**SECOND TREE:** That's what it sounded like to me.

**SCARECROW:** (*Whispered to Dorothy*) I'll show you how to get apples. (*Louder*) Sure you got worms, worms, caterpillars and probably a whole bunch of wood lice too.

**THIRD TREE:** How dare you! Let's give it to him, girls!

## STUDENT DISCUSSION "IF I ONLY HAD A \_\_\_\_\_"

**If I only had a...**



Instruct students to fill in the blank to the left. Then, go around the room and encourage students to share what they wrote down. This is an opportunity for students to vocalize their goals and dreams. Teachers could also instruct students to cut out and color their tin men, and decorate the room with illustrations of students' dreams!

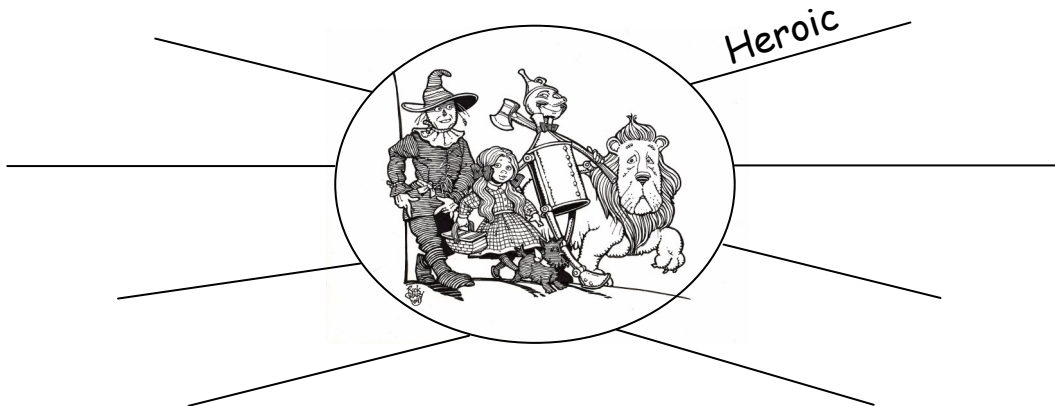
## STUDENT ACTIVITY: "Where has your yellow brick road led you?"

**DIRECTIONS:** In the boxes below, recall four big events that have happened in your life that have contributed to who you are today. Students should be given the opportunity to share answers.

The image shows a yellow brick road that starts on the left labeled "BORN" and ends on the right labeled "TODAY". The road has four distinct curves. At each curve, there is a light green rectangular box for writing. The boxes are labeled "EVENT #1", "EVENT #3", "EVENT #2", and "EVENT #4" from top-left to bottom-right. Each box contains three horizontal lines for text.

## STUDENT ACTIVITY: Characterization

**DIRECTIONS:** In "The Wizard of Oz," each character is unique and has very special characteristics that defies who they are. Choose between Dorothy, Scarecrow, Tin Man, and Cowardly Lion. Circle your choice of character in the center. On the lines stemming from the center, write down characteristics of that character.



# STUDENT WORKSHEET: COMPARE & CONTRAST

**DIRECTIONS:** In the Venn Diagram below, compare and contrast Kansas and Oz. Differences can be physical (i.e. comparing the scenic elements of each setting in WST’s production). Differences can also be based within the story-line (i.e. Dorothy has friends in both Oz and Kansas).

**KANSAS**

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**BOTH**

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**OZ**

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**LIKE THE SHOW? LET US KNOW!**  
Send letters or drawings to:  
Walnut Street Theatre  
ATTN: Education Department  
825 Walnut St.  
Philadelphia, PA 19107

## GROUP ACTIVITY: “Coming Home”

**DIRECTIONS:** Ask students to think of one character from the “Wizard of Oz,” but do not share what character each student has picked. Have students take turns walking into the room as that person, acting as if they are coming home from a long journey. The other students should pay attention to:

- The environment—what does that person’s home look like? Is it neat and tidy or is it a mess? Is it a forest, a farm?
- What does he or she do? (Ex. If someone is playing as the Tin Man, do they spray themselves with oil? Or if they’re the Wicked Witch of the West, are they taking care of the flying monkeys?)
- What mood is that character in?
- After a minute or so, have the class guess who the character was based on these details.





# WALNUT STREET THEATRE

## BIOGRAPHY



Walnut Street Theatre has the unique distinction of being the oldest, continuously operating theatre in the English-speaking world, having served Philadelphia audiences for over 200 years!

Today, under the direction of Producing Artistic Director Bernard Havard, Walnut Street Theatre is in its 34th season as a self-producing, non-profit theatre company. Walnut Street Theatre continues to entertain and enlighten diverse audiences with high quality theatrical programming. With more than 50,000 subscribers, the Walnut is also the most subscribed theatre company in the world!

Last season, **172,000** children and adults were impacted by the Walnut's Education Programs: including our theatre school with classes for kids and adults, Camp Walnut, Our Touring Outreach Program to local schools and our artist in residency programs.

## WALNUT STREET THEATRE EDUCATION STAFF

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

<b>DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION</b>	Thomas Quinn
<b>ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION</b>	Ashley Kerns
<b>EDUCATION PROGRAMS ASSOCIATE</b>	Patrick Shane
<b>EDUCATION PRODUCTION ASSOCIATE</b>	Angie Confredo
<b>RESIDENT TEACHING ARTIST</b>	Jasmine Hammond
<b>EDUCATION APPRENTICE</b>	Amanda Pasquini
<b>ACTING APPRENTICES</b>	Anne Bragg, Alexa Cepeda, Dana Orange, Austin Turner

### WEB

- **Walnut Street Theatre Touring Outreach Company**  
<https://walnutstreettheatre.org/education/outreach.php>
- **Creative Drama Lesson Plans**  
<http://www.childdrama.com/lessons.html>
- **Drama Games**  
<http://dramaresource.com/drama-games/>

## WIZARD OF OZ Creative Team

<b>DIRECTOR</b>	Glenn Cassale
<b>CHOREOGRAPHER</b>	Patti Colombo
<b>PLAYWRIGHTS</b>	L. Frank Baum
<b>MUSIC AND LYRIC</b>	Harold Arlen & E.Y. Harburg
<b>ADAPTED BY</b>	John Kane for the Royal Shakespeare Company based upon the classic motion picture owned by Turner Entertainment Co. and distributed in all media by Warner Bros.

## ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

Lyman Frank Baum was born on May 15, 1856, in Chittenango, New York. In 1900, Baum wrote one of the most famous works of children's literature, *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, later known as *The Wizard of Oz*. He enjoyed a comfortable upbringing as the son of a barrel factory owner who also had some success in the oil business. Named "Lyman" after an uncle, Baum hated his first name and chose to be called by his middle name "Frank" instead. Born in New York in 1856, L. Frank Baum had his first best-selling children's book with 1899's *Father Goose, His Book*. The following year, Baum scored an even bigger hit with *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, and went on to write 13 more *Oz* books before his death in 1919. His stories have formed the basis for such popular films as *The Wizard of Oz* (1939) and *Oz the Great and Powerful* (2013).

[www.biography.com](http://www.biography.com)

