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## BOOK REVIEW -THE WONDERFUL WIZARD OF OZ

TITLE - The Wonderful Wizard Of Oz

AUTHOR - Frank Baum

### INTRODUCTION:

This book has been chosen by me as I am interested into adventures. In most of the adventurous stories we get to know about how a particular character faces challenges ,fears and by getting to know about how they overcomed it and how they grew stronger, inspires me to be braver in my life .So I have chosen this book to know about what this story is all about , who are the characters in it , what kinds of suspenses and even to know about different life lessons and morals. Reading the adventurous books can even expand my creativity .

My initial expectations are , By this name of story , I thought there would definitely be some surprise in the story , there would be people trying to go the land of Oz from various parts of world where they could see a new life in the land of Oz and fulfill their dreams .

### SUMMARY :

The Wonderful Wizard of Oz is about a young girl named Dorothy who lived with her aunt Em ,uncle Henry and a little dog named Toto. Dorothy lives on a gray Kansas prairies. Her house was very small ,it lands in a beautiful land filled with vibrant color. This land is named as the land of munchkins .There was a small hole in the house through which Dorothy and her family escaped in case of any cyclone or calamity. One day , the cyclone hits the house and takes away Dorothy and her dog Toto inside .This cyclone crushes the wicked witch of the east ,freeing the munchkins from her rule. Dorothy is given the silver shoes of the dead witch by the Good witch of the north and the witch of the north tells Dorothy to travel to the emerald city to ask the wizard of Oz for help returning to Kansas .

When Dorothy was following the yellow brick road , on her way to emerald city she meets The Scarecrow (where he wants a brain , he thinks that he is not intelligent and smart),The Tin woodman (where he wants a heart ) and The cowardly lion(who wants courage, thinking that he is not brave enough ).They all meet together and decide to meet the wizard of Oz at the Emerald land thinking that he would fulfill all their dreams and desires and help Dorothy in getting back to her home .They all faced a lot of challenges on their way to emerald city .The challenges encountered by them was crossing the dangerous river where they build a raft and the lion was swimming bravely. They all came across a beautiful field of magical poppies. The scent of the flowers makes people and animals fall asleep. Dorothy, Toto, and the Lion fall unconscious. But the scarecrow and tin woodman remain unaffected and they help Dorothy and lion (this tells that the tin woodman has heart as he showed kindness and helped them, even though he thinks he lacks heart .The scarecrow came up with very good ideas). Then they all encounter dangerous wild animals in the forest .In this

situation the lion protects all of them and fits off danger and shows his bravery(even though he thinks he lacks courage). Like that they face many dangers as they are passing through ,but each of them stood for each other and helped each other and protected themselves from the dangers .They all finally reach the emerald city where they meet the Oz .The Oz appears in different forms to each of them. They all asked the Oz for help,but he decided to help them only if they kill the wicked witch of west. So they all travel west. The Witch enslaves Dorothy but desires her silver shoes which she cannot remove. One day, out of anger, Dorothy throws a bucket of water at the Witch causing her to melt into nothing. There itself the witch dies and all return to the Wizard again. When they visit the wizard ,they discover he is just an ordinary man using tricks to appear powerful. However ,The wizard of Oz helps the scarecrow ,tin woodman, and the lion realize they already possess the qualities they seek. Dorothy learns from Glinda that she had the power to go home all along by clicking her heels and saying “There’s no place like home “.She clicks her heels and in an instant she is back at her home in Kansas ,where she sees her aunt em and runs into her arms.

#### THE MAIN CHARACTERS:

Dorothy – who was very kind and determined girl.

The scarecrow , Tin woodman , lion ,The wizard of Oz, The witches , dog Toto.

#### CENTRAL THEMES:

Self discovery – Dorothy (who can go back to home by herself , doesn’t realize it before and asks Oz for help). The scarecrow (he thinks he doesn’t have brain, but he is smart enough but he is unable to get to relies this fact . He gave many smart ideas to escape from the dark forest and even for crossing the river where they faced challenges).The tin woodman(he wants heart where he thinks he is not kind ,but he is the kindest . he doesn’t know what is his inner thing ). Lion(he thinks he doesn’t have courage , but it was himself who fought against danger ). They all already possess the things which they want but they in search for it.

Power of home – Dorothy learns that there is no place like home showing that love and family are more important than adventures.

#### ANALYSIS AND OPINION :

This author created a vivid fantasy world with unique places like the Emerald City, Munchkinland , and the Yellow Brick Road. This imaginative setting captivates readers, especially children, and adds a sense of wonder and adventure. The characters in the story that is the Scarecrow, Tin Woodman, and Cowardly Lion represent common human desires intelligence, love, and courage. Their journey reflects personal growth and self-discovery, which gives depth to the story. They all seek for things which they already have . Themes like friendship, self discovery and the idea that we often have the power within us all along are delivered in a gentle and memorable way. My opinion about this story is it has an

imaginative setting the magical land of Oz is richly creative and captures the imagination of readers of all ages. This story teaches timeless lessons about courage, friendship, and believing in oneself. Despite some old-fashioned elements, the book's core messages and charm continue to resonate today. The story often feels like a series of events strung together rather than a tightly connected narrative. For example, the Wicked Witch of the West, though famous, appears very briefly and lacks depth, making her less threatening than expected. Additionally, the language and certain character portrayals can feel outdated by today's standards, which may reduce the book's appeal for modern readers. Dorothy's journey through the magical land of Oz, she meets characters like the Scarecrow, who believes he lacks a brain, and yet often solves the group's problems. In one scene, he expresses his confusion by saying, "I cannot understand why you should wish to leave this beautiful country and go back to the dry place Kansas" which highlights Dorothy's loyalty to home despite the wonders of Oz. At the end the wizard tells the characters that they already possessed the qualities they are seeking for, it conveys a central message of self belief and inner strength.

The character who stood out the most in the story Wonderful Wizard of Oz is the Scarecrow. Although he believes he lacks a brain, he consistently shows clever thinking and problem-solving skills throughout the journey. His ideas often help the group overcome obstacles, such as figuring out how to cross difficult terrain or escape danger. What makes the Scarecrow memorable is the contrast between his belief and his action he doubts his intelligence, yet he repeatedly proves to be wise and resourceful. This makes his character both ironic and inspiring. His journey reflects the theme that we often underestimate ourselves and that true strength comes from within. The Scarecrow's loyalty, humor, and gentle nature also make him a lovable companion to Dorothy. He is more than just a supporting character, he represents the idea that we can grow and shine even when we feel incomplete. By the end of the story, the Scarecrow doesn't just gain confidence—he also earns a position of leadership in Oz, showing his transformation from self-doubt to self-worth. His character leaves a lasting impression because of his charm, growth, and the meaningful message he carries.

#### PERSONAL CONNECTION :

This book greatly impacted as it taught the importance of courage, friendship and believing in oneself. This story encourages self confidence and tells that home and loved ones are truly valuable. The story Wonderful Wizard of Oz opened my eyes to the idea that what we are searching for is already within us. It reminded me that even ordinary people can overcome challenges and achieve great things. It changed my perspective as Dorothy doesn't succeed alone, but she is helped by kind and loyal companions. This reminds us that support and trust in others are essential in any journey. So in order to succeed we need good people around us, who are helping us to grow and who encourages us in all aspects even when we self doubt ourselves. Like the Scarecrow, Tin Woodman, and Lion, I sometimes struggle to believe in myself, but their journey helped me realize the importance of self-confidence. Even when we are at low times, we shouldn't stop believing in ourselves, we should believe in our inner strength. That is when we believe in our inner strength, miracles happen. It also conveyed me that

no matter what everyone is unique in their own way which always differentiates from other person . It even made me aware of not to take things for granted ,especially the people and comforts of home. Dorothy's love for her home made me look back on my life and appreciate what I have.

## CONCLUSION :

I would recommend this book for sure . I can say that this is the must book which youngsters have to read it because , it teaches important life lessons as it tells that kindness and empathy comes from heart ,even without a physical one, it makes us to know that intelligence is not what is in our head, its how u think and solve problems and it proves that courage means acting when your afraid. This story even highlights friendship . Dorothy , the scarecrow, tin woodman and the lion ,all help each other and protect each other in challenging situations .where they all finally arrived their destination after facing threats and challenges. By this we can learn that true friendship involves loyalty,trust and helping each other grow .Youngsters can enjoy reaching this book as it is full of adventures ,filled with magical lands. I enjoyed this book in all ways as it even encouraged me to imagine new worlds ,and to see the extraordinary in the ordinary .I even learnt that one has to believe in themselves as true strength comes from within .