

The 1st Runner Up of English Section

Junior Division

Name of Winner : Au Hoi Ming

Name of School : St. Joseph's College

Book Title : The Wonderful Wizard of Oz

Author : Lyman Frank Baum

Publisher : G.M. Hill Company

Summary

The Wonderful Wizard of Oz is a fantasy book written by Lyman Frank Baum. I find this book exciting and enjoyable, with an original and interesting plot.

The plot starts with the protagonist of the book, an orphaned girl named Dorothy and her dog Toto, getting caught up in a tornado in their house. Then, the two find themselves in the magic land of Oz. On the way, Dorothy meets the Scarecrow, who wants a brain, the Tin Woodman, who wants a heart; and the cowardly Lion, who wants courage. In Emerald City, they finally meet the Wicked Witch of the West. In the battle, the five of them are caught by the Witch, and Dorothy is commanded to be her slave. In anger, Dorothy throws water at the witch, which melts her. Then, it is revealed that the wizard is just an ordinary old man who gives the Scarecrow, Tin Woodman, and Lion their desires. At the end of the story, Dorothy and the others go to find the Good Witch of the North, and Dorothy knocks on her heels three times, which takes her and Toto back home.

Reflection

In the story, Dorothy is friendly, courageous and determined, which makes her an outstanding character among all. For a young girl in a whole new world that is attacked by an evil witch, Dorothy is very calm. She has her vulnerabilities and fears, like being abandoned forever in this bizarre world, but she is determined to overcome them on her tough journey. I am a person who gives up easily. When I face difficulties, I am tempted to quit and stop. But Dorothy doesn't just give up but pursues her journey, so I learn that I should be determined like Dorothy. Also, although her challenges are enough for her to worry about, she takes the time to also look out for her new friends. Even though she has not known them for very long, she

would do anything: for example, Dorothy helps the Scarecrow, Tin Woodman, and Lion find themselves on the road.

The first theme of this story is the symbolism of life's journey. In the story, Dorothy travels along the yellow brick road on her journey to get to the Emerald City to seek help from the wizard and hopefully get back home. Similar to us, we meet new friends and have new experiences in life, which is full of unanticipated problems. Experiencing challenges is stressful, but in my opinion, we can know more about ourselves, like the things that we are good at and need to work on. All the obstacles in life could be wonderful opportunities for us to grow and be better.

The second theme shared by the author is to appreciate the home and family that we have right now. Dorothy goes through

all these adventures just because she wants to go home and spend time with her uncle and aunt. At the end of the story, she says, "There is no place like home." We may argue with our family members, or we might even think of running away from our cozy house or fighting with them because we are not happy with what we have. Yet, we should appreciate our home and family because at the end of the day they love us. When we cannot see them anymore, we will regret it. We should treasure every moment with our family.

The third theme is the importance of being confident. In the plot, The Wizard of Oz provides the Scarecrow with a head full of bran, pins, and needles, the Tin with a silk heart stuffed with sawdust, and the Lion with a portion of "courage". Actually, these things are just tools to guide them to their dreams because Scarecrow is smart, Tin Woodman does have the ability to love

people, and the Lion is brave, as seen in the book. Sometimes we might think that something is beyond our ability, so we stop there, but in fact it is achievable if we dare to try.

To sum up, the story of *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* is an exceptional book to read. The story has a thrilling plot and a lot of great morals that we should learn.

(733 words)