

THE WONDERFUL WIZARD OF OZ

Chapter 1: The Cyclone

By: L. Frank Baum

Dorothy lived in the midst of the great Kansas prairies, with Uncle Henry, who was a farmer, and Aunt Em, who was the farmer's wife. Their house was small, for the lumber to build it had to be carried by wagon many miles. There were four walls, a floor and a roof, which made one room; and this room contained a rusty looking cook-stove, a cupboard for the dishes, a table, three or four chairs, and the beds. Uncle Henry and Aunt Em had a big bed in one corner, and Dorothy a little bed in another corner. There was no garret at all, and no cellar--except a small hole dug in the ground, called a cyclone cellar, where the family could go in case one of those great whirlwinds arose, mighty enough to crush any building in its path. It was reached by a trap door in the middle of the floor, from which a ladder led down into the small, dark hole.



When Dorothy stood in the doorway and looked around, she could see nothing but the great gray prairie on every side. Not a tree nor a house broke the broad sweep of flat country that reached to the edge of the sky in all directions. The sun had baked the plowed land into a gray mass, with little cracks running through it. Even the grass was not green, for the sun had burned the tops of the long blades until they were the same gray color to be seen everywhere. Once the house had been painted, but the sun blistered the paint and the rains washed it away, and now the house was as dull and gray as everything else.

When Aunt Em came there to live she was a young, pretty wife. The sun and wind had changed her, too. They had taken the sparkle from her eyes and left them a sober gray; they had taken the red from her cheeks and lips, and they

were gray also. She was thin and gaunt, and never smiled now. When Dorothy, who was an orphan, first came to her, Aunt Em had been so startled by the child's laughter that she would scream and press her hand upon her heart whenever Dorothy's merry voice reached her ears; and she still looked at the little girl with wonder that she could find anything to laugh at.

Uncle Henry never laughed. He worked hard from morning till night and did not know what joy was. He was gray also, from his long beard to his rough boots, and he looked stern and solemn, and rarely spoke.

It was Toto that made Dorothy laugh, and saved her from growing as gray as her other surroundings. Toto was not gray; he was a little black dog, with long silky hair and small black eyes that twinkled merrily on either side of his funny, wee nose. Toto played all day long, and Dorothy played with him, and loved him dearly.

Today, however, they were not playing. Uncle Henry sat upon the doorstep and looked anxiously at the sky, which was even grayer than usual. Dorothy stood in the door with Toto in her arms, and looked at the sky too. Aunt Em was washing the dishes.

From the far north they heard a low wail of the wind, and Uncle Henry and Dorothy could see where the long grass bowed in waves before the coming storm. There now came a sharp whistling in the air from the south, and as they turned their eyes that way they saw ripples in the grass coming from that direction also.

Suddenly Uncle Henry stood up.

"There's a cyclone coming, Em," he called to his wife. "I'll go look after the stock." Then he ran toward the sheds where the cows and horses were kept.

Aunt Em dropped her work and came to the door. One glance told her of the danger close at hand.



1. The excerpt from chapter 1 of The Wonderful Wizard of Oz, uses which point of view?
- A. Third person objective
 - B. Second person objective
 - C. First person objective
 - D. None of the above

2. How does The Wonderful Wizard of Oz begin?
- A. The author establishes character types
 - B. The author develops the effects of the setting
 - C. The author focuses on developing a specific time period
 - D. The author provides information from the end of the story

3. Read the following excerpt from The Wizard of Oz.

When Aunt Em came there to live she was a young, pretty wife. The sun and wind had changed her, too. They had taken the sparkle from her eyes and left them sober gray; they had taken the red from her cheeks and lips, and they were gray also. She was thin and gaunt, and never smiled now. When Dorothy, who was an orphan, first came to her, Aunt Em had been so startled by the child's laughter that she would scream and press her hand upon her heart whenever Dorothy's merry voice reached her ears; and she still looked at the little girl with wonder that she could find anything to laugh at.

Which of the following is a logical inference based on the excerpt above?

- A. Aunt Em hates Dorothy.
 - B. Aunt Em has led a difficult life.
 - C. Dorothy is a problem child.
 - D. Aunt Em wishes that Dorothy wasn't pretty.
4. Which of the following is **not** a logical inference about Uncle Henry?
- A. He cares about his animals.
 - B. He is the youngest man on the farm.
 - C. He is not a man of many words.
 - D. He does not joke around with Dorothy.

5. What danger is facing the characters in the selection?
- A. Foreclosure
 - B. Poverty
 - C. Tornado
 - D. All of the above
6. Which of the following statements best supports the idea that the family was worried about the approaching storm?
- A. Uncle Henry sat upon the doorstep and looked anxiously at the sky.
 - B. Dorothy stood in the door with Toto in her arms.
 - C. Aunt Em was washing the dishes.
 - D. There now came a sharp whistling in the air from the south.

7. Use context clues to determine the meaning of the underlined word.

*"There's a cyclone coming, Em," he called to his wife.
"I'll go look after the stock." Then he ran toward the
sheds where the cows and horses were kept.*

- A. Soup
 - B. Supplies
 - C. Farm Equipment
 - D. Farm Animals
8. Which of the following is the best meaning of the underlined phrase?

*Aunt Em dropped her work and came to the door. One
glance told her of the danger close at hand.*

- A. Nearby
 - B. Faraway
 - C. Physically Touching Her Body
 - D. Inside Her
9. Which of the following best describes the use of color within The Wizard of Oz?
- A. The author used color to emphasize the dreariness of the town.
 - B. The author used color to contrast different environments.
 - C. The author used color to enhance the development of the setting.
 - D. The author used color to diminish the effects of the setting.

An Interview with Imogene Glover

On Homesteading

My granddad heard that they were giving land away in the Panhandle of Oklahoma and he'd originally come from Alabama to Dublin, Texas, but he brought the family in a covered wagon up the trail from Texas across the river and they had to avoid quicksand to get to the Texas County, Oklahoma. And they settled just west of what's Goodwill now in a dug-out. And they hauled water and eventually they moved to ten miles north of Texoma where they homesteaded. And my uncle and my dad — well, my dad wasn't old enough. He was just two, but my granddad and my uncle homesteaded north of Texoma and we still have that land, my brother and I.



If you came to homestead, you filed a claim and you had to live on it and build some kind of house on it if you wanted to keep it for free. All of the neighbors that we had homesteaded at the time. I was small and I just feel like that we're the original people out here. I know we weren't, but we feel like it! And my dad was two, so he lived out there, you might say, all his life and farmed that same land and raised cattle. I was born in what's now the center — what was considered the center of the Panhandle, the Dust Bowl. I feel like that just being raised in that time period, I have a good history to remember.

On Farming the Land

When the farmers came into the Panhandle, they — well, I guess right after they homesteaded, they put up fences, barbed wire fences, around each quarter of land, 'cause most of 'em got a quarter. And then they decided that, they couldn't all raise cattle, so they started plowing it up and planting and one of my uncles, my daddy's uncles, planted a whole quarter nearly of cantaloupe. Well, he made a great cantaloupe crop, but he didn't have any market for 'em. So no more cantaloupe. And gradually they started to raise wheat and I can remember my dad saying that he wanted that red cheap wheat 'cause it was the hardest and it was hardier and it would do better. And back in the '20s, the late '20s, he raised turkeys as well as cattle and everything 'cause he sold enough turkeys to buy his first Model A car. And I thought that was kinda neat because we got to take our first trip when I was about three. Gradually, they did plow up maybe four-quarters to — or a half section and they — the farmers would buy this from their neighbors.

On The Roof Falling In

One night when I was sleeping in a little room, my mother and dad were in the big room with my baby sister in bed. And the ceiling started falling in with the dust so heavy on it. It literally covered up the bed, but when they — they got out okay, 'cause Daddy yelled at Mother. He could hear it comin' down and he said, "Grab that kid, Mom." And he took her — they all got outside as soon as they knew that the ceiling was fallin' in as a result of the dust sifting in. And I think I told someone the dust was just like face powder. It was so

heavy and thick. It wasn't like sand. It was just real heavy, like face powder. Only it was real dark, almost black.

On Staying Clean and Healthy

When those dust storms blew and you were out in 'em, it would just coat the inside of your nose literally. And sometimes your mouth would just get cottony dry because, well, you spit out dirt sometimes. It looked like tobacco juice, only it was dirt, when you'd spit. It was pretty awful. But I just thought that was part of livin'. Everybody else was in the same boat. So I didn't think anything about it. I just thought I was one of the lucky people, and I was. I didn't have to do a lotta things that other students or kids did, because I ... I felt like my daddy took better care of me than anybody. And I — I really didn't. We had meager food at that time. Everyone did, and we lived literally on cornbread and beans and we had milk and Mother had always made chow-chow out of pic— you know, cucumbers. And that was our main meal and at night we'd just have cornbread and milk, but so did everybody else. In fact, I felt like we had good food compared to a lot of people. So I really didn't think about it.

Mother just thought of ways to try to keep the dust out of the house and, of course, as soon as it quit blowin', well, that was the first thing, was to sweep the kitchen and — and get a meal and then we'd clean up the rest of the house. And we always had quilts and blankets hangin' on the line to get the dirt out so that we could go to bed in a clean bed. And I remember wearing patches on some of my clothes and I said somethin' about 'em one time and Mother said, "Patches aren't a disgrace. All you need to worry about's being clean." So she wanted us clean and — and healthy.



On Saying Goodbye

We hated to see anyone leave. There were so few close neighbors or close friends or relatives. And we hated for 'em to leave, but we all told 'em to be sure and write us from California. We wanted to know if it was as great out there as we thought it was. And nearly everyone left that was close to us but my dad and one of his brothers. And they stuck it out. They stayed through all the Dirty Thirties and everything.

My daddy was an optimist. I think he just kept thinking, "Next year will be better and we'll have a good crop and we'll raise some more cattle and we'll get rich." We never did, but he thought we would. He was a good farmer and he was a good cattleman and he — he really believed that everything would work out for the best, that we'd have a good crop and — and everything would be better.

Directions: Answer the following questions regarding *An Interview with Imogene Glover*.
You may look back at the selection as often as needed.

10. Which of the following is an accurate, fair evaluation of the selection *An Interview with Imogene Glover*?
- A. The text contained many errors in basic writing conventions because the interview was recorded as Imogene Glover actually said it.
 - B. The text contained many errors in basic writing conventions because the one recording the interview had poor writing skills.
 - C. Interviews always contain errors in basic writing conventions because no one speaks in perfect English.
 - D. The text did not contain many errors in basic writing conventions.
11. What is the main idea of the selection, *An Interview with Imogene Glover*?
- A. The effects of the dust storms impacted every aspect of life in the Panhandle.
 - B. Because of the dust storms, farming in the Panhandle was difficult and not productive.
 - C. Dust storms made it impossible to raise turkeys and cattle in the Panhandle.
 - D. Due to the dust storms in the Panhandle, everyone had to fence in their property.
12. How is the main idea developed within the interview?
- A. Through a series of separate topics
 - B. Through a question and answer approach
 - C. Through a chronological outline
 - D. None of the above
13. Which of the following best describes the reason why Imogene's family stayed in Oklahoma?
- A. Her father always believed their situation would improve.
 - B. Her father was too proud to admit that moving to Oklahoma was a mistake.
 - C. Her mother's family needed them to stay nearby.
 - D. It was illegal to walk away from one's home.

14. Which of the following was **not** a major concern for Imogene's mother?

- A. Keeping her family clean
- B. Keeping her family safe
- C. Keeping her family is new clothes
- D. Keeping her family healthy

15. Use context clues to determine the meaning of the underlined word in the selection below.

*Well, he made a great cantaloupe crop, but he didn't have any **market** for 'em. So no more cantaloupe.*

- A. A store at which to sell products
- B. People to buy the product
- C. To advertise the product
- D. A place to store the product

16. Analyze the following for inappropriate shifts in verb tense and choose the answer that best describes the selection.

*The American poet Shel Siverstein wrote the Giving Tree in 1964.
Many present-day children still consider it a great story.*

- A. There are no inappropriate shifts in verb tense.
- B. There is an inappropriate shift in verb tense within the first sentence.
- C. There is an inappropriate shift in verb tense within the second sentence.
- D. There are inappropriate shifts in verb tense within both sentences.

17. How might one correct the inappropriate shift in verb tense in the following sentence?

In 1840, a series of deadly earthquakes devastated much of Pennsylvania; the town of Pittsburg suffers the greatest losses.

- A. In 1840, a series of deadly earthquakes **devastating** much of Pennsylvania; the town of Pittsburg suffers the greatest losses.
- B. In 1840, a series of deadly earthquakes devastated much of Pennsylvania; the town of Pittsburg **suffered** the greatest losses.
- C. In 1840, a series of deadly earthquakes devastated much of Pennsylvania; the town of Pittsburg **suffering** the greatest losses.
- D. Sentence contains no inappropriate shifts in verb tense.

18. How might one correct the inappropriate shift in verb tense within the following sentence?

A car dealership usually discounts the previous year's models when the new vehicles arrives on the showroom floor.

- A. A car dealership usually discounts the previous year's models when the new vehicles **arrived** on the showroom floor.
- B. A car dealership usually discounts the previous year's models when the new vehicles **arriving** on the showroom floor.
- C. A car dealership usually discounts the previous year's models when the new vehicles **arrive** on the showroom floor.
- D. Sentence contains no inappropriate shifts in verb tense.

Grade 8 Assessment 2 Breakdown

	Answer	CCSS	Skill
1	A	RL.8.1	Evaluate Point of View
2	B	RL.8.1	Recall
3	B	RL.8.2	Infer
4	B	RL.8.2	Infer
5	C	RL.8.1	Retell
6	A	RL.8.3	Support
7	D	RL.8.4 & L.8.4a	Use Context Clues
8	A	RL.8.4 & L.8.4a	Use Context Clues
9	D	RL.8.2	Analyze
10	A	RI.8.1	Evaluate
11	A	RI.8.2	Draw Conclusions
12	A	RI.8.2	Identify Structure
13	A	RI.8.1	Draw Conclusions
14	C	RI.8.1	Recall
15	B	RI.8.4 & L.8.4a	Use Context Clues
16	A	L.8.1d	Assess Verb Tense
17	B	L.8.1d	Assess Verb Tense
18	C	L.8.1d	Assess Verb Tense