

Erica Lewis

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5.1 Wizard of Oz Film and Book Write Up

The book *The Wizard of Oz* had many differences compared to the movie with the same title. The book goes to many different places where the movie has one main purpose. What I thought the biggest difference was between the two was that the book was almost boring compared to the movie version. The book lacked depth compared to the richness of the movie. Despite being slow, the book had a lot more going on in comparison to the movie.

One of the biggest differences in book was how Dorothy gets to Oz. In the book, Dorothy and Aunt Em run for the cellar as the cyclone is about to hit while Uncle Henry locks up the livestock so that they do not blow away. When the storm hits Dorothy is rescuing Toto from under the bed and the house is swept away from the cellar hole where Aunt Em is crouching. The house is spinning in the middle of the cyclone and at first Dorothy is scared but then she compares the trip to being rocked gently like a baby. Toto however gets curious and falls out the trap door, requiring Dorothy to save him. After awhile Dorothy makes herself comfortable by sitting down on the floor to wait out the storm. She becomes lonely and finally lies down in bed with Toto to sleep. In contrast to the book, the Dorothy in the movie has a quite different experience before getting to the Land of Oz. The movie opens with Dorothy running from Ms. Gulch who is angry at Toto for being in her garden. Toto has to be taken away by orders of the Sheriff and Dorothy, though reluctant, must agree with the law. Toto ultimately escapes and makes it home but Dorothy realizes that she must leave to save Toto again. On her journey to find a place where she belongs she comes across a fortune teller that is less than the real thing. He convinces Dorothy to go home to be safe with her family. Dorothy does as he says but it is too late. The storm has started and Dorothy can not make it to the cellar in time because she is searching the house for everyone. Of course, everyone is already in the cellar safe. Dorothy suffers a blow to the head from the window and lays unconscious in her bed.

Another big difference despite the lead up to the two Dorothy's getting to Oz is also the relevance how Oz is perceived. In the book Dorothy actually goes to Oz for several days which allows Aunt Em and Uncle Henry to rebuild a new home and actually be worried where she has gone. In the movie however, Dorothy dreams up the Land of Oz because she wants to find a place to belong and that is not as bland as Kansas. The movie incorporates important people in her real life to become characters in the dream world of Oz. Farmhands become the lion, the scarecrow, and the tin man. The fortune teller becomes the great and powerful wizard and is also a scammer just like the fortune teller character. Mean Ms. Gulch is also in the dream as the wicked Witch of the West who is trying hard to capture Dorothy. I think that as an entertainment value the movie creates a good background to build upon within the dream world of Oz. The movie Dorothy wants to get away, to be accepted, and not get in the way anymore. In Oz, she misses her friends and family but they are reborn as symbolic characters in Oz. It is even foreshadowed before the storm arrives. The farmhand that also plays the Cowardly Lion gets frightened in the pigpen and the farmhand who plays the Scarecrow mentions brains. This allows the helpers to fit very nicely into Dorothy's dream. I think it also shows how simple things in everyday life can pop up in unexpected ways in everyone's dreams. The director has to add this foreshadowing into the film in order to reemphasize that this is all dreamt in Dorothy's head. This is not the case in the book. There are no farmhands to compare dream characters to and this creates the idea that the Land of Oz is actually a real place. I think that this is the point of Baum. He did not want Oz to be make believe. He wanted it to be a land of fantasy far away from the dullness of other lands. It was supposed to be a land of richness and excitement that made your home feel boring. Despite Dorothy's home being dull and listless, she still would trade anything to get back there. This is also true in the movie.

Another noticeable difference is the path that both the movie and the book take the reader/viewer. There are many little catastrophes that take place on the journey to the Emerald City, to the Witch of the West, and to Qualding to find the good witch. The book is broken up by chapter and each chapter seems to have a small dilemma. If every small situation were put into the movie, then the movie would have been extremely redundant but also very, very long. Within the book, Dorothy encounters field mice in the deadly poppy field, many snarling beasts such as the hammer heads and the Kalidahs, and has to face the witch's army of many fierce animals. She and her group of friends fight off trees and giant spiders. The movie incorporates the poppy field but does so at the witch's command as well as the giant trees are also fighting for the witch. The Dorothy in the book has to travel to many different lands in order to find her way home. She and her friends travel to the Emerald City, the south land of Qualdings, and the land of the Winkies. They go to China town where everything is made of fine Chinese porcelain and spend several days in the Emerald City during both visits. This is not the case in the movie.

The movie lacks many of the smaller conflicts and instead creates a hero villain atmosphere surrounding the Witch of the West and Dorothy. The sole purpose is to reach the Emerald City and then to get to the witch. It takes out much of the journey in between which suggests that the director of the film thought the smaller conflicts would take away from the overall theme to get Dorothy home. Smaller conflicts would take away from the actual journey to the city. Another reason that scenes lacked admittance into the movie was probably because of technology. It was hard enough to put on makeup and costume each character everyday and use the Technicolor film. It would have cost too much and had been too timely to introduce talking mice, porcelain people, and many wild beasts. The movie holds true to a few key plot points such as the deadly poppy field, the wizard being a hoax, and the most important event of melting the witch with water. The film incorporates these three events although the storyline behind the events is drastically different from the book. The witch becomes the antagonist that tries to halt Dorothy's progress home by employing trees to slow the travels down and sends out the winged monkeys to destroy the group. There is a huge chase scene in the castle of the Witch where the travelers are running away from the guards. The book eliminates the Tin Man and the Scarecrow from the Witch's castle. The Lion is fit to become a work horse and Dorothy is sentenced to cleaning. To get the silver (not ruby) slippers the Witch trips Dorothy and in Dorothy's anger she throws water over the Witch. The water melts the Witch and Dorothy gets her shoe back. Then she goes and rescues the Scarecrow and the Tin Man. The outcomes in the book and the movie are the same, the Witch has been destroyed but the means of doing so are different. The director of the movie was smart to put a chase scene in the film because it creates a build up to the climax of the Witch's death. The book lacks such climax.

The winged monkeys are in the book as well as the movie but play a much different role. The Witch is in charge of the Winged Monkeys but can not employ them however she wants like in the movie. She can only call upon them three times as their master in the book. The master of the Winged Monkeys is whoever owns the magic cap. After the Witch has melted Dorothy becomes the owner of the magic cap and uses it for travel purposes mostly throughout the rest of the book. At last the cap is given to the good witch who uses it to transport Dorothy's friends to their new kingdoms to rule. The cap is not present in the movie and does not really need to be. The lands where the characters were sent did not take place in the movie therefore there was not a need to have the magic cap. Without the cap, the Winged Monkeys were able to be 100 percent at the command of the Witch in the movie. The director does not need to have the cap because like mentioned above the dangers that it was used against were not really present in the movie. It would have taken more time and explanation to clarify why the cap was in the movie. The Witch uses the Winged Monkeys as a last resort after her wolves and killer bees were destroyed by the group. She uses all three of her commands so the cap is now useless to her in the book.

There are many smaller differences in the movie and the book that warrant a say but not a lot of detail. Things were omitted such as the use of the locked green spectacles in the Emerald City in

order to not be blinded by dazzle, the Scarecrow getting stuck on a pole in the middle of a river, the hospitality of the rich Munchkins, or beasts of the forest being scared of a giant spider. Again, I believe that the director had two focuses in mind: getting Dorothy to the Emerald City to get home and destroying the Wicked Witch of the West. The trivial things were overshadowed by the more important themes of the book and movie.

Despite having many differences, the book and the film both emphasize that the main goal is get Dorothy back home. She wants to get out of Oz and back to her family even though she has created a social network of her own in Oz. In the book the journey is symbolic to the characteristics each character wants. Throughout the journey the Lion demonstrates courage while fighting off many different beasts such as the Kalidahs and the giant spider. The Tin Man shows that he has great heart and compassion when he shows love for his group mates. He wields his ax against many different obstacles and cries freely whenever something calamitous happens. He even cries when he squishes a bug on the path. The Scarecrow demonstrates that the longer he is in the world the smarter he becomes. He offers many bright ideas that help the group through their journey. Dorothy continues to realize more and more that there is no place like home regardless of how bright, green, or beautiful a place is. They all continue to journey together despite not having to do so. The ultimately goal is get Dorothy home. The Tin Man, the Lion, and the Scarecrow have all been granted their wishes but still stick with Dorothy to help her get hers. This unity shows through and also emphasizes the main point of family. Dorothy wants to get home to her family that has been there for her when she became an orphan. They may not be the most fun people but she realizes that not being with them is a great sorrow. This rings true in both the book and the movie.

The book however adds some elements that the movie does not. For one thing the book gives Oz a very realistic visual map. There is a north, south, east, and west to the land. Each area has a name and a different group of people characteristically living there. It is told that the Emerald City is the very center of the land and this creates a visual of how important the city is the Oz. This map makes it easier to understand where Dorothy and her group are traveling. As opposed to the movie which gives you the basic understandings of the land. There is a city that Dorothy needs to get to in order to get home and a path to follow to get there. The book helps to visualize just how vast the Land of Oz is. The amount of time spent on the journey is vastly longer in the book than the movie as well. The book demonstrates that journeys take time. Dorothy and her friends both need to eat and sleep. They also have spent several days traveling to all their destinations and a few days during both visits to the Emerald City to see the Wizard. The span of time in the plot of the book is important to showing how much more important it was for Dorothy to get home as time went on. The book also used far more characters. In the movie this would not have been possible because explanations of each one would have been necessary.

The characters in the book use dialog to explain things to Dorothy especially about people and animals they meet and the places they go. I believe that the book does a much better job of showing that the Wonderful Wizard of Oz is just a sham. After Toto finds him behind the partition, the man explains that he is a good man just a bad wizard. Even though this event is also true in the movie, the book demonstrates how he has fooled everyone for so long. The book explains that the Emerald City is not as dazzling as it appears to be. The spectacles actually make it the green that it is and it is no more amazing than any other city. He fools the Tin Man, the Scarecrow, and the Lion into believing that they received their wishes. Although he fools them, he does it in a kind way. I think that the wizard knew all along that they possessed the things they were asking for. He stuffs the Scarecrow with "bran-new" brains consisting of bran and pins to make him sharp. He has not lied but it is evident that he has swindled the Scarecrow. The Wizard gives the Tin Man a sawdust heart that "thumps" whenever he is in motion and he gives the Lion a bowl of liquid from a shelf but explains that it will not be courage until it is inside of you. All of these actions justly prove that the wizard is really just a quick thinking swindler but a very kindhearted one at that. The book even explains how the Wizard used tricks of the eye to create different images of himself. The movie

details the Wizard as a humbug just like the book but the Wizard actually appears to give each of the travelers their wishes. The description of his actions are resourceful to the reader because it emphasizes that the Wizard has fooled everyone by using his brain all these years. The book also explains how lonely the wizard is and this is not as prominent in the movie.

The breakdown of chapters is very useful for the reader. It is simple and separates one conflict or adventure from the next. The chapter titles give you a good idea of what is to come in the chapter. The titles are not misleading but straightforward and do not leave the reader wondering what they will be reading about. I read the 100th anniversary addition and even the pictures played an important role along with the book. The pictures were all one color and the color changed as significant things changed with the book. While in Munchkin land the pictures were all a deep green that made me imagine the beautiful green pastures. The pictures were bright green when in the Emerald City because everything was emerald there. The color orange was normally used when the characters encountered danger. Even when Dorothy was home in Kansas before the storm the pictures are colored in an ugly brown gray color although it is a different more bright color of orange when she returns home. I think this means she really is ready to overlook the dullness for the satisfaction of being safely home. Surprisingly, I noticed there were no other significant colors used such as blues, purples, and reds.

Despite the many differences between the book, the movie still adds some positive things. Technology and the director's choices create examples of how the film is an important tool to understanding *The Wizard of Oz*. The movie recreates Munchkinland as being lush and beautiful. Although the book describes it that way, the movie actually makes the idea come alive. The movie does a much better job at comparing the dullness of Kansas to the amazing depth of Oz. The director uses sepia film to make Kansas as dull as possible before and after Dorothy visits Oz. The land is barren and bone dry. It gives the view the idea that dust is prominent everywhere and on everything. When Dorothy reaches Oz she is awaked by vibrant colors everywhere. The director chose to use Technicolor film for these scenes. Technicolor was a new technology created shortly before the movie was made. It filmed the film onto two different film reels. One created green and the other created red. When blended together it made the scenes appear in color. This technology was new and often tedious for the production of movies but in the end it was very worthwhile. It definitely recreates a contrast that makes it easy to compare the two different settings. The book does not give much background about Kansas besides it being gray and dull. The movie however does a good job in showing how dull it is. Dorothy and Toto seem to be the only lifelike things within Kansas even though the viewer meets multiple people and there are live animals on the farm.

The simple word choice of the book makes it sometimes harder to imagine scenes. The movie does a good job at recreating scenes such as making the forest dark and using music to make it eerie. The use of dialog is more significant in the movie as well. The characters explain why they need to go to the Wizard and there are many insightful spoken lines. For example, the Lion is very philosophical in regards to his need for courage and the dialog also makes it apparent that each traveler has received what he sought after. Because the book is a very easy read, it lacks depth among the characters. The movie creates the characters to have much perspective and depth. The characters are thoughtful and display emotions beyond happy and sad. There is an innocence about Dorothy that is not registered as well in the book. Partly this has to do with the director's choice of characters. There were many changes throughout the movie but the end choices were good ones.

The plot of the movie makes for great action. The plot has an antagonist and protagonist in which one must prevail over the other. The movie has a rising and falling sequence of actions that builds up to the climax and a resolution. The in depth characters are faced with a problem. They must travel to the Emerald City in order to ask the Wizard for various self fulfillments. This is especially important for Dorothy who wants to travel back to her home in Kansas. After journeying to the city, the Wizard will only grant their desires if they kill the Wicked Witch of the West. She is

the only one that can truly defeat the Wizard if she realizes his efforts are fake. The Witch already has a vendetta against Dorothy for killing her sister when the house fell to Munchkinland. The antagonist, the witch, tries hard throughout the movie to hinder Dorothy's progress. Eventually Dorothy defeats the Witch and is able to go home with the Wizard in his hot air balloon. This plan fails and the Good Witch describes how Dorothy had the power to go home all along but she would not have believed it. The theme behind believing is an important one. It makes the viewer believe that if Dorothy believes in Oz then it is really a real place. The movie also wants to emphasize that Dorothy must believe that Kansas is indeed a great place despite the downfalls. This is what Dorothy does believe in the end because she wants to get home. With a conflict at hand, the killing of the Witch makes for good movie entertainment. The group must set out on another quest this time to do something that they did not foresee doing. With the climax, the viewer realizes that no matter what other mishaps take place, like the balloon leaving without Dorothy, Dorothy will get home.

The movie uses multiple avenues to recreate magic among Oz. The Flying Monkeys were attached to harnesses in order to fly as was the Witch. Watching the making of the movie I also learned that a lot of miniature landscapes were used. The house landing in Oz scene was filmed by dropping a small model house then reversing the film to make it look like it was landing on ground. Miniature sets were also used during the initial tornado scenes. Smoke and fire were used to create dramatic entrances for the Witch. Smoke and fire were also used to create the Wizard as terrible and scary. All these effects added to the presence of the characters that was lacking within the book. The Witch plays a more substantial role in the movie and therefore requires more dramatic entrances. This emphasized her role as the antagonist as well. The Emerald City used many different effects to create horses that changed color. Technologies that were relatively new at the time helped to make the effects of the movie stand out. It ultimately made conflicts among characters more prominent and also contracted Kansas to Oz in a very obvious way.

Both the movie and the book have been incorporated in different ways into contemporary culture. The movie has definitely become much better known than the book has. I believe this is due to the exciting plot of the movie that only incorporates a few elements of the book in it. The book is also a simple read which means more readers are likely to discard it for harder, in depth works. Certainly as of recently, the musical *Wicked* has made the images of *The Wizard of Oz* renewed to current cultures. The song *Over the Rainbow* is even more popular than the movie or the book. It is thought of to symbolize all romance and desire that seems impossible to come across. Little girls listen to this song while doing their dolls' hair and adults see the song as speaking to their possible achievements. The song is used in other movies as well. The movie has more pull when it comes to pop culture. I think this is because the movie seemed to be more popular during the time it was actually filmed and now. Although the film is popular, based on what I read, the books seemed to be more popular when they were first published. I think this is due to the fact that teens and readers want modern day adventures that incorporate love and danger all in one. A book like the one Baum wrote would have less impact because of lack of depth. This allows for the movie to skyrocket compared to the book. I think that because the book is not nearly as popular as the movie means that movies that are done well regardless of plot to the book have a way of sticking in the minds of the viewers. I had not read the book in the past despite reading many of the other books on this list. I think it is because the movie was so good and I had seen it so many times that the book did not need to be read. This is a poor attitude but I bet a lot of other people who have seen the movie feel the same and would be just as disappointed as I was in the easiness and repetition of the book.

When I first read the book I was very confused because I had recently finished reading the book *Wicked*. I realized that a lot of the references regarding people and places that were left out of the movie were actually explained in the alternative version of the book. The newer version of Oz goes into a lot of detail and supplements the original book. Even before *Wicked* came out, there had been feature length movies where Oz was the main backdrop. I believe that these movies are also

loosely based on the other books Baum wrote in the series. *Wicked*, the musical and the book, have helped popularize *The Wizard of Oz* and other well known fairy tales by adding interesting twists to each one. This new version of the book has popularized it and even made it into a Broadway musical that has earned millions of dollars. On top of that fans are buying t-shirts and the soundtracks to both the musical and the original movie. Even the movie *Enchanted* has an oz-like theme to it where the princess is displaced from her home to a new land and her only wish is to get back home again. The theme of the movie and book is there is no place like home and this is a common theme in many current movies whether they pertain to magical lands or not. Many characters in modern movies want to get back to their home, family, or original disposition. The characters are forever idolized as Halloween costumes as well. The themes embodying the book and movie give writers new ideas to go off of and the themes will live on in other movies. The book inspired a true story of from the Witch's perspective that created a craze on Broadway and in soundtrack sales. Despite new technology advancements in film and special effects, *The Wizard of Oz* has remained a classic in the movie industry and everyone knows of its story. The book however does not create as much excitement nor can it be the sole reason that the movie did so well and has continued to be an icon to society.