

The Wonderful Wizard of Oz

Vocabulary list

- * This guide is in progress. Please point out any suggestions or corrections to me at kcleary@gol.com.
- * You should save this to your computer, and then use it as needed while reading the book.
- * Everyone has their own way of reading, but here is what I suggest you do for this book:
 - **First reading** (many people will have read the book before class starts)
Just read the book. Don't worry about words you don't understand. Get the main story.
 - **Second reading**
Read along with the guide if you want to, or consult the guide once in a while. Try to get a deeper understanding of the way things happen, why they happen, and the language that Capote uses.
 - **Third reading**
Read the book alone again, and see how much new understanding you pick up.

In class we will discuss many things related to the book or movie. A good understanding of the book (from 2 or 3 readings) will be a great way to be ready for our discussions.

Using the Guide

The **page number** corresponds to the Books of Wonder (Morrow) edition. The chapter and page numbers should allow you to find the corresponding page if you are using another edition.

The **term** column is a term that I felt was interesting or important.

The **definition** column has an explanatory note or a synonym. Sometimes the term is one I think many students do not already know, so I explain it or its context. Other times, the term is commonly known, but I submit a synonym that I think you should also know.

Sometimes there is more information about the term or definition that would be good to know. In such a case I put a note in the **other info** column. Other times the term, or its position or use in the text suggests a question for you to think about. Those are included as well. There are many other questions. Be sure to ask any question in class - one from the suggested list, one that you have come up with yourself, or one that you feel would be good for class discussion.

Hope this guide helps you enjoy the book!

chapter	page	term	definition	other info / question
1	11		<i>midst</i> middle	"surrounded by"
1	11		<i>prairies</i> flat land	very very flat
1	11	<i>the farmer's wife</i>	his wife	Why is Aunt Em introduced as "the farmer's wife"?
1	11		<i>lumber</i> wood products used in construction	

1	11	<i>rusty looking</i> not shiny or well-kept	What does the room and the condition of the stove tell you about their economic condition?
1	11	<i>three or four chairs</i>	Why is the description inexact?
1	12	<i>garret</i> attic	
1	12	<i>cellar</i> basement	
1	12	<i>cyclone</i> whirlwind	tornado
1	12	<i>whirlwinds</i> arose	tornadoes do not "arise"; they touch down from the sky.
1	12	<i>trap-door</i> hidden door	Compare to the movie
1	12	<i>plowed land</i> cultivated, made into farmland	
1	12	<i>blistered</i> made to bubble up	
1	12	<i>sparkle</i> shined (with good humor)	
1	12	<i>gaunt</i> not well fed	
1	12	<i>startled</i> surprised	
1	12	(<i>picture</i>)	Compare Toto and Dorothy to the portrayals in the movie.
1	13	<i>scream</i> yell in a frightened way	Compare Aunt Em's reaction to the action that provoked it.
1	13	<i>stern</i> strict	
1	13	<i>solemn</i> very very serious	
1	13	<i>not gray</i>	What are the two things in Kansas that are not gray according to the book?
1	13	<i>twinkled</i> sparkled	Stars are often described as "twinkling"
1	13	<i>wee</i> tiny	
1	13	<i>door-step</i> archaic form of "doorstep"	
1	13	<i>To-day</i> archaic form of "today"	
1	14	<i>wail</i> sound like crying	
1	14	<i>ripples</i> waves	
1	14	<i>the stock</i> livestock	(cows, sheep, horses, etc.)
1	14	<i>glance</i> quick look	Compare: look, watch, stare, glance, glimpse.
1	14	<i>shriek</i> sudden scream	
1	14	<i>lost her footing</i> fell down	
1	15	<i>howled</i> a long, loud type of scream	Note the use of scream, wail, shriek, howl.
1	15	<i>dashed</i> violently thrown down and broken	

1	15	<i>resolved</i> made up her mind to	Compare how quickly the Kansas scene goes by in the movie.
2	19	<i>shock</i> bump	
2	19	<i>jar</i> shock	
2	19	<i>whined</i> made a complaining sound	
2	19	<i>dismally</i> with great sadness	
2	19	<i>sprang</i> jumped up with much energy	
2	20	<i>midst</i>	Note the parallel use of this word.
2	20	<i>marvelous</i> so wonderful to be marveled at	
2	20	<i>sward</i> covered with grass	Note the contrast, list all the things that are different.
2	20	<i>banks</i> groups	
2	20	<i>on every hand</i> ??	Most likely: "in every direction"
2	20	<i>plumage</i> feathers, coloring	
2	20	<i>fluttered</i> flew small distances	
2	20	<i>brook</i> small river	
2	20	<i>murmuring</i> making a sound like very soft talking	
2	20	<i>queerest</i> strangest	
2	20	<i>tinkled</i> sound made by a small bell	
2	20	<i>sprinkled</i> scattered, but with a pleasing appearance	
2	20	<i>glistening</i> shining in a nice way	Tinkled, sprinkled, glistened: powerful description words
2	21	<i>Sorceress</i> feminine form of Sorcerer	
2	21	<i>little woman</i>	The movie introduces Glinda here (the other good witch)
2	22	<i>hesitation</i> slowness of speech	
2	22	<i>beam</i> large piece of lumber	
2	22	<i>shod</i> having shoes on	
2	22	<i>silver shoes</i>	The movie used ruby slippers.
2	22	<i>bondage</i> loss of freedom	
2	23	<i>slave for her</i> work for her (overmuch, or for no pay)	
2	24	<i>witches were all dead</i>	Why would Dorothy ask about witches in Kansas?
2	24	<i>sinking her voice</i>	I would say "... her voice sinking to a whisper."
2	25	<i>dust</i>	What is the dust made of?
2	25	<i>carried her shoes in</i>	Compare to the movie

2	26	<i>sob</i>	cry	
2	26	<i>City of Emeralds</i>		Compare to Emerald City
2	27	<i>kiss</i>		Why did they leave the magical kiss out of the movie?
2	28	<i>Dorothy not surprised</i>		What does this tell you about her character?
3	31	<i>pail</i>	bucket	in the old days people took pails to bars for beer, and to wells for water
3	31	<i>help out</i>	make complete	
3	31	<i>helped herself</i>	taken for herself	Is there any significance to the word "help" being used so much for Dorothy?
3	32	<i>gingham</i>	a checked, striped or plaid pattern dress	
3	32	<i>frock</i>	dress (esp. for a young woman)	
3	32	<i>sunbonnet</i>	hat with a long bill	
3	32	<i>wagged</i>	moved his tail back and forth cheerfully	
3	32	<i>the silver shoes fit her</i>		Which fairy tale is suggested by this part of the story?
3	33	<i>soberly</i>	seriously	
3	33	<i>yellow brick road</i>		Compare to how she found the yellow brick road in the movie.
3	33	<i>fences were dainty blue</i>		Compare to Kansas.
3	34	<i>fiddlers</i>	musicians playing a violin or violin-like instrument	
3	34	<i>hearty</i>	a large, healthy meal giving great satisfaction	
3	34	<i>settee</i>	sofa	
3	34	(<i>picture</i>)		How does the picture match the story?
3	35	<i>ordinary</i>	typical	
3	35	<i>slept soundly</i>	slept very well, deeply	
3	35	<i>crowed</i>	made a sound of victory	
3	35	<i>amused</i>	entertained	
3	35	<i>gravely</i>	seriously	
3	35	(<i>picture</i>)		What do you think Toto is thinking?
3	36	<i>journey</i>	long, difficult trip	Taking a journey is a typical fairy tale event.

3	36	<i>bade</i> goodbye said goodbye	
3	36	<i>earnestly</i> with concentration, seriously	
3	37	<i>wink</i> to close one eye as a signal to another person	Compare to how she found the scarecrow was alive in the movie.
3	37	<i>husky</i> hoarse, dry	Note the pun (husk is the covering of wheat, rice, corn and other grains).
3	37	<i>obliged</i> be given a great favor (and thus have the necessity to do a favor in return)	
3	37	<i>puzzled</i> confused	
3	38	<i>stretched and yawned</i>	Compare with the movie's portrayal of the Scarecrow limbering up.
3	38	<i>enquired</i> asked	The scarecrow uses elegant speech, and the way it is reported is formal too.
3	39	<i>fool</i> silly person	
3	39	<i>gratefully</i> with thankfulness	
3	39	<i>the party</i> the group	
3	40	<i>lighted match</i>	This is foreshadowing, and shows the Scarecrow is not brainless.
4	43	<i>stumbled</i> missed his footing	
4	43	<i>merrily</i> happily, with good humor	
4	44	<i>dismal</i> unhappy, depressing	
4	44	<i>spoil</i> destroy	Note the use of spoil in reference to eating.
4	44	<i>queer</i> strange	
4	44	<i>dreary</i> unhappy looking	Would you rather stay in Oz or go back to a poor life in Kansas?
4	45	<i>There is no place like home.</i>	This idea is repeated often in the movie.
4	45	<i>reproachfully</i> disapprovingly	
4	45	<i>made day before yesterday</i> should be "made the day before yesterday"	Is this a typographical error or the Scarecrow's mistake?
4	45	<i>curiosity</i> interest	
4	45	<i>glimpse</i> to see something without intentionally directing your eyes to it first	
4	46	<i>deserted</i> left alone	
4	47	<i>anxious</i> waiting desperately	

4	48	<i>untilled</i> not farmed	
5	53	<i>inconvenient</i> troublesome	
5	53	<i>thoughtfully</i>	Why is the Scarecrow described as saying it "thoughtfully"?
5	54	<i>bother</i> trouble	
5	54	<i>groan</i> sound of misery; sound made by objects under pressure	
5	54	<i>jointed</i> made with devices that allow movement	
5	55	<i>anxiously</i> worriedly	
5	56	<i>always</i> forever	
5	56	<i>suppose so</i> imagine so	
5	57	<i>shouldered</i> put on his shoulder	
5	58	<i>rather have a heart</i>	What would you prefer - a brain or a heart? (intellect or emotion)
5	59	<i>enchanted</i> put a spell on	
5	59	<i>anxious to get</i> wanting very much to get	
5	59	<i>nothing daunted</i> not discouraged at all	
5	59	<i>happened</i> chanced to	
5	59	<i>thought I had beaten</i>	How did he know the Witch was behind his trouble? Is this the same axe he uses now?
5	59	<i>made my axe</i>	
5	60	<i>left to stand</i>	Why did the Tin Man forget to oil himself?
5	60	<i>greatest loss</i>	What is the Tin Man's philosophy of life?
5	61	<i>anxious</i> (which meaning of anxious do you think it is?)	
5	61	<i>fool would not know what to do with a heart</i>	How would you respond to the Scarecrow?
5	61	<i>she decided...</i>	How did Dorothy solve the riddle of who (the Scarecrow or the Tin Man) was right?
5	61	<i>she was fed</i>	Why not "she ate"?
6	65	<i>deep growl</i> threatening, menacing sound	
6	66	<i>we must protect him</i>	This is a type of foreshadowing.
6	67	<i>dare to</i> have the audacity to	The other meaning of "dare" is "to have the courage to do something"

6	67	<i>coward</i> someone overly afraid of danger	
6	67	<i>blunted</i> made dull	
6	68	<i>shiver</i> tremor (due to fear)	
6	70	<i>unbearable</i> so frustrating that life is not worth living	Note the "bear" (animal word) in unbearable
6	70	<i>stately</i> regal, formal	
6	70	<i>beetle</i>	Is the Tin Man a Zen Buddhist?
6	71	<i>seized</i> took quickly	Note that the Scarecrow knew what to do.
6	72	<i>toiling</i> working hard	
6	72	<i>needn't mind</i> don't need to care	Do you agree with the Tin Man's statement?
7	75	<i>obliged</i> forced to	
7	75	<i>dew</i> moisture on the plants in the morning	
7	75	<i>splendid</i> wonderful	
7	76	<i>thoughtful</i>	Make a note of how the Scarecrow is thoughtful in the story.
7	77	<i>rippling</i> having rocks that interrupt the flow of the water	
7	77	<i>eventful</i> having many happenings	
7	77	<i>ditch</i> more like a canyon	
7	77	<i>gulf</i> space between two sides, distance to be traveled	
7	78	<i>nothing to do but try it</i>	Is this courageous?
7	78	<i>crouched</i> bent at the knees, tensed to leap up	
7	78	<i>panted</i> breathed quickly (from exhaustion)	
7	79	<i>gloomy</i> dark, sad, unhappy	
7	79	<i>Kalidahs</i> these beasts did not appear in the movie	
7	81	<i>dashed</i> broken up	
7	82	<i>river</i> This river is not in the movie	
7	83	<i>industrious</i> hard-working	
8	87	<i>beckon</i> call	
8	89	<i>worse off than before</i>	What do you think of his observation?
8	91	<i>wistfully</i> in a sad way, since one is yearning for that which cannot be had	

8	92	<i>eagerly</i>	Why is Dorothy eager?
8	92	<i>gay</i> happy	
8	92	<i>babies</i>	When asked "Where do babies come from?" parents tell their children "The stork brings them."
8	93	<i>meadow</i> field	Note that the witch had nothing to do with the poppy field.
8	93	<i>well known</i>	This could be a reference to opium (made from poppies)
8	95	<i>fast asleep</i> deeply asleep	
8	96	<i>poison</i> deadly substance	Note the change in the description from "spicy scent" to "poison".
9	100	<i>blow</i> a chop from the axe	
9	100	<i>it</i> the wildcat	
9	100	<i>his</i> the Tin Man	
9	101	<i>shrill</i> high-pitched (usually unpleasant)	
9	101	<i>scampered</i> ran off helter-skelter	
9	103	<i>truck</i> cart	
9	103	<i>pegs</i> fasteners	
9	103	<i>timidly</i> without confidence, with trepidation	
9	103	<i>courtesy</i> ("curtsy" - a gesture made by women when meeting someone or acknowledging attention. One bends the knees with one foot behind the other)	
9	106	<i>warmly</i> with emotion	
9	106	<i>lest</i> in case	
10	111	<i>good-sized</i> quite big	
10	112	<i>boldly</i> without fear	
10	113	<i>terrible</i> able to destroy things easily	
10	114	<i>large collection of hearts</i>	Is this a frightening thing to hear?
10	114	<i>Toto could not speak</i>	Why is Toto's inability to speak said to be strange?
10	115	<i>studded</i> embedded	
10	115	<i>dazzled</i> made unable to see (because of brilliance)	
10	116	<i>perplexity</i> confusion	

10	116	<i>errand</i> trip with a special purpose, mission	
10	116	<i>idle errand</i> ask someone to do something you could easily do	
10	117	<i>blind you</i> make you blind	
10	117	<i>just fit</i> perfectly fit	
10	118	<i>portal</i> entrance	
11	121	<i>pavement</i> road	
11	121	<i>tint</i> pale shade	Why do the sun and the rays have a green tint?
11	122	<i>no horses</i>	Compare to the movie
11	122	<i>demand</i> ask	
11	123	<i>Throne Room</i> formal room for a ruler (where the ruler sits on the throne)	
11	123	<i>audience</i> chance to see a leader	
11	123	<i>admit</i> allow to enter	
11	124	<i>counterpane</i> bedspread	
11	124	<i>to-morrow</i> old spelling of "tomorrow"	
11	125	<i>stupidly</i> without thinking	
11	125	<i>like a cat</i> like a housecat (lions are cats)	
11	125	<i>of the court</i> the people who spend time with the ruler or the ministers of a monarchy	
11	126	<i>walked boldly</i> again she is being bold (confident)	
11	127	<i>meek</i> humble, not proud	
11	129	<i>weep</i> cry	Compare to the movie - why did she cry in the movie?
11	130	<i>astonished</i> amazed	
11	131	<i>dominions</i> lands (controlled by the ruler)	
11	131	<i>bestow</i> give	
11	131	<i>seek</i> consult for advice	
11	132	<i>terror</i> extreme fright	
11	132	<i>spake</i> said	
11	133	<i>pray</i> ask	
11	133	<i>gruffly</i> an impatient, but not completely unkindly, manner of speech	
11	133	<i>be of good cheer</i> don't worry	
11	135	<i>fiercely</i> strongly, intensely	This word also means "very aggressive" esp. as to animals.
12	140	<i>fierce</i> very aggressive and dangerous	

12	141	<i>fierce eyes</i> frightening	
12	141	<i>Very well</i> "If that is what you want, OK"	
12	141	<i>wide awake</i> alert	
12	142	<i>shaggy</i> long-haired	
12	143	<i>peck</i> how the bird uses its bill (as for eating)	
12	144	<i>rage</i> complete anger	
12	144	<i>fine coal</i> high-quality coal (very black)	
12	145	<i>stamped her foot</i> brought her foot down strongly	
12	145	<i>tore her hair</i> pulled her hair out	
12	145	<i>gnashed her teeth</i> ground her teeth together	
12	145	<i>strap</i> piece of leather	
12	147	<i>rumbling</i> deep, low sound	Another meaning is "sign of trouble"
12	147	<i>chattering</i> noisy way of talking	
12	148	<i>fate</i> disaster	
12	150	<i>severely</i> without any kindness, strictly	
12	150	<i>court-yard</i> (courtyard, land that is surrounded by a building on three or four sides	
12	151	<i>bounded</i> sprang	
12	151	<i>mane</i> hair around the lion's neck	
12	151	<i>flew at her</i> ran at her	
12	153	<i>snatched</i> grabbed (in a sneaky way)	
12	154	<i>wailing</i> a cry that expresses misery	
13	161	<i>solder</i> (n) a substance used to join metal to metal; (v) use that substance	
13	161	<i>mend</i> repair	
13	161	<i>vain</i> overly proud of his appearance	How has the Tin Man changed from his original character?
13	162	<i>behold!</i> look at that!	
14	168	<i>lost heart</i> lost her confidence	
14	170	<i>plague us</i> trouble us	
14	172	<i>careless</i>	perhaps it is better to say "carefree"
14	172	<i>before Oz came out of the clouds</i>	this is the first mention of how Oz arrived
14	172	<i>mate with</i> marry	
14	172	<i>manhood</i> became an adult male	

14	174	<i>spared them</i>	allowed them to live	
14	174	<i>wondered</i>	was amazed by	
14	175	<i>wonderful</i>	great / mysterious	
15	179	<i>in wonder</i>	in a state of confusion / amazement	
15	180	<i>tiresome</i>	making them annoyed	
15	180	<i>vexed</i>	upset, made irritable	
15	182	<i>O</i>	honorific used when addressing someone of high office, especially when asking for a favor.	
15	182	<i>trembled</i>	shook (as if with fear or worry)	
15	183	<i>shan't</i>	will not, shall not	
15	183	<i>filled with wonder</i>	speechless with surprise	
15	184	<i>dismay</i>	disappointment	
15	184	<i>making believe</i>	pretending	
15	184	<i>hush</i>	"Be quiet"	
15	184	<i>should be</i>	these days we would say "would be ruined"	
15	184	<i>not a bit of it</i>	"Not at all"	
15	184	<i>common man</i>	typical man	
15	184	<i>grieved</i>	with great sadness	
15	184	<i>humbug</i>	fake	
15	185	<i>terrible</i>		Note how many times "terrible" and "wonder" are used in this chapter.
15	185	<i>ventriloquist</i>	person trained in the ability to make their voice appear to come from different places	
15	186	<i>deceive</i>	fool	
15	186	<i>slats</i>	narrow pieces of wood	
15	187	<i>midst</i>		When did Baum use this word before?
15	188	<i>wonderful</i>	amazing	NOT "great, very good"
15	189	<i>I'm really a very good man</i>		What do you think of Oz judging himself like that?
16	196	<i>uneasily</i>	worriedly	
16	196	<i>bran</i>	the husks of wheat and other grains	
16	196	<i>fulfillment</i>	realization, achievement	
16	197	<i>sawdust</i>	the residue created from sawing logs	

17	204	<i>a balloon</i>	Compare to the movie in which the balloon he came in still exists.
18	211	<i>mourn</i> express sadness for someone who has departed	
18	212	<i>a stuffed man</i>	Politicians are referred to as "stuffed shirts" as they can be pompous (overly proud, puff out their chests)
18	215	<i>Glinda</i>	This is the first mention of Glinda - compare to the movie.
19	221	<i>dose</i> measurement of medicine	
19	222	<i>twined</i> encircled	
19	223	<i>china</i> porcelain	
20	232	<i>saucily</i> with mischief	
20	232	<i>poker</i> fireplace poker - an iron rod used to arrange the logs on a fire	One who has very erect posture looks as if they had a poker for a backbone
20	232	<i>cracked in the head</i> crazy	note the pun
20	234	<i>mantel-shelves</i> the ledge above a fireplace	
20	234	<i>church</i>	Is it important that they broke a church?
20	234	<i>brittle</i> easily broken (because not flexible enough)	
21	237	<i>bogs</i> wet, marshy land	
21	237	<i>marsh</i> waterlogged land	
21	237	<i>rank grass</i> smelly grass	
21	237	<i>tiresome</i> wearying	
21	239	<i>snarling</i> threatening growls	
21	241	<i>slender</i> thin	Is the lion being brave by attacking a sleeping animal?
22	245	<i>steep</i> sharply ascending	
22	245	<i>rough voice</i> rude(in tone) or scratchy (in sound)	
22	246	<i>stout</i> strong looking	
22	246	<i>harshly</i> with no gentleness; an unpleasant sound	
22	246	<i>chorus</i> many voices saying the same thing at once	
22	246	<i>boisterous</i> laughing in an aggressive manner	
22	247	<i>mishap</i> unfortunate accident	
22	247	<i>vexation</i> irritation;	

22	248	<i>ripening</i>	becoming ready to be picked	
22	248	<i>fat / chubby</i>	"fat" is a more judgmental word	
23	253	<i>presentable</i>	able to be in the presence of a guest or superior person	
23	254	<i>red hair...</i>		What meaning does the description of Glinda have?
23	254	<i>put on mourning</i>	wear black clothes	
23	255	<i>"You are unusual"</i>		What does Glinda's answer mean to you?
23	255	<i>"brighter"</i>	note the pun	
23	256	<i>for evermore</i>	a formal way to say "forever"	
23	256	<i>earnestly</i>	strongly, sincerely, intensely	
23	258	<i>"...instead of kissing"</i>		Why did she not kiss the Scarecrow goodbye?
23	259	<i>At length</i>	eventually	
24	261	<i>gravely</i>	very seriously, not jokingly	