The Wonderful Wizard of Oz

Chapter 1 ~ The Cyclone

Created by Gay Miller
I’m excited to announce that each Monday over the next 24 weeks; *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz Book Unit* will be featured in weekly blog posts. Saving each lesson for a novel study is a great option. Since students are so familiar with this well-loved American classic, most chapters can be stand-alone lessons. *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* was originally published on May 17, 1900, so it is now in public domain. There is no need to purchase a class set of books because the complete text will be added to the unit plans.

Book Units Teacher Blog


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**The Wonderful Wizard of Oz**

Genre: Classics and Fantasy

Interest Level ~ Grades 4 – 8

Grade level Equivalent: 6.9

Lexile Measure®: 1000L
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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 cookstove, 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.

"Quick, Dorothy!" she screamed. "Run for the cellar!"

Toto jumped out of Dorothy’s arms and hid under the bed, and the girl started to get him. Aunt Em, badly frightened, threw open the trap door in the floor and climbed down the ladder into the small, dark hole. Dorothy caught Toto at last and started to follow her aunt. When she was halfway across the room there came a great shriek from the wind, and the house shook so hard that she lost her footing and sat down suddenly upon the floor.

Then a strange thing happened.

The house whirled around two or three times and rose slowly through the air. Dorothy felt as if she were going up in a balloon.

The north and south winds met where the house stood, and made it the exact center of the cyclone. In the middle of a cyclone the air is generally still, but the great pressure of the wind on every side of the house raised it up higher and higher, until it was at the very top of the cyclone; and there it remained and was carried miles and miles away as easily as you could carry a feather.

It was very dark, and the wind howled horribly around her, but Dorothy found she was riding quite easily. After the first few whirls around, and one other time when the house tipped badly, she felt as if she were being rocked gently, like a baby in a cradle.

Toto did not like it. He ran about the room, now here, now there, barking loudly; but Dorothy sat quite still on the floor and waited to see what would happen.

Once Toto got too near the open trap door, and fell in; and at first the little girl thought she had lost him. But soon she saw one of his ears sticking up through the hole, for the strong pressure of the air was keeping him up so that he could not fall. She crept to the hole, caught Toto by the ear, and dragged him into the room again, afterward closing the trap door so that no more accidents could happen.

Hour after hour passed away, and slowly Dorothy got over her fright; but she felt quite lonely, and the wind shrieked so loudly all about her that she nearly became deaf. At first she had wondered if she would be dashed to pieces when the house fell again; but as the hours passed and nothing terrible happened, she stopped worrying and resolved to wait calmly and see what the future would bring. At last she crawled over the swaying floor to her bed, and lay down upon it; and Toto followed and lay down beside her.

In spite of the swaying of the house and the wailing of the wind, Dorothy soon closed her eyes and fell fast asleep.
1. What part of speech is **blistered** in the following sentence?

   The sun blistered the paint.  part of speech ____________________

   ~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

Read the two definitions of **blister**.

   a. a swollen area of skin that is filled with liquid. A blister is caused by a burn or other injury.
   b. a raised bubble in paint or a similar coating

Determine which definition is used in each of the sentences below. Write a or b in the blank to show your answer.

2. _____ Her skin blistered from the sunburn.
3. _____ After touching the hot pan, Matthew’s finger blistered.
4. _____ The **paint** on the bench will blister if you leave the bench out in the sun and rain without a protective varnish coat to seal the paint.

5. She was thin and **gaunt**, and never smiled now.

   What part of speech is **gaunt** in this sentence? ____________

6. Circle six words in the box that are synonyms or closely related to the word **gaunt**.

   bony     skinny     scrawny     alert
   chubby    fatigued   thin      plump
   lean      active     spry     lanky

7. Write a sentence using the word gaunt.

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What part of speech is gaunt in this sentence? __adjective____

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_________________________________________________________________________

~ Chapter 1 - Page 8 © Gay Miller ~
1. Which of the following questions can the reader answer after reading Chapter 1?
   a. What did Aunt Em and Uncle Henry do for a living?
   b. Chapter 1 is set in which month?
   c. What did Toto do to make Dorothy laugh?
   d. What happened to cause Dorothy to go live with Aunt Em and Uncle Henry?

2. Which of the following events took place first?
   a. Toto nearly fell through the trap door.
   b. The house was lifted up by the cyclone.
   c. Uncle Henry went to check on the animals.
   d. Dorothy fell asleep.

3. The effect of Toto hiding under the bed was ______.
   a. Aunt Em dropped the dishes
   b. Uncle Henry yelled, “Run for the cellar!”
   c. Dorothy didn’t get to the storm cellar before the cyclone hit the house.
   d. Aunt Em became mad.

4. Name two things in Kansas the book said were not gray.
   _________________________________
   _________________________________

5. List some of the words used to describe the wind.
   _________________________________
   _________________________________

6. Name the type of figurative language that is used in each of the following passages, and then tell the meaning of each.

   The sun and wind had changed her, too.

   From the far north they heard a low wail of the wind.

   Dorothy felt as if she were going up in a balloon.

   She felt as if she were being rocked gently, like a baby in a cradle.

   The wind shrieked so loudly all about her that she nearly became deaf.
The Wonderful Wizard of Oz ~ Chapter 1

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4. Name two things in Kansas the book said were not gray.
   Toto and Dorothy

5. List some of the words used to describe the wind.
   scream, wail, shriek, howl

6. Name the type of figurative language that is used in each of the following passages, and then tell the meaning of each.

   - The sun and wind had changed her, too.
     • Personification
     • Aunt Em had grown older looking by working out in the sun and wind.

   - From the far north they heard a low wail of the wind.
     • Alliteration
     • The alliteration with the "W" sounds like the wind blowing.

   - Dorothy felt as if she were going up in a balloon.
     • Simile
     • Dorothy traveling in the house is being compared to riding in a hot air balloon. The house was lifting up.

   - She felt as if she were being rocked gently, like a baby in a cradle.
     • Simile
     • Because Dorothy is in the eye of the storm, she is having a peaceful ride just like a baby in a cradle.

   - The wind shrieked so loudly all about her that she nearly became deaf.
     • Hyperbole
     • The author wants the reader to feel the violence of the storm.
# Chapter 1 ~ Constructive Response - Setting

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<th>Time the Story Takes Place</th>
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<th>Importance of the Setting</th>
<th>Mood - Atmosphere of the Setting</th>
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**CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.3** Compare and contrast two or more characters, settings, or events in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., how characters interact).

**CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.3** Describe how a particular story’s or drama’s plot unfolds in a series of episodes as well as how the characters respond or change as the plot moves toward a resolution.

**CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.7.3** Analyze how particular elements of a story or drama interact (e.g., how setting shapes the characters or plot).
Chapter 1 ~ Constructive Response - Setting

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Place Where the Story Takes Place</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dorothy lives on the Kanasa prairie. The landscape is dull and gray. Dorothy lives in a one room house that has been turned gray as well by the harsh weather.</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time the Story Takes Place</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Since the book was published in 1900, the reader can assume the setting is around the turn of the century.</td>
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</table>

**Setting**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Importance of the Setting</th>
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<tr>
<td>The Kansas setting is extremely dreary. This will make the contrast when Dorothy gets to Oz more extreme.</td>
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</table>

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Mood - Atmosphere of the Setting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aunt Em and Uncle Henry have been worn down by their difficult prairie life. They are solemn people who have spent their lives working hard. Dorothy is a happy child. She laughs often. She especially loves to play with her dog Toto.</td>
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Root Words Organizer ~ Hexagon Fold

Instructions

- Print organizer onto colored paper.
- Have students cut the organizer out on the lines indicated.
- After filling in the missing information, students will fold each hexagon in half.
- Students may label the outside of each flap with the word and its definition.
- Students will write a sentence with the word on the inside of each hexagon.
Chapter 1

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.

Latin Root

\textit{voc}  \textit{vok} to call or summon

Word List

vocal vocabulary vocation vocational voice revoke invoke equivocal provoke

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