

The Wonderful Wizard of Oz

Chapter 21 ~ The Lion Becomes the King of Beasts



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



Scheduled Blog Posts for Materials Connected with The Wonderful Wizard of Oz Book Unit

Chapter 1 - The Cyclone	May 4, 2015
Chapter 2 - The Council with the Munchkins	May 11, 2015
Chapter 3 - How Dorothy Saved the Scarecrow	May 18, 2015
Chapter 4 - The Road Through the Forest	May 25, 2015
Spoons Game with Root Words	May 28, 2015
Chapter 5 - The Rescue of the Tin Woodman	June 1, 2015
Chapter 6 - The Cowardly Lion	June 8, 2015
Chapter 7 - The Journey to the Great Oz	June 15, 2015
Chapter 8 - The Deadly Poppy Field	June 22, 2015
Chapter 9 - The Queen of the Field Mice	June 29, 2015
Pronoun Task Cards	July 2, 2015
Chapter 10 - The Guardian of the Gate	July 6, 2015
Chapter 11 - The Wonderful City of Oz	July 13, 2015
Chapter 12 - The Search for the Wicked Witch	July 20, 2015
Prefix Activity	July 23, 2015
Chapter 13 - The Rescue	July 27, 2015
Chapter 14 - The Winged Monkeys	August 3, 2015
Chapter 15 - The Discovery of Oz, the Terrible	August 10, 2015
Suffix Activity	August 13, 2015
Chapter 16 - The Magic Art of the Great Humbug	August 17, 2015
Chapter 17 - How the Balloon Was Launched	August 24, 2015
Punctuation Task Cards	August 27, 2015
Chapter 18 - Away to the South	August 31, 2015
Chapter 19 - Attacked by the Fighting Trees	September 7, 2015
Chapter 20 - The Dainty China Country	September 14, 2015
Analogy Activity	September 17, 2015
Chapter 21 - The Lion Becomes the King of Beasts	September 21, 2015
Chapter 22 - The Country of the Quadlings	September 28, 2015
Context Clues Task Cards	October 1, 2015
Chapter 23 - Glinda The Good Witch Grants Dorothy's Wish	October 5, 2015
Chapter 24 - Home Again	October 12, 2015

The Wonderful Wizard of Oz By L Frank Baum Chapter 21 - The Lion Becomes the King of Beasts

After climbing down from the china wall the travelers found themselves in a disagreeable country, full of bogs and marshes and covered with tall, rank grass. It was difficult to walk without falling into muddy holes, for the grass was so thick that it hid them from sight. However, by carefully picking their way, they got safely along until they reached solid ground. But here the country seemed wilder than ever, and after a long and tiresome walk through the underbrush they entered another forest, where the trees were bigger and older than any they had ever seen.

"This forest is perfectly delightful," declared the Lion, looking around him with joy. "Never have I seen a more beautiful place."

"It seems gloomy," said the Scarecrow.

"Not a bit of it," answered the Lion. "I should like to live here all my life. See how soft the dried leaves are under your feet and how rich and green the moss is that clings to these old trees. Surely no wild beast could wish a pleasanter home."

"Perhaps there are wild beasts in the forest now," said Dorothy.

"I suppose there are," returned the Lion, "but I do not see any of them about."

They walked through the forest until it became too dark to go any farther. Dorothy and Toto and the Lion lay down to sleep, while the Woodman and the Scarecrow kept watch over them as usual.

When morning came, they started again. Before they had gone far they heard a low rumble, as of the growling of many wild animals. Toto whimpered a little, but none of the others was frightened, and they kept along the well-trodden path until they came to an opening in the wood, in which were gathered hundreds of beasts of every variety. There were tigers and elephants and bears and wolves and foxes and all the others in the natural history, and for a moment Dorothy was afraid. But the Lion explained that the animals were holding a meeting, and he judged by their snarling and growling that they were in great trouble.

As he spoke several of the beasts caught sight of him, and at once the great assemblage hushed as if by magic. The biggest of the tigers came up to the Lion and bowed, saying:

"Welcome, O King of Beasts! You have come in good time to fight our enemy and bring peace to all the animals of the forest once more."

"What is your trouble?" asked the Lion quietly.

"We are all threatened," answered the tiger, "by a fierce enemy which has lately come into this forest. It is a most tremendous monster, like a great spider, with a body as big as an elephant and legs as long as a tree trunk. It has eight of these long legs, and as the monster crawls through the forest he seizes an animal with a leg and drags it to his mouth, where he

eats it as a spider does a fly. Not one of us is safe while this fierce creature is alive, and we had called a meeting to decide how to take care of ourselves when you came among us."

The Lion thought for a moment.

"Are there any other lions in this forest?" he asked.

"No; there were some, but the monster has eaten them all. And, besides, they were none of them nearly so large and brave as you."

"If I put an end to your enemy, will you bow down to me and obey me as King of the Forest?" inquired the Lion.

"We will do that gladly," returned the tiger; and all the other beasts roared with a mighty roar: "We will!"

"Where is this great spider of yours now?" asked the Lion.

"Yonder, among the oak trees," said the tiger, pointing with his forefoot.

"Take good care of these friends of mine," said the Lion, "and I will go at once to fight the monster."

He bade his comrades good-bye and marched proudly away to do battle with the enemy.

The great spider was lying asleep when the Lion found him, and it looked so ugly that its foe turned up his nose in disgust. Its legs were quite as long as the tiger had said, and its body covered with coarse black hair. It had a great mouth, with a row of sharp teeth a foot long; but its head was joined to the pudgy body by a neck as slender as a wasp's waist. This gave the Lion a hint of the best way to attack the creature, and as he knew it was easier to fight it asleep than awake, he gave a great spring and landed directly upon the monster's back. Then, with one blow of his heavy paw, all armed with sharp claws, he knocked the spider's head from its body. Jumping down, he watched it until the long legs stopped wiggling, when he knew it was quite dead.

The Lion went back to the opening where the beasts of the forest were waiting for him and said proudly:

"You need fear your enemy no longer."

Then the beasts bowed down to the Lion as their King, and he promised to come back and rule over them as soon as Dorothy was safely on her way to Kansas.

The Wonderful Wizard of Oz ~ Chapter 21

1. **Rank** is a _____. This means two versions of the word exist with the same spelling and pronunciation, but completely different meanings, not just a slight variation in meaning.

Read the two definitions of **rank**.

- a. a position in society
- b. having a strong and very bad smell or taste

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

- 2. ____ The mayor is the highest **ranking** official in our city.
- 3. ____ The skunk gave off a **rank** odor.
- 4. ____ I don't like to take deviled eggs to a covered dish supper because the **rank** smell turns my stomach.
- 5. ____ My uncle received the **rank** of general.



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

grouping	throng	assembly	sole
loner	only	congregation	gathering
solitary	release	crowd	separate

7. Which of the following describe an **assemblage**? Check all that apply.

- | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| ____ band concert | ____ hiking through desert | ____ the U.S. Congress |
| ____ solitary moment | ____ the U. S. Army | ____ dinner party for two |
| ____ crowded party | ____ small family gathering | ____ football team |

The Wonderful Wizard of Oz ~ Chapter 21

1. **Rank** is a **homonym**. This means two versions of the word exist with the same spelling and pronunciation, but completely different meanings, not just a slight variation in meaning.

Read the two definitions of **rank**.

- c. a position in society
- d. having a strong and very bad smell or taste

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

2. a The mayor is the highest **ranking** official in our city.
3. b The skunk gave off a **rank** odor.
4. b I don't like to take deviled eggs to a covered dish supper because the **rank** smell turns my stomach.
5. a My uncle received the **rank** of general.



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7. Which of the following describe an **assemblage**? Check all that apply.

- X band concert ___ hike through desert X the U.S. Congress
- ___ solitary moment X the U. S. Army ___ dinner party for two
- X crowded party ___ small family gathering X football team

The Wonderful Wizard of Oz ~ Chapter 21

1. The land just outside the china wall was ____.
- a. a swamp
 - b. a forest
 - c. a desert
 - d. meadow
2. Why did the characters have different feelings about the forest?
- _____
- _____
- _____

3. Read this passage from Chapter 21.

There were tigers and elephants and bears and wolves and foxes and all the others in the natural history, and for a moment Dorothy was afraid.

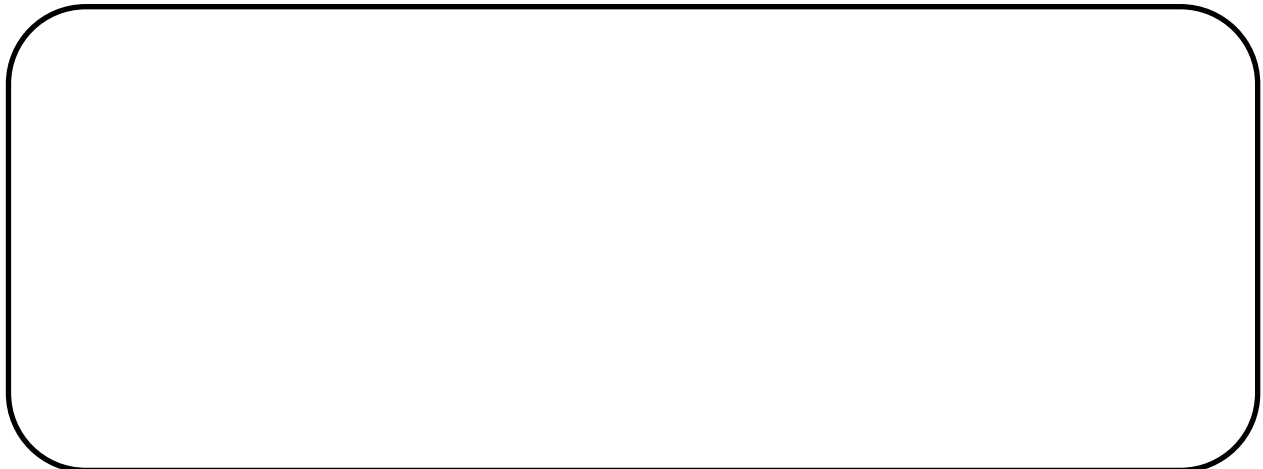
What does the phrase in the natural history mean?

4. The main conflict in Chapter 21 was solved when ____.

- a. The beasts bowed down to the Lion as their King.
- b. Lion agreed to come back and rule the beasts.
- c. Lion spoke to the assemblage of animals in the forest.
- d. Lion slayed the spider.

5. How is *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* like ancient myths?

6. Draw the spider based on the descriptions in Chapter 21.



The Wonderful Wizard of Oz ~ Chapter 21

1. The land just outside the china wall was ____.
2. Why did the characters have different feelings about the forest?

- a. a swamp
- b. a forest
- c. a desert
- d. meadow

Lion thought the forest was delightful because it was similar to where he grew up. He missed the forest and this felt like home. To the other characters the forest was gloomy. They were afraid of the animal noises. To them, the forest was a frightening place.

3. Read this passage from Chapter 21.

There were tigers and elephants and bears and wolves and foxes and all the others **in the natural history**, and for a moment Dorothy was afraid.

What does the phrase **in the natural history** mean?

Natural history means the study of organisms including plants or animals in their environment. This phrase means the spider was unlike any animal that ever existed.

4. The main conflict in Chapter 21 was solved when ____.

- a. The beasts bowed down to the Lion as their King.
- b. Lion agreed to come back and rule the beasts.
- c. Lion spoke to the assemblage of animals in the forest.
- d. Lion slayed the spider.

5. How is *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* like ancient myths?

The Wonderful Wizard of Oz follows the basic structure of ancient myths.

#1 ~ The hero leaves home. S/he leaves the common everyday world for one of mystery and adventure.

#2 ~ The hero encounters forces in this mysterious world and wins a victory.

#3 ~ The hero returns home.

6. Draw the spider based on the descriptions in Chapter 21.

It is a most tremendous monster, like a great spider, with a body as big as an elephant and legs as long as a tree trunk. It has eight of these long legs, and as the monster crawls through the forest he seizes an animal with a leg and drags it to his mouth, where he eats it as a spider does a fly.



Mythology ~ A Deeper Comparison

Have students compare Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz* to specific characters in ancient myths. Good choices would include:

- Prometheus
- Jason and the Golden Fleece

Other comparisons that would be interesting to make might include:

- Glinda to Venus (Roman mythology) or Aphrodite (Greek mythology)
- the Wicked Witch to Circe, the dark witch living on the island of Aeaea
- the Emerald City to Atlantis in Greek mythology
- Magic Shoes to Mercury (Roman mythology) or Hermes (Greek mythology)



Chapter 21 ~ Character Change – The Cowardly Lion

Contrast the Lion from the beginning of *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* to how he had changed at the end of the book.

Chapter 6

"Don't you dare to bite Toto! You ought to be ashamed of yourself, a big beast like you, to bite a poor little dog!"

"I didn't bite him," said the Lion, as he rubbed his nose with his paw where Dorothy had hit it.

"No, but you tried to," she retorted. "You are nothing but a big coward."

"I know it," said the Lion, hanging his head in shame. "I've always known it. But how can I help it?"

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"It's a mystery," replied the Lion. "I suppose I was born that way. All the other animals in the forest naturally expect me to be brave, for the Lion is everywhere thought to be the King of Beasts. I learned that if I roared very loudly every living thing was frightened and got out of my way. Whenever I've met a man I've been awfully scared; but I just roared at him, and he has always run away as fast as he could go. If the elephants and the tigers and the bears had ever tried to fight me, I should have run myself--I'm such a coward; but just as soon as they hear me roar they all try to get away from me, and of course I let them go."

### The Lion



### Chapter 21

"Are there any other lions in this forest?" he asked.

"No; there were some, but the monster has eaten them all. And, besides, they were none of them nearly so large and brave as you."

"If I put an end to your enemy, will you bow down to me and obey me as King of the Forest?" inquired the Lion.

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He bade his comrades good-bye and marched proudly away to do battle with the enemy.

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"You need fear your enemy no longer."

Then the beasts bowed down to the Lion as their King, and he promised to come back and rule over them as soon as Dorothy was safely on her way to Kansas.

[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).

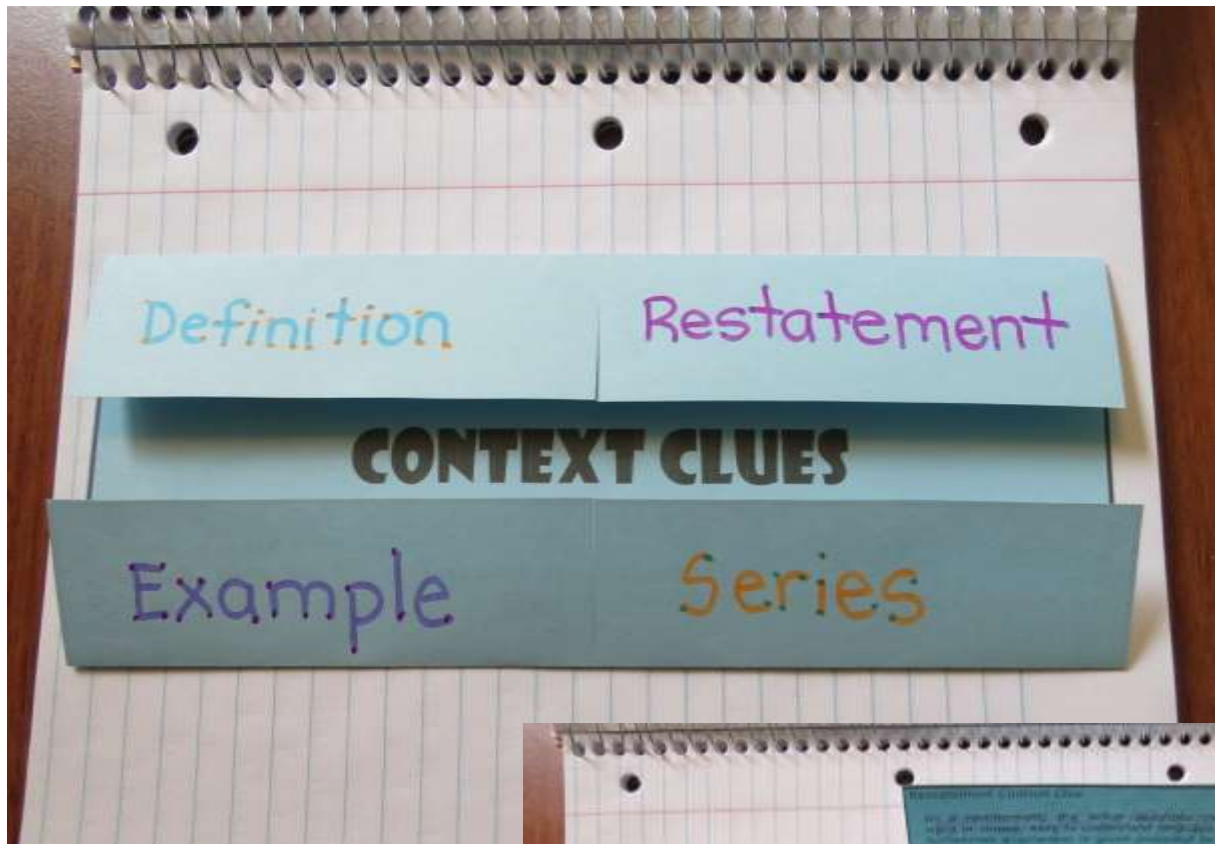
[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.3](#) Describe how a particular story's or drama's plot unfolds in a series of episodes as well as how the characters respond or change as the plot moves toward a resolution.

[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).

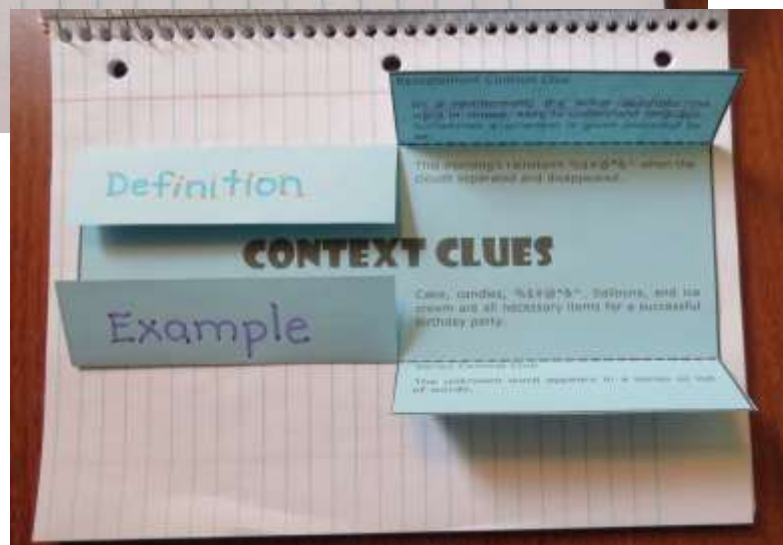
# Context Clues Organizer

## Instructions for Making the Organizer

- 1) Print the organizer on colored paper.
- 2) Have students trim around the four sides of the organizer on the bold lines.
- 3) Fold on the dotted lines and cut on the solid lines to form four flaps.
- 4) After discussing the types of context clues, have students write a definition and a sample sentence for each type on the lines provided.



Three versions of this organizer are provided depending on the needs of your students.



**Definition Context Clue**

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**Restatement Context Clue**

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**CONTEXT CLUES**

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**Example Context Clue**

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**Series Context Clue**

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### Definition Context Clue

An \_\_\_\_\_ of a word is given in the text. Sometimes an \_\_\_\_\_ is given. \_\_\_\_\_ is a signal to the reader that a definition is coming.

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### Restatement Context Clue

In a restatement, the writer \_\_\_\_\_ the word in simple, \_\_\_\_\_ to understand language. Sometimes a \_\_\_\_\_ is given preceded by \_\_\_\_\_.

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# CONTEXT CLUES

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### Example Context Clue

Example context clues often contain words like \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to point out an example.

### Series Context Clue

The unknown word appears in a \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ of words.



### Definition Context Clue

An explanation of a word is given in the text. Sometimes an appositive is given. **That is** is a signal to the reader that a definition is coming.

### Restatement Context Clue

In a restatement, the writer describes the word in simple, easy to understand language. Sometimes a synonym is given preceded by **or**.

The %\$#@\*&^ tornado, that is the most destructive type, was so violent that frame houses were leveled off their foundations and swept away.

This morning's rainstorm %\$#@\*&^ when the clouds separated and disappeared.

# CONTEXT CLUES

%\$#@\*&^, such as frogs, toads and salamanders, live close to water.

Cake, candles, %\$#@\*&^, balloons, and ice cream are all necessary items for a successful birthday party.

### Example Context Clue

Example context clues often contain words like **including, such as,** and **for example** to point out an example.

### Series Context Clue

The unknown word appears in a series or list of words.

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