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## THE AUTHOR

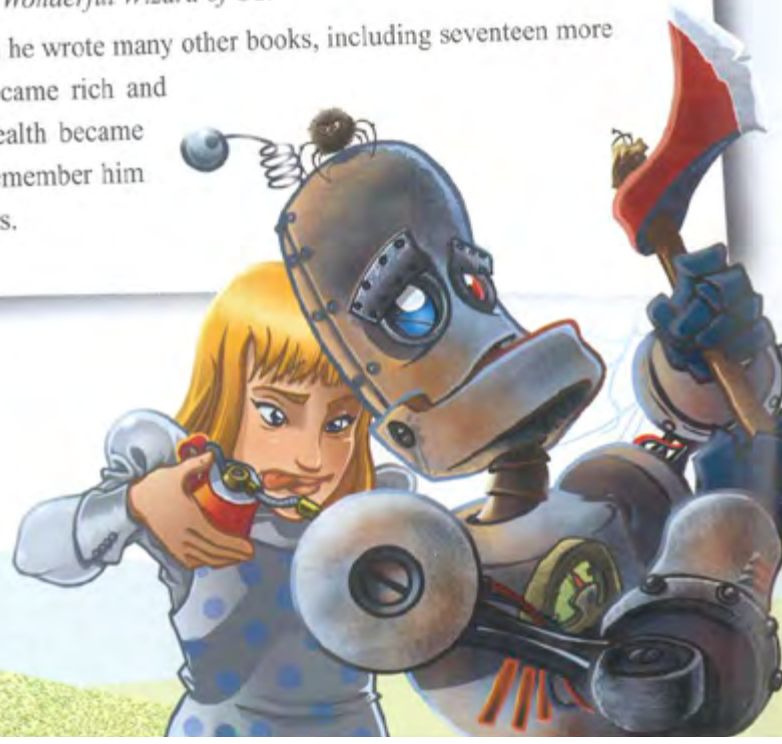


Lyman Frank Baum was born in 1856 in Chittenango, near Syracuse, New York. He never used his first name because he preferred the name Frank. He was not a healthy child, and he was very shy. He played on his own and used his imagination to invent places and people to entertain himself.

When Frank was young, he read a lot of books, but he did not like frightening fairy tales with horrible witches and other scary creatures. Frank decided to write a different kind of fairy tale. Frank enjoyed writing, and he made his own newspaper, which had stories, poems, articles and word games. It was quite popular, and Frank soon began to make other newspapers and magazines.

On 9 November 1882 Frank married a woman called Maud Gage. They were very happy together and had four sons. Frank worked in the family business, but the business was not successful. In 1888 Frank and his family moved to Aberdeen, Dakota, and opened a shop. A lot of children came to the shop, and Frank told them stories about magical places and people. Everyone loved his stories, and in 1897 he published a book of children's stories. In 1899 Frank worked with an artist called William W Denslow. They published another book of children's stories, and their book was very successful. They decided to work on another book together, and in 1900 they published *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*.

Frank and his family moved to California, and he wrote many other books, including seventeen more books about the magical land of Oz. He became rich and successful, but sadly he was very ill. His health became worse, and on 6 May 1919 he died. People remember him as one of the world's greatest children's writers.





## BACKGROUND

L Frank Baum knew that all children love fairy tales and stories about magical places and people. He believed that fairy tales by writers such as Hans Christian Andersen and the Brothers Grimm made children happier than any other human inventions. However, he also thought that these fairy tales were old-fashioned, and that modern children needed a new kind of fairy tale. He wrote *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* to make modern children happy. He wanted his story to contain all the happiness and magic of a fairy tale, but none of the sadness or fear. Many people believe that *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* is the first American fairy tale.

*The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* is popular with children all over the world, and children can read the story in more than 40 different languages! There are many plays, musicals and films about *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, too. The first musical of the book, in 1902, was very successful. There were films of the book in 1917 and 1925, but the most popular film is the 1939 film, which stars Judy Garland as Dorothy. This fantastic film is still very popular today. Both children and adults love it, and when most people think of the story of the Wizard of Oz, they think of this film. However, there are some differences between the book and the film. In the film, Dorothy's journey to Oz is all a dream, but in the book it is a real, but magical, journey.

## THE PLOT

Dorothy Gale is a little girl who lives on a farm in Kansas with her Uncle Henry, her Aunt Em, and her little dog, Toto. One day there is a storm and Dorothy can't reach the storm cellar in time, so she hides in the farmhouse with Toto. The wind lifts up the house and carries it to the magical land of Oz, where little people called the Munchkins live. The house lands on the Wicked Witch of the East, who was very unkind to the Munchkins.

The Good Witch of the North comes with the Munchkins to greet Dorothy, and gives her the Wicked Witch of the East's silver shoes. The Good Witch of the North tells Dorothy to go to the Emerald City and ask the Wizard of Oz to help her get home again. On her way to the Emerald City, Dorothy meets some strange and wonderful people, including a Scarecrow, a Tin Man, and a Lion who is scared of everything! They want to visit the Wizard of Oz, too, so they all travel together and have a lot of exciting adventures.



# THE CHARACTERS

## DOROTHY

... is a good, kind girl, who lives with her aunt and uncle. She loves them, and her home, very much. She is friendly and polite to everyone she meets, and she always wants to help people. She is very brave, and she is not afraid to try new things. Her best friend is her little dog, Toto.



## THE GOOD WITCH OF THE NORTH

... is sweet and kind. She is very happy because Dorothy kills the Wicked Witch of the East. She gives Dorothy some magic silver shoes and tells her to go to the Emerald City. She thinks that the Wizard of Oz can help Dorothy get back to Kansas. She gives Dorothy a magic kiss, so no one can hurt her.



## THE SCARECROW

... is very kind, but he doesn't have a brain, so he thinks he is a fool. This makes him sad, and he believes that the only way he can be a real person is if he gets a brain. He is a very good friend, and he wants to look after Dorothy and help her.





## THE TIN MAN

... is very brave and very gentle. He is sad because he doesn't have a heart, and he thinks that he can't feel love any more. However, he loves Dorothy and is kind to everyone he meets. He doesn't like to upset people.



## THE LION

... is a coward. He is scared of everything, and this makes him sad. He wants to be brave. He is kind, and he is a very good friend to Dorothy. Even when he is scared, he tries to help her and look after her.



## THE WIZARD OF OZ

... is the ruler of the land of Oz. People think he is great and powerful, and they believe that he can do anything. After he sends Dorothy and her friends to kill the Wicked Witch of the West, they find that he is not really what he seems to be.



## THE WICKED WITCH OF THE WEST

... is horrible and powerful. She wants Dorothy's silver shoes because they will make her even more powerful. She hates Dorothy and her friends, and she makes them work for her. She is scared of the dark, and very scared of water because it can kill her.







## 1. The Storm

Dorothy Gale lived in a small house in Kansas, with Uncle Henry, who was a farmer, and Aunt Em, who was the farmer's wife. The house was very small. There was a small cellar under the house, because sometimes there were bad storms, and the family needed to hide in the cellar.

Kansas was not a beautiful place. Everything was grey. The ground was grey, the houses were grey, and even the people looked grey. Uncle Henry and Aunt Em were very serious people. They loved Dorothy very much, but they never laughed. Dorothy laughed a lot. She was a happy little girl, and she had a happy little dog called Toto. She played with him every day.

One day, Dorothy and Toto were outside when they saw huge clouds in the sky. It became very windy, and Dorothy knew that a storm was on the way.

"Come inside, Dorothy!" called Aunt Em. "Go into the cellar!"

Dorothy ran inside, but Toto was very frightened and he went under Dorothy's bed. Dorothy tried



to get him out. Aunt Em and Uncle Henry went down into the cellar. They called Dorothy, but she didn't want to leave Toto.

Just then, the house shook and a very strange thing happened. The wind lifted the house up into the air. The house turned round two or three times and then began to fly through the air. Toto was scared, and he ran around the room, but Dorothy sat on the floor and waited to see what was going to happen next.

They flew for a long time, and then the house suddenly landed on the ground with a loud noise. Dorothy went to the door and opened it. Outside the house, everything was beautiful. The sun was shining, colourful birds were singing in the trees and there were pretty flowers everywhere.

"It's so beautiful!" exclaimed Dorothy. "But where are we?"