Dorothy goes to Oz

Tutor: I don’t remember it.

*Student: Oh, I do.*

Not very well, anyway.

*It’s a lovely story.*

It’s about a little girl, isn’t it?

*Yes. Dorothy.*

Who lives in America?

*In Kansas.*

In America?

*Yes. On a farm.*

How does she come to be in Oz?

*Well, Kansas gets a lot of tornados.*

Tornados?

*Very strong winds.*

Oh?

*Winds which whirl round and round.*

Strong enough to pick up a person?

*Strong enough to pick up a house.*

Wow!

*So their house has a tornado cellar.*

What’s that?

*It’s a small cellar with a very strong trapdoor.*

To hide from the wind?

*Yes. Underground.*

And it was a tornado which carried Dorothy to Oz?

*Exactly.*

She didn’t make it to the cellar?

*No.*

Dorothy was OK, I suppose?

*So was the house.*

Where were they when they landed?

*In the land where the Munchkins live.*

Oz?

*The part where the Wicked Witch of the East ruled.*

Did Dorothy meet the Wicked Witch of the East?

*Sort of.*

Sort of?

*The house had fallen on top of her.*

It crushed her, didn’t it?

*Crushed her to death.*

A good thing, I suppose?

*You bet.*

The Munchkins were delighted, I expect.

*Yes. No more Wicked Witch of the East!*

No.

*They told her to take the witch’s magic silver shoes.*

Take them off her dead body?

*Yes.*

Gross.

*Yes, gross.*

I expect they’ll come in later.

*Mmmm…*

In the story.

*Watch this space!*

Could the Munchkins tell Dorothy how to get back to Kansas?

*No.*

Oh.

*They told her to go the Emerald City.*

The Emerald city?

*To talk to the Wizard of Oz.*

He would know, would he?

*He knew everything.*

Was there a good way to get there?

*They told her to walk along a yellow brick road.*

Ah, yes. The famous yellow brick road.

*It led to the Emerald City.*

OK.

*That’s the bit everyone remembers.*

I remember a picture of Dorothy walking along that road.

*Yes.*

But she was with two other people.

*Yes.*

And a lion.

*Yes.*

Two very peculiar people.

*She made three special friends.*

Right … I remember vaguely.

*A scarecrow, a tin woodman and a lion.*

They all wanted something from the Wizard of Oz.

*They did.*

The scarecrow wanted brains.

*As he had none.*

The tin woodman wanted a heart.

*As he had none.*

And the lion wanted courage.

*As he had none.*

And Dorothy wanted to get back to Kansas.

*So they all walked along the yellow brick road.*

To see the Wizard of Oz.

*That’s right.*

And once they had spoken to him everything was OK?

*Well, it wasn’t quite as simple as that!*

More Wicked Witches?

*Among other things.*

I suppose Dorothy had to do everything.

*No, not really.*

I mean the scarecrow had no brains, the tin woodman no heart and the lion no courage.

*No.*

No?

*The scarecrow is clever in fact.*

Really?

*The tin woodman is kind.*

Really?

*And the lion is brave.*

Really?

*They just don’t know it.*

How does that work?

*Well, the scarecrow thinks he is stupid.*

Isn’t he?

*No. He feels he has to think extra hard.*

And this makes him clever?

*Yes, exactly.*

How did the tin woodman come to have no heart?

*He kept having accidents.*

And parts of him were replaced.

*One by one.*

I remember now.

*And the new parts were made of tin.*

And when he was all made of tin, he had no heart.

*No.*

Only a tin one, anyway.

*And so he thinks he is heartless.*

Poor old tin woodman.

*So he is extra kind to make up for it.*

And what about lion?

*Well, whenever there is something to be done, lion just does it.*

He feels it is his duty?

*Yes. Even if it is dangerous.*

So he is often really brave?

*Yes. But he doesn’t see that he is really brave.*

So all of them are good, but it doesn’t feel like that?

*That’s right.*

They can’t see that what they do is clever, kind or brave?

*They just feel they should look after each other.*

And that makes them clever, kind and brave!

*Exactly.*

And then they get to the Emerald City.

*After a lot of adventures.*

And they meet the Wizard of Oz?

*Eventually.*

So what happened?

*Dorothy saw him.*

What was he like?

*He looked like an enormous head on a throne.*

Just a head?

*Yes.*

Very odd!

*Very.*

But he sent her back to Kansas, did he?

*He said he would help her.*

That’s good.

*But only if she killed the last Wicked Witch.*

The last Wicked Witch?

*The Wicked Witch of the West.*

And so she did?

*Almost by accident.*

By accident?

*It turned out that water melted her away.*

The Wicked Witch of the West?

*Yes.*

How did Dorothy know that the Wicked Witch would melt?

*She didn’t.*

Oh.

*It was an accident.*

Dorothy doesn’t sound like the sort of girl who chucks water over people.

*Not usually, no.*

How did that happen, then?

*Well, the Wicked Witch of the West made Dorothy really cross.*

Cross enough to chuck water around?

*Yes.*

Oh.

*One day she made Dorothy wash the floor.*

So she had a bucket of water.

*And she got so cross she threw it over the witch.*

Who melted away.

*Yes.*

If I was a witch who would melt if I got wet I would be more careful.

*Yes.*

I wouldn’t give anyone a bucket of water!

*No.*

Not very clever.

*No.*

Anyway, the Wicked Witch of the West was dead.

*At last.*

So they went back to the wizard of Oz.

*Yes.*

And he sent Dorothy home to Kansas?

*There was a bit more to it than that.*

Oh?

*Well, the wizard wasn’t really a wizard.*

The wizard wasn’t really a wizard?

*I mean the wizard wasn’t a real wizard.*

Not a real wizard?

*Well, he was just a bloke.*

Just a bloke?

*Yes. An ordinary bloke.*

An ordinary bloke?

*He was a magician in real life.*

From America?

*In America he did magic tricks.*

For a living?

*Yes. He was a magician.*

How did he finish up as the Wizard of Oz?

*Well, he used to fly in a hot air balloon.*

As part of his show?

*Yes.*

And one day it went much too high.

*And got caught in a strong wind.*

And away he went.

*All the way to Oz.*

And the Munchkins took him for a real wizard.

*Yes.*

*And?*

*Then he hid himself in the palace.*

And pretended to be a wizard?

*Whenever people came to see him he played tricks.*

So nobody ever really saw him?

*No.*

Oh.

*When Dorothy saw the enormous head, it was just a trick.*

It wasn’t the wizard at all?

*No. He was hidden behind a curtain.*

So what happened in the end?

*He and Dorothy made another hot air balloon.*

And sailed back to Kansas?

*Well, he did.*

But that left Dorothy in Oz!

*Well, yes.*

How did she get home?

*Her magic shoes.*

The silver shoes she took from the Wicked Witch of the East?

*Yes.*

How?

*If she tapped them together and wished, they would take her anywhere she wanted.*

I knew those shoes would come in somewhere!

*Mmmm…*

Did the scarecrow, the tin woodman and the lion go with her?

*No. They stayed in Oz.*

Oh.

*It was their home, after all.*

But they still felt stupid, heartless and cowardly!

*Oh no! The wizard tricked them.*

Tricked them?

*Tricked them into feeling different.*

So the scarecrow felt clever.

*Tin woodman felt he had a heart.*

And the lion felt brave!

*They were exactly the same, really.*

They just felt different.

*Yes. Completely different.*

So the story ended happily for them, too.

*Yes, it did.*

So Dorothy could have gone home from the very beginning!

*She didn’t know that, though.*

Maybe it was a good thing she didn’t.

*I think it was.*

If she had, the scarecrow would still be feeling stupid.

*The tin woodman would still be feeling heartless.*

And the lion would still be feeling cowardly.

*He would.*

And Dorothy!

*What about Dorothy?*

Well, she would have missed a very big adventure!

*She would!*