



Reader's Theater

The Wonderful Wizard of Oz

Part One: We are not in Kansas Anymore

Approximate Run Time: 2 Minutes

Cast of Characters (4): Narrator, Witch of the North, Dorothy, Munchkins

Part Two: How Dorothy Saved the Scarecrow

Approximate Run Time: 3 Minutes

Cast of Characters (5): Narrator I, Narrator II, Dorothy, Toto (Dog), Scarecrow

Part Three: The Rescue of the Tin Man

Approximate Run Time: 5 Minutes 30 Seconds

Cast of Characters (5): Narrator I, Narrator II, Dorothy, Scarecrow, Tin Man, Audience

Part Four: The Cowardly Lion

Approximate Run Time: 3 Minutes

Cast of Characters(6): Narrator, Narrator II, Dorothy, Scarecrow, Tin Man, Lion,

Part Five: Oz Disappoints One

Approximate Run Time: 3 Minutes

Cast of Characters(7): Narrator, Dorothy, Scarecrow, Tin Man, Lion, Oz, Audience

Part Six: Glinda the Good Witch

Approximate Run Time: 1 Minute 30 Seconds

Cast of Characters(6): Narrator, Dorothy, Scarecrow, Tin Man, Lion, Glinda

Suggested Directions:

1. Make a copy of the readers theater script and engaging worksheets for each student.
2. Divide the students into groups for each part of the script. Give groups time to preview the script and choose characters. Give groups time to practice before performing in front of the whole group.
3. Remind students props are not needed. Simply use imaginary props.
4. Remind students words in italics are stage directions for the characters and not meant to be read aloud.
5. Perform the Reader's Theater as many times as you would like.
6. Complete visually engaging worksheets.

Reader's Theater

The Wonderful Wizard of Oz

Part One: We Are Not in Kansas Anymore

Cast of Characters: Narrator, Witch of the North, Dorothy, Munchkins

Narrator: She was awakened by a shock so sudden and severe that if Dorothy had not been lying on the soft bed, she might have been hurt. She sprang from her bed with Toto at her heels, and opened the door. The cyclone had set the house down very gently for a cyclone – in the midst of a country of marvelous beauty. She noticed coming toward her a group of the strangest people she has ever seen.

Witch of the North: You are welcome most noble sorceress to the land of the Munchkins. We are so grateful to you for having killed the Wicked Witch of the East and for setting our people free from bondage.

Dorothy: You are very kind, but there must be some mistake. I have not killed anything.

Witch of the North: Your house did, anyway. See! There are her two feet still sticking out from under a block of wood.

Dorothy: Oh, dear! Oh, dear! The house must have fallen on her. Whatever shall we do?

Witch of the North: There is nothing to be done.

Dorothy: But who was she?

Witch of the North: She was the Wicked Witch of the East, as I said. She has held all the munchkins in bondage for many years, making them slave for her night and day. Now they are all set free and are grateful to you for the favor.

Dorothy: Who are you?

Witch of the North: I am the Witch of the North. I am a good witch, and the people love me. I am not as powerful as the wicked witch was who ruled here, or I should have set the people free myself.

Dorothy: I am anxious to get back to my aunt and uncle, for I am sure they will worry about me. Can you help me find my way?

Witch of the North: You must go to the City of Emeralds. Perhaps Oz will help you.

Dorothy: How can I get there?

Reader's Theater

The Wonderful Wizard of Oz

Part One: We Are Not in Kansas Anymore

Cast of Characters: Narrator, Witch of the North, Dorothy, Munchkins

Witch of the North: You must walk. It is a long journey, through a country that is sometimes pleasant and sometimes dark and terrible. However, I will use all the magic arts I know to keep you from harm. The road to the City of Emeralds is paved with yellow brick, so you cannot miss it.

Munchkins: *Bowing to Dorothy* We wish you a pleasant journey.

Narrator: The witch gave Dorothy a friendly little nod, whirled around on her left heel three times, and straightway disappeared.

Reader's Theater

The Wonderful Wizard of Oz

Part Two: How Dorothy Saved the Scarecrow

Cast of Characters: Narrator I, Narrator II, Dorothy, Toto (Dog), Scarecrow

Narrator I: Dorothy began to get ready for the journey to the City of Emeralds. After returning to her house the cyclone had dropped in this strange land, she put on a white and blue gingham dress. She took a little basket and filled it with bread from the cupboard, laying a white cloth over the top. Then she looked down at her feet and noticed how old and worn her shoes were.

Dorothy: They surely will never do for a long journey, Toto.

Toto: *Shakes his head no.*

Dorothy: These silver shoes on the Wicked Witch of the East look nice. I wonder if they will fit me.

Toto: *Shakes head yes.*

Dorothy: They would be just the thing to take a long walk in, for they could not wear out.

Narrator I: She took off her old leather shoes and tried on the silver ones, which fitted her as well as if they had been made for her.

Dorothy: Come along Toto. We will go to the Emerald City and ask the Great Oz how to get back to Kansas again.

Narrator I: And so, with Toto trotting along soberly behind her, she started on her journey.

Narrator II: When she had gone several miles, she thought she would stop to rest, and so climbed to the top of the fence beside the road and sat down. There was a great cornfield beyond the fence, and not far away, she saw a scarecrow, placed high on a pole to keep the birds from the ripe corn.

Narrator I: Dorothy leaned her chin upon her hand and gazed thoughtfully at the scarecrow.

Scarecrow: Good day.

Dorothy: You speak?

Scarecrow: Certainly, how do you do?

Dorothy: I'm pretty well, thank you. How do you do?

Scarecrow: I'm not feeling well, for it is very tedious being perched up here night and day to scare away crows.

Reader's Theater

The Wonderful Wizard of Oz

Part Two: How Dorothy Saved the Scarecrow

Cast of Characters: Narrator I, Narrator II, Dorothy, Toto (Dog), Scarecrow

Dorothy: Can't you get down?

Scarecrow: No, for this pole is stuck up my back. If you will please take away the pole, I shall be greatly obliged to you.

Narrator II: Dorothy reached up both arms and lifted the figure off the pole, for, being stuffed with straw, it was quite light.

Scarecrow: Thank you very much. I feel like a new man. Well, who are you? And where are you going?

Dorothy: My name is Dorothy, and I am going to the Emerald City to ask the Great Oz to send me back to Kansas.

Scarecrow: Where is Emerald City? And who is Oz?

Dorothy: Why, don't you know?

Scarecrow: No, indeed. I don't know anything. You see, I am stuffed, so I have no brains at all.

Dorothy: Oh, I'm awfully sorry for you.

Scarecrow: Do you think if I go to Emerald City with you that Oz would give me some brains?

Dorothy: I cannot tell, but you may come with me if you like. If Oz will not give you any brains, you will be no worse off than you are now.

Scarecrow: That is true. I will go.

Dorothy: Oh, and don't mind Toto. He never bites.

Scarecrow: I'm not afraid. There is only one thing in the world I am afraid of.

Dorothy: What is that?

Scarecrow: A lighted match.

Reader's Theater

The Wonderful Wizard of Oz

Part Three: The Rescue of the Tin Man

Cast of Characters: Narrator I, Narrator II, Dorothy, Scarecrow, Tin Man, Audience

Narrator I: Dorothy and the Scarecrow had just finished a meal and were about to begin their journey to Oz when they heard a deep groan nearby.

Dorothy: What was that?

Scarecrow: I cannot imagine, but we can go and see.

Narrator I: Just then another groan reached their ears, and the sound seemed to come from behind them. They turned and walked through the forest a few steps, when Dorothy discovered something shining in a ray of sunshine that fell between the trees. She ran to the place and then stopped short with a little cry of surprise.

Narrator II: One of the big trees had been partly chopped through, and standing beside it, with an uplifted axe in his hands, was a man made entirely of tin. His head and arms and legs were jointed upon his body, but he stood perfectly motionless, as if he could not stir at all.

Dorothy: Did you groan?

Tin Man: Yes, I did. I've been groaning for more than a year, and no one has ever heard me before or come to help.

Dorothy: What can I do for you?

Tin Man: Get an oilcan and oil my joints. They are rusted so badly that I cannot move them at all; if I am well oiled, I shall be all right again. You will find an oilcan on a shelf in my cottage.

Narrator I: Dorothy at once ran back to the cottage and found the oilcan, and then she returned and oiled the Tin Man's joints.

Tin Man: I might have stood there always if you had not come along, so you have certainly saved my life. How did you happen to be here?

Scarecrow: We are on our way to the Emerald City to see the Great Oz, and we stopped to enjoy a picnic.

Tin Man: Why do you wish to see Oz?

Dorothy: I want him to send me back to Kansas, and the Scarecrow wants him to put a few brains into his head.

Reader's Theater

The Wonderful Wizard of Oz

Part Three: The Rescue of the Tin Man

Cast of Characters: Narrator I, Narrator II, Dorothy, Scarecrow, Tin Man, Audience

Tin Man: Do you suppose Oz could give me a heart?

Dorothy: Why I guess so. It would be as easy as to give the Scarecrow brains.

Tin Man: True. So if you will allow me to join your party, I will also go to the Emerald City and ask Oz to help me.

Scarecrow: Why sure. Come along!

Narrator II: It was a bit of good luck to have their new comrade join the party, for soon after they have begun their journey again, they came to a place where the trees and branches grew so thick over the road that the travelers could not pass. But the Tin Man chopped so well that soon he cleared a passage for the entire party. As they walked the Tin Man began to tell them how he came in need of a heart.

Tin Man: There once was one of the Munchkin girls who was so beautiful that I soon grew to love her with all my heart. She, on her part, promised to marry me as soon as I could earn enough money to build a better house for her; so I set to work harder than ever. But the girl lived with an old woman who did not want her to marry anyone, for she was so lazy, she wished the girl to remain with her and do the cooking and the housework. So the old woman went to the Wicked Witch of the East and promised her two sheep and a cow if she would prevent the marriage. Thereupon the Wicked Witch enchanted my axe, and when I was chopping away at my best one day, for I was anxious to get the new house and my wife as soon as possible, the axe slipped all at once and cut off my leg.

Audience: Oh no! Not your Leg!

Tin Man: This at first seemed a great misfortune, for I knew a one-legged man could not do very well as a wood chopper. So I went to a tinsmith and had him make me a new leg out of tin. The leg worked very well, once I was used to it. But my action angered the Wicked Witch of the East, for she promised the old woman I should not marry the pretty Munchkin girl. When I began chopping again, my axe slipped and cut off my right leg.

Audience: Not your other leg too!

Tin Man: Again I went to the tinsmith, and again he made me a leg made out of tin. After this, the enchanted axe cut off my arms, one after the other; but, nothing daunted, I had them replaced with tin ones. The Wicked Witch then made the axe slip and cut off my head.

Reader's Theater

The Wonderful Wizard of Oz

Part Three: The Rescue of the Tin Man

Cast of Characters: Narrator I, Narrator II, Dorothy, Scarecrow, Tin Man, Audience

Audience: and now your head too? WOW!

Tin Man: At first I thought that was the end of me. But the tinsmith happened to come along, and he made me a new head out of tin.

Audience: Oh thank goodness!

Tin Man: I thought I had beaten the Wicked Witch then, and I worked harder than ever; but I little knew how cruel my enemy could be. She thought of a new way to kill my love for the beautiful Munchkin maiden, and made my axe slip again so that it cut right through my body, splitting me into two halves.

Audience: Your body now too? When will this end?

Tin Man: Once more the tinsmith came to my help and made me a body of tin, fastening my tin arms and legs and head to it, by means of joints, so that I could move around as well as ever. But, alas! I had now no heart, so that I lost all my love for the Munchkin girl and did not care whether I married her or not. I suppose she is still living with the old woman, waiting for me to come after her.

Scarecrow: All the same, I shall ask for brains instead of a heart; for a fool would not know what to do with a heart if he had one.

Tin Man: I shall take the heart for brains do not make one happy, and happiness is the best thing in the world.

Reader's Theater

The Wonderful Wizard of Oz

Part Four: The Cowardly Lion

Cast of Characters: Narrator I, Narrator II, Dorothy, Scarecrow, Tin Man, Lion

Narrator I: All this time, Dorothy and her companions had been walking through the thick woods. The road was still paved with yellow brick, but these were much covered by dried branches and dead leaves from the trees, and the walking was not good at all.

Dorothy: How long will it be before we are out of the forest?

Tin Man: I cannot tell for I have never been to the Emerald City. But my father went there once, when I was a boy, and he said it was a long journey though a dangerous country, although nearer to the city where Oz dwells, the country is beautiful. But I am not afraid so long as I have my oilcan, and nothing can hurt the Scarecrow, and nothing can hurt you while you bear upon your forehead the mark of the Good Witch.

Dorothy: But Toto! What will protect him?

Tin Man: We must protect him ourselves if he is in danger.

Narrator II: Just as he spoke there came from the forest a terrible roar, and the next moment, a great lion bounded into the road with one blow of his paw, he sent the Scarecrow spinning over and over to the edge of the road, and then he struck at the Tin Man with his sharp claws. But, to the Lion's surprise, he could make no impression on the tin, although the Tin Man fell over on the road and lay still.

Narrator I: Little Toto, now that he had an enemy to face, ran barking toward the Lion, and the great beast had opened his mouth to bite the dog, when Dorothy, fearing Toto would be killed, the heedless of danger, rushed forward and slapped the Lion upon his nose as hard as she could.

Dorothy: 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.

Lion: I didn't bite him!

Dorothy: No, but you tried to! You are nothing but a big coward.

Lion: I know it. I've always known it. But how can I help it? What is that little animal you are so tender of?

Dorothy: He is my dog, Toto.

Reader's Theater

The Wonderful Wizard of Oz

Part Four: The Cowardly Lion

Cast of Characters: Narrator I, Narrator II, Dorothy, Scarecrow, Tin Man, Lion

Lion: Oh, He's a curious animal and seems remarkably small, now that I look at him. No one would think of biting such a little thing except a coward like me.

Dorothy: What makes you a coward?

Lion: It's a mystery. I suppose I was born that way.

Scarecrow: But that isn't right. The king of beasts shouldn't be a coward.

Lion: I know it. It is my great sorrow and makes my life very unhappy. But whenever there is a danger, my heart begins to beat fast.

Scarecrow: Well I am going to the Great Oz to ask him to give me a brain.

Tin Man: I am going to ask him to give me a heart.

Dorothy: And I am going to ask him to send Toto and me back to Kansas. Perhaps you can accompany us?

Lion: Do you think Oz could give me courage?

Scarecrow: Just as easily as he could give me brains.

Tin Man: Or give me a heart.

Dorothy: Or send me back to Kansas.

Lion: Then, if you don't mind, I'll go with you. My life is simply unbearable without a bit of courage.

Reader's Theater

The Wonderful Wizard of Oz

Part Five: Oz Disappoints One

Cast of Characters: Narrator, Dorothy, Scarecrow, Tin Man, Lion, Oz, Audience

Narrator: After a long journey to the Emerald City, Oz promises to grant Dorothy's wish if she defeats the Wicked Witch of the West. Dorothy sets out on yet another long journey and does as Oz requested. Presently, she finds herself having returned back to Oz in the company of her three good friends, the Scarecrow, Lion, and Tin Man.

Oz: I am Oz, the Great and Terrible. Why do you seek me?

Narrator: They looked in every part of the room, but saw no one.

Oz: I am everywhere, but to the eyes of common mortals I am invisible. I will now seat myself upon my throne that you may converse with me.

Dorothy: We have come to claim our promise, oh Oz.

Oz: What promise?

Dorothy: You promised, to send me back to Kansas when the Wicked Witch of the West was destroyed.

Scarecrow: And you promised to give me brains.

Tin Man: And you promised to give me a heart.

Lion: And you promised to give me courage.

Oz: Is the Wicked Witch really destroyed?

Dorothy: Yes, I melted her with a bucket of water.

Oz: Dear me, how sudden! Well, come to me tomorrow, for I must have time to think it over.

Narrator: The lion thought it might be as well to frighten the Wizard, so he gave a large, loud roar, which was so fierce and dreadful that Toto jumped away from him in alarm and tipped over the screen that stood in the corner. It fell with a crash. They looked that way, and the next moment all of them were filled with wonder. For they saw, standing in just the spot the screen had hidden, a little old man with a bald head and a wrinkled face, who seemed to be as much surprised as they were.

Tin Man: Who are you?

Reader's Theater

The Wonderful Wizard of Oz

Part Five: Oz Disappoints One

Cast of Characters: Narrator, Dorothy, Scarecrow, Tin Man, Lion, Oz, Audience

Oz: I am Oz, the Great and Terrible. I've been...making believe.

Dorothy: Making believe! Are you not a Great Wizard?

Oz: Hush my dear. Don't speak so loud, or you will be overheard and I should be ruined. I'm supposed to be a Great Wizard.

Dorothy: Are you not?

Oz: Not a bit of it, my dear; I'm just a common man.

Scarecrow: You're more than that, you're a humbug.

Tin Man: But this is terrible. How shall I get my heart?

Lion: Or I my courage?

Scarecrow: Or I my brains? Really, you ought to be ashamed of yourself for being such a humbug.

Audience: Humbug, Humbug, Humbug!

Oz: Oh I'm a very bad wizard, I must admit.

Scarecrow: Can't you give me brains?

Oz: You don't need them. You are learning something everyday. A baby has brains, but it doesn't know much. Experience is the only thing that brings knowledge, and the longer you are on earth, the more experience you are sure to get.

Scarecrow: That must be all true! I can see now I've had brains all along.

Lion: But how about my courage?

Oz: You have plenty of courage. All you need is confidence in yourself. There is no living thing that is not afraid when it faces danger. True courage is in facing danger when you are not afraid, and that kind of courage you have in plenty.

Lion: Perhaps I have!

Reader's Theater

The Wonderful Wizard of Oz

Part Five: Oz Disappoints One

Cast of Characters: Narrator, Dorothy, Scarecrow, Tin Man, Lion, Oz, Audience

Tin Man: How about my heart?

Oz: Why, as for that. If you have ever cried one tear of sadness you have a heart.

Tin Man: Oh yes, you are right. All the unhappiness I have endured is surly a sign of my heart.

Dorothy: And now, how am I to get back to Kansas?

Oz: For that, I'm unable to help you.

Audience: Humbug! Humbug! Humbug!

Reader's Theater

The Wonderful Wizard of Oz

Part Six: Glinda the Good Witch

Cast of Characters: Narrator, Dorothy, Scarecrow, Tin Man, Lion, Glinda

Narrator: After much more journey and adventure, Dorothy finally found herself in front of Glinda the Good Witch, who she hoped could take her back to Kansas.

Glinda: What can I do for you, my child?

Dorothy: My greatest wish is to get back to Kansas, for Aunt Em will surely think something dreadful has happened to me, and that will make her put on mourning; and unless the crops are better this year than they were last, I am sure Uncle Henry cannot afford it.

Glinda: Your silver shoes will carry you over the desert. If you had known their power you could have gone back to your Aunt Em the very first day you came to this country.

Scarecrow: But I might have passed my whole life in the farmer's cornfield not realizing I had brains.

Tin Man: I might have stood and rusted in the forest until the end of the world.

Lion: And I should have lived a coward forever.

Dorothy: This is all true, and I am glad I was of use to these good friends. But now that each of them has had what he most desired, I think I should like to go back to Kansas.

Glinda: The silver shoes have wonderful powers. And one of the most curious things about them is that they can carry you to any place in the world in three steps, and each step will be made in the wink of an eye. All you have to do is knock the heels together three times and command the shoes to carry you wherever you wish to go.

Dorothy: If that is so I will ask them to carry me back to Kansas.

Narrator: Dorothy now took Toto up solemnly in her arms, and having said one last good-bye, she clapped the heels of her shoes together three times.

Dorothy: Take me home to Aunt Em.

Narrator: The Silver Shoes took but three steps, and then she stopped so suddenly that she rolled over upon the grass several times before she knew where she was.

Dorothy: Good gracious!

Narrator: For she looked about her and saw she was sitting on the Kansas prairie....

Reader's Theater

The Wonderful Wizard of Oz

Vocabulary

She has held all the munchkins in bondage for many years, making them slave for her night and day.

1. Using context clues, what can you conclude **bondage** means?
- a. disposition to inflict injury
 - b. the state of being under obligation, restraint, or captivity
 - c. the act of wearing away, or of being worn down, by friction

*And so, with Toto trotting along **soberly** behind her, she started on her journey*

2. Using context clues, what can you conclude **soberly** means?
- a. sedate, serious, solemn
 - b. non deserving
 - c. fast, at a high rate of speed

*I'm not feeling well, for it is very **tedious** being perched up here night and day to scare away crows.*

3. Using context clues, what can you conclude **tedious** means?
- a. Long, slow, and tiresome
 - b. Flourish of ceremony
 - c. Whimsical, unreal

*I shall be greatly **obliged** to you.*

4. Using context clues, what can you conclude **obliged** means?
- a. pitiless
 - b. engage the services or use of; for pay; employ
 - c. lay under obligation by some favor

Use one or more
vocabulary words to
send Oz a text
message.



Reader's Theater

The Wizard of Oz

Vocabulary

*After this, the enchanted axe cut off my arms, one after the other; but, nothing **daunted**, I had them replaced with tin ones.*

5. Using context clues, what can you conclude **daunted** means?
- to cause someone or something to disappear
 - discouraged
 - to cause someone to hurt

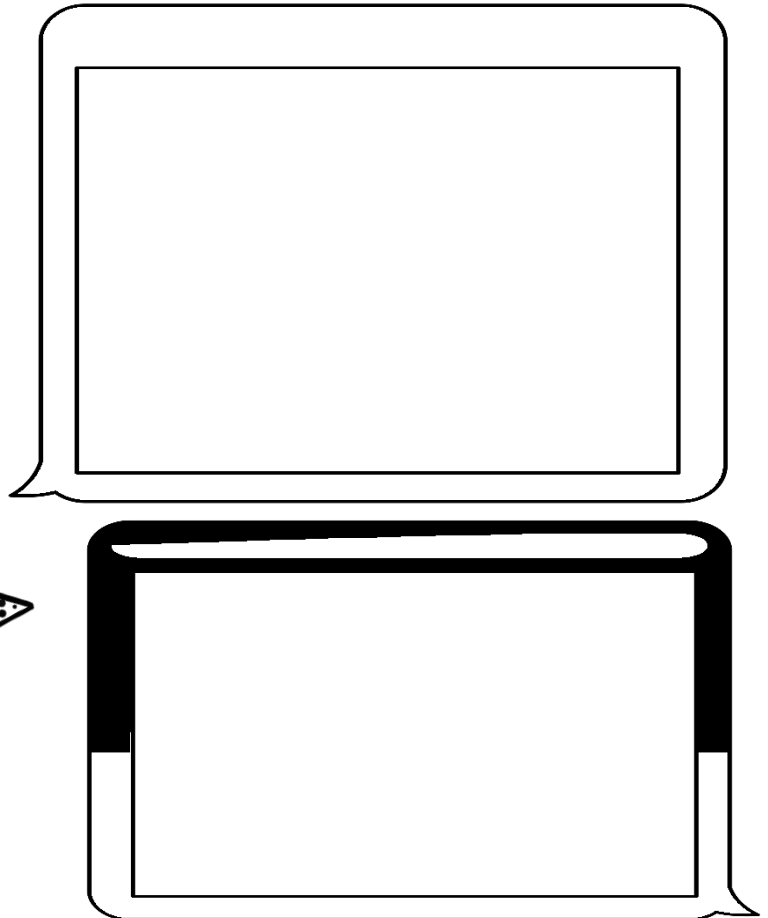
*But, **alas**! I had now no heart, so that I lost all my love for the Munchkin girl.*

6. Using context clues, what can you conclude **alas** means?
- point at something; fix in a certain direction
 - very noticeable or bright
 - of sorrow or pity

*And one of the most **curious** things about them is that they can carry you to any place in the world...*

7. Using context clues, what can you conclude **curious** means?
- strange, odd
 - eager to learn
 - inquisitive

Use one or more
vocabulary words to
create a text
exchange
between
the characters of
your choice.



Reader's Theater

The Wonderful Wizard of Oz

Character Traits

Dorothy

What character traits would you use to describe Dorothy?	What evidence or events from the reader's theater script lead you to choose these character traits?

Opinion

What character do you think is the most forward thinking?
(Forward thinking also means bold and ambitious)

Reader's Theater

The Wonderful Wizard of Oz

Think About It

1. Did you enjoy *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*? Why or why not?

2. *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* was written at a time when stories or books had a lesson or moral. What is the lesson in the *Wonderful Wizard of Oz*?

3. Is there a hero in *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*? Who is the hero? Explain.

4. If you could change any part of the story what would you change? Why?

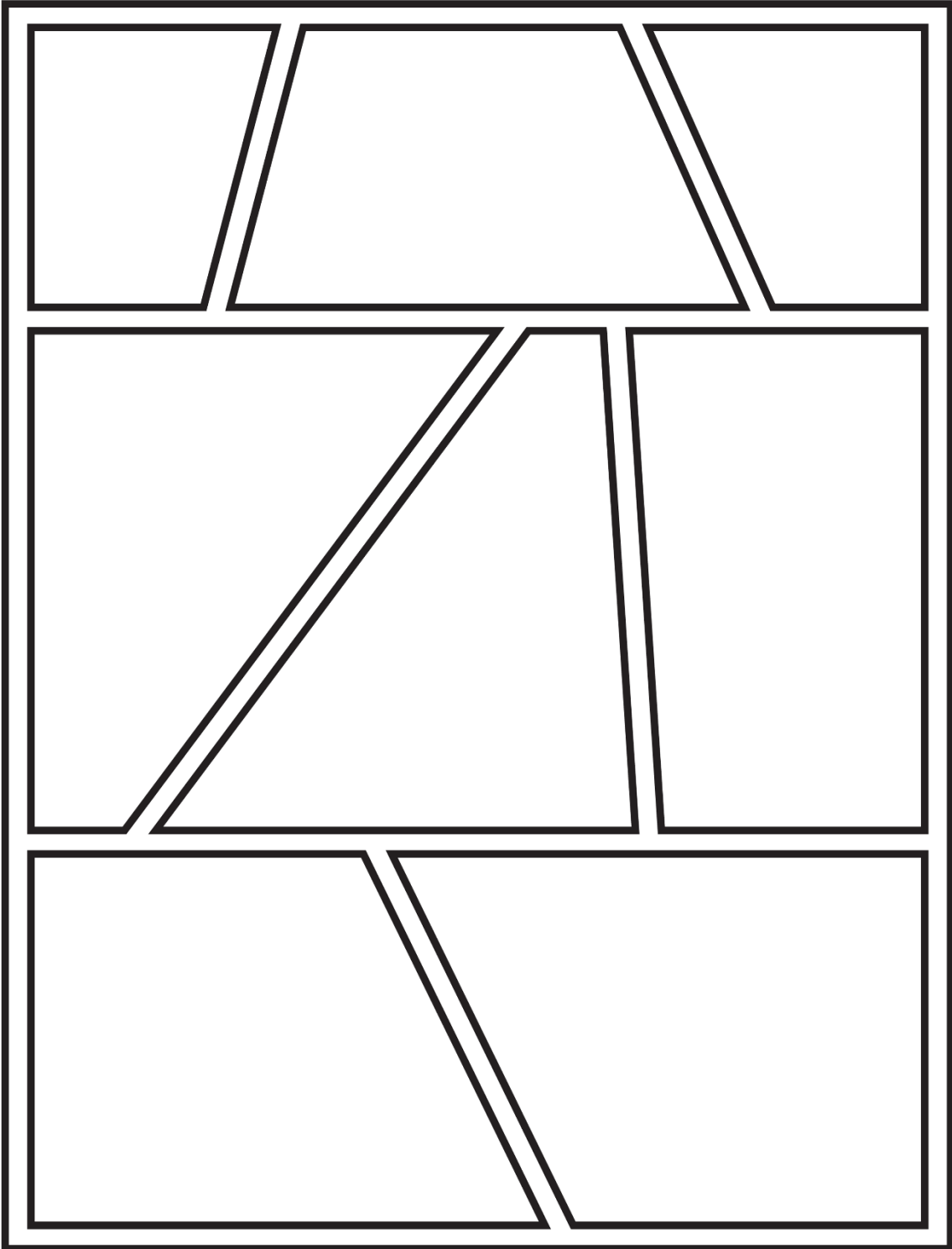
5. How do the tin man, scarecrow, and lion change in the story? Why do they change?

Reader's Theater

The Wonderful Wizard of Oz

Visual Summary

Create a comic strip or graphic novel of the events from the reader's theater script.



Reader's Theater

The Wonderful Wizard of Oz

Key

Key

Vocabulary 1. B 2. A 3. A 4. C 5. B 6. C 7. A

Character Traits/Opinion (Answers will Vary)

Think About It Questions (Sample Answers)

1. Answers will vary
2. You already have what you are looking for.
3. Dorothy because she is persistent and doesn't give up.
4. Answers will vary
5. Their perception of themselves change at the encouragement of another.

Visual Summary (Answers will vary)