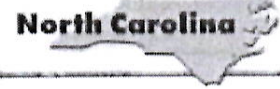


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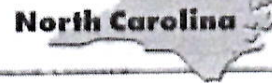
Lesson 9: Irony

Writers create expectations of what will happen in a story. When the opposite happens, it is called **situational irony**. Many authors use irony to heighten the drama of unfolding events or to prove some kind of moral lesson.

DIRECTIONS: Read the following retelling of L. Frank Baum's novel **The Wonderful Wizard of Oz**. Then answer the questions that follow.

- 1 Dorothy, a girl living on a Kansas farm, was convinced that her dreams *could* come true, if only she could search somewhere over the rainbow.
- 2 As it turned out, Dorothy had her chance to go to that place. During a tornado, she and her dog, Toto, were blown to the land of Oz. Dorothy knew she must find her way home. The Good Witch of the North told Dorothy to seek the help of the great and powerful Wizard of Oz. If anyone could help her, he could.
- 3 During her journey to meet the wizard, Dorothy met a Scarecrow, a Tin Woodsman, and a Lion, who also decided to seek the help of the Wizard. The Scarecrow hoped for brains, the Tin Woodsman hoped for a heart, and the Lion hoped for courage.
- 4 When the group finally met the Wizard of Oz, he agreed to grant their wishes if they defeated the Wicked Witch of the West. Desperate, Dorothy and her friends set out on a dangerous search for the witch's land.
- 5 Assisted by the planning of the Scarecrow, the tearful concern of the Tin Woodsman, and the determination of the Lion to face fear, Dorothy managed to melt the Wicked Witch of the West and get her broomstick. Overjoyed, the group returned to the wizard to claim their wishes.
- 6 When they arrived at the Wizard's palace, however, he told them to come back the next day. As Dorothy argued that he must fulfill her wishes, Toto knocked over a curtain and revealed an ordinary man who created the effects of the Wizard. Broken-hearted at the realization that the Wizard was a fraud, Dorothy was sure their wishes would never be granted.
- 7 The Wizard explained to the Scarecrow, the Tin Woodsman, and the Lion that they already had what they were looking for. They simply had to look inside. Because he was only a regular man, however, the Wizard could not help Dorothy.
- 8 Since the Wizard could not help her, Dorothy set off to find Glinda, the Good Witch of the South. After many more dangers and adventures, Dorothy and her three friends arrived at Glinda's castle and were allowed to see her at once. She told

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Dorothy that she, too, had what she was looking for all along. She could have gone home anytime, but had to learn that home was where she truly wanted to be.

9 As Dorothy clicked her heels together and said, "Take me home," she spun back to Kansas, knowing that her dreams lay no further than her own backyard.

1. What does Dorothy believe about her dreams at the beginning of the passage? What does she learn from her adventures?

2. There are many instances of irony in this plot. Identify at least two of them.

3. Why do you think the writer used irony to tell the story? How does the irony in the story contribute to your understanding of the theme of *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*?



For more information on irony, see *Glencoe Literature, Course 2*, pp. 21 and R5.