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A.P. Literature and Composition

Journey to Desires

Everyone has wants and needs throughout their lives, but in the story of The Wonderful Wizard of Oz, written by L. Frank Baum, no one can want anything more than the four characters on their journey to see the Wizard of Oz. These four characters, Dorothy, the Scarecrow, the Tin Man, and the Cowardly Lion, all desire something that they've craved for so long; to go home, to have a brain, to have a heart and to have courage and this craving of a desire pushes them to make this "long journey" (Baum, 27) to fulfill their dreams.

We begin the story in the dreary setting of Kansas where Dorothy is from, she gets swept away by a cyclone and awakens to the new world of the Land of Oz. This land is filled with unknown people such as "munchkins" (Baum, 27), "witches" (Baum, 22), and talking scarecrows. Once she realized she wasn't in Kansas anymore, she started her journey home. Dorothy's journey crossed the paths of three other characters who all wanted something to improve their lives-- and Dorothy was glad to help. She first encounters a lonely scarecrow in the middle of a field, his only wish is to have intelligence-- with the addition of a brain. The scarecrow said if he "had brains in your [his] head, you [he] would be as good as any man" (Baum, 47). His desire is to have a brain and gain intelligence to live a more satisfying life. For the other two characters to achieve a satisfying life they both desire more; the Tin Man a heart to love and be loved and the Cowardly Lion courage so he can live up to the powerful expectations everyone has for him. Each character is in desperate need for something that will help them have a prospectus life.

Throughout the book, The Wonderful Wizard of Oz, we see the quest to a better future with four distinct characters. Just like Dorothy, the Scarecrow, the Tin Man, and the Cowardly Lion, we are all on a journey to obtain something we desire, but sadly there's not a magic wizard, like Oz, who can grant wishes.

Works Cited

Baum, L. Frank. "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz | Read.gov | Library of Congress." The Wonderful Wizard of Oz | Read.gov | Library of Congress. N.p., n.d. Web. 12 May 2016.