

# The Wizard of Oz

L. Frank Baum

*Read this passage. Circle any words in the highlighted section that you do not understand.*

When Dorothy walked across the floor, her foot hit the iron bar. She fell down. She was not hurt, but one of her silver shoes came off. Before she could reach it, the Witch picked it up and put it on.

'Give me back my shoe!' Dorothy said to the Witch.

'I will not,' replied the Witch. 'It is my shoe now, not yours. One day soon I shall get the other one, too.'

These words made Dorothy angry. She picked up a bucket of water that was in the kitchen. She threw the water all over the Witch.

The wicked old woman gave a loud cry of fear. Dorothy looked at her in surprise. The Witch was getting smaller and smaller.

'Look at what you have done!' she screamed. 'I am melting.'

'I'm sorry,' said Dorothy. The Witch was melting like ice on a hot day. Dorothy was quite frightened.

'Didn't you know water would destroy me?' screamed the Witch.

'How would I know that?' asked Dorothy.

'Well, in a few minutes I shall be all melted. Then you will be the ruler of this castle. Oh, I never thought a little girl would destroy me. Look out — here I go!'



(from pages 32–33)

*How many words have you circled? Write the number here:*

## What level should you be reading?

If you circled 0 words, this level may be too easy for you. Try the level above this one.

If you circled 1–4 words, this level may be right for you. Try another sample to be sure.

If you circled 5 words or more, this level may be too hard for you. Try the level below this one.

# Little Women

Louisa M. Alcott

*Read this passage. Circle any words in the highlighted section that you do not understand.*

Jo stood alone with her back carefully against a wall. Some boys were talking about football, and Jo wanted to join them. But she knew Meg would not like that. She felt shy and rather lonely. She was afraid to dance because of her burnt dress. So she hid behind a curtain.

Jo jumped with surprise. Another shy person was in the same hiding place. Jo found herself standing next to 'the Laurence boy'!

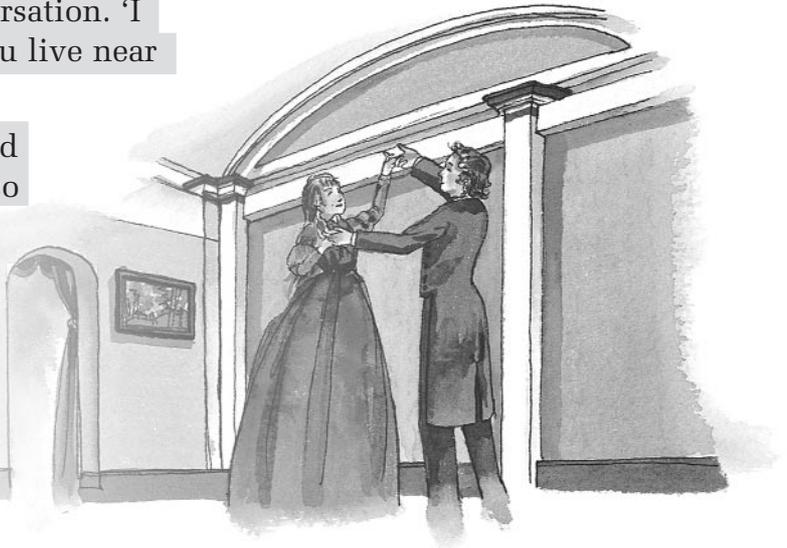
He laughed at her surprised face. 'Stay if you like,' he said. 'I only came here because I don't know many people. I felt rather shy at first, you know.'

'So did I.' They both looked down at their shoes. Jo tried to make conversation. 'I think I've met you before. You live near us, don't you?'

'Next door!' He looked up and laughed. 'Oh, yes! You look so different! How is your cat, Miss March?' Jo laughed too.

'Very well, thank you, Mr Laurence. But I'm not Miss March, I'm just Jo.'

'And I'm just Laurie. Do you like dancing, Miss Jo?'



(from page 11)

*How many words have you circled? Write the number here:*

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