

# Words from L. Frank Baum's *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*

## Avocabo Word List

BODICE, BOISTEROUS,  
BROCADE, COUNTERPANE,  
CYCLONE, DAUNT, DOUBLET,  
ERMINE, FROCK, GARRET,  
GAUNT, GINGHAM, HUMBUG,  
INDIGNANTLY, MAR, PLAIT,  
REPROACHFUL, SETTEE,  
SOLDER, SPIRE, SWORD



Folk lore, legends, myths, and fairy tales have followed children through the ages, for every healthy youngster has a wholesome and instinctive love for stories fantastic, marvelous, and manifestly unreal. The winged fairies of Grimm and Andersen have brought more happiness to childish hearts than all other human creations.

Yet the old-time fairy tale, having served for generations, may now be classed as "historical" in the children's library; for the time has come for a series of newer "wonder tales" in which the stereotyped genie, dwarf and fairy are eliminated, together with all the horrible blood-curdling incident devised by their authors to point a fearsome moral to each tale. Modern education includes morality; therefore the modern child seeks only entertainment in its wonder-tales and gladly dispenses with all disagreeable incident.

Having this thought in mind, the story of *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* was written solely to pleasure children of today. It aspires to being a modernized fairy tale, in which wonderment and joy are retained and the heart-aches and nightmares left out.

L. FRANK BAUM

*The introduction to The Wonderful Wizard of Oz written in Chicago in April of 1900.*



## Exercise 1: Fill-in-the-Blanks:

Complete each sentence from the novel by choosing the *most appropriate* list word (or variation thereof) from the choices given. (21 marks)

1. Their house was small, for the lumber to build it had to be carried by wagon many miles. There were four walls, a floor and a roof, which made one room; and this room contained a rusty looking cooking stove, a cupboard for the dishes, a table, three or four chairs, and the beds . . . There was no \_\_\_\_\_ at all, and no cellar – except a small hole, dug in the ground . . .

brocade garret doublet spire

2. When Aunt Em came there to live, she was a young, pretty wife. The sun and wind had changed her, too. They had taken the sparkle from her eyes and left them a sober gray; they had taken the red from her cheeks and lips, and they were gray also. She was thin and \_\_\_\_\_, and never smiled, now.

indignantly boisterous ermine gaunt

3. From the far north they heard a low wail of wind, and Uncle Henry and Dorothy could see where the long grass bowed in waves before the coming storm. There now came a sharp whistling in the air from the south, and as they turned their eyes that way they saw ripples in the grass coming from that direction also.

Suddenly Uncle Henry stood up.

"There's a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ coming, Em," he called to his wife . . .

settee spire cyclone ermine

4. The cyclone set the house down, very gently – for a cyclone – in the midst of a country of marvelous beauty. There were lovely patches of green \_\_\_\_\_ all about, with stately trees bearing rich and luscious fruits. Banks of gorgeous flowers were on every hand, and birds with rare and brilliant plumage sang and fluttered in the trees and bushes.

reproachful plaits sward solder

5. Three were men and one a woman, and all were oddly dressed. They wore round hats that rose to a small point a foot above their heads, with little bells around the brims that tinkled sweetly as they moved. The hats of the men were blue; the little woman's hat was white, and she wore a white gown that hung in \_\_\_\_\_ from her shoulders; over it were sprinkled little stars that glistened in the sun like diamonds.

plaits brocade counterpane mar

6. Dorothy had only one other dress, but that happened to be clean and was hanging on a peg beside her bed. It was (a) \_\_\_\_\_, with checks of white and blue; and although the blue was somewhat faded with many washings, it was still a pretty (b) \_\_\_\_\_.

(a) gingham marred gaunt soldered

(b) plaits cyclone frock humbug

7. Dorothy ate a hearty supper and was waited upon by the rich Munchkin himself, whose name was Boq. Then she sat down upon a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ and watched the people dance.

counterpane settee garret ermine

8. When I began chopping again my axe slipped and cut off my right leg. Again I went to the tinner, and again he made me a leg out of tin. After this the enchanted axe cut off my arms, one after the other; but, nothing \_\_\_\_\_, I had them replaced with tin ones.

daunted brocaded boisterous indignant

9. During the rest of the day there was no other adventure to \_\_\_\_\_ the peace of their journey. Once, indeed, the Tin Woodman stepped upon a beetle that was crawling along the road, and killed the poor little thing. This made the Tin Woodman very unhappy, for he was always careful not to hurt any living creature; and as he walked along he wept several tears of sorrow and regret.

frock solder doublet mar

10. "I have no heart, you know, so I am careful to help all those who may need a friend even if it happens to be only a mouse."  
"Only a mouse!" cried the little animal, \_\_\_\_\_;  
"why, I am a Queen – the Queen of all the field-mice!"

gauntly reproachful garret indignantly

11. So Dorothy said good-bye to all her friends except Toto, and taking the dog in her arms followed the green girl through seven passages and up three flights of stairs until they came to a room at the front of the palace. It was the sweetest little room in the world, with a soft, comfortable bed that had sheets of green silk and a green velvet \_\_\_\_\_.

bodice counterpane doublet humbug

12. The next morning, after breakfast, the green maiden came to fetch Dorothy, and she dressed her in one of the prettiest gowns – made of green \_\_\_\_\_ satin. Dorothy put on a silk apron and tied a green ribbon around Toto's neck, and they started for the Throne Room of the Great Oz.

brocaded gingham boisterous doublet

13. So they set to work in one of the big yellow rooms of the castle and worked for three days and nights, hammering and twisting and bending and \_\_\_\_\_ and polishing and pounding at the legs and body and head of the Tin Woodman, until at last he was straightened out into his old form, and his joints worked as well as ever.

brocading soldering daunting marring

14. "Are you not a great Wizard?"

"Hush, my dear," he said; "don't speak so loud, or you will be overheard – and I should be ruined. I'm supposed to be a Great Wizard."

"And aren't you?" she asked

"Not a bit of it my dear; I'm just a common man."

"You're more than that," said the Scarecrow, in a grieved tone; "you're a(n) \_\_\_\_\_."

indignantly cyclone humbug spire

15. They now turned for one last look at the Emerald City. All they could see was a mass of towers and steeples behind the green wall, and high up above everything the \_\_\_\_\_ and dome of the Palace of Oz.

bodices settees spires doublets

16. But the strangest of all were the people who lived in the queer country. There were milk-maids and shepherdesses, with bright colored \_\_\_\_\_ and golden spots over their gowns; and princesses with the most gorgeous frocks of silver and gold and purple; . . .

bodices counterpanes garrets swards

17. . . . and shepherds dressed in knee-breeches with pink and yellow and blue stripes down them, and golden buckles on their shoes; and princes with jeweled crowns upon their heads, wearing (a) \_\_\_\_\_ robes, and satin (b) \_\_\_\_\_; and funny clowns in ruffled gowns, with round red spots upon their cheeks and tall, pointed caps.

(a) ermine reproachful gaunt humbug

(b) doublets swards counterpanes gingham

18. Dorothy was shocked to see that the cow had broken her short leg off . . . “I’m very sorry,” returned Dorothy; “please forgive us.”

But the pretty milk-maid was much too vexed to make any answer. . . . As she left them the milk-maid cast many \_\_\_\_\_ glances over her shoulder at the clumsy strangers, holding her nicked elbow.

boisterous gaunt reproachful solder

19. As quickly as lightening the man’s head shot forward and his neck stretched out until the top of the head, where it was flat, struck the Scarecrow in the middle and sent him tumbling, over and over, down the hill. . . .

A chorus of \_\_\_\_\_ laughter came from the other rocks, and Dorothy saw hundreds of the armless Hammer-Heads upon the hillside, one behind every rock.

frock boisterous daunted reproachful

**Exercise 2: Synonyms**

From the three choices, circle or underline the one that is closest in meaning to the list word (*in boldface*) in the context shown. (21 marks)

1. featuring a blue **bodice** with a high neckline  
(a) laced undergarment (b) torso-covering portion of a garment (c) starched collar
2. the **boisterous** cries from the crowd  
(a) obstreperous (b) stormy (c) uncouth
3. The gown sewn of a floral **brocade**  
(a) puce (b) thread (c) embroidered material
4. laying beneath the warm **counterpane**  
(a) comforter (b) dormer (c) mattress
5. fear of the approaching **cyclone**  
(a) doppelganger (b) twister (c) tsunami
6. in an attempt to **daunt** the mob  
(a) pacify (b) scare away (c) nettle
7. concluding that the stone was a mere **doublet**  
(a) gem facsimile (b) jacket (c) dichotomy
8. the **ermine** scurried through the waving grass  
(a) stole (b) mouse (c) weasel
9. the apprentice was **frocked** in a plain smock  
(a) clad (b) invested with clerical office (c) romped

10. climbing the stairs to the **garret**  
(a) watchtower (b) cellar (c) loft
11. the stretch of **gaunt** land before them  
(a) bony (b) barren (c) lanky
12. sporting a tablecloth of red **gingham**  
(a) patterned material (b) checkers (c) plaids
13. dismissing his comments as nothing but **humbug**  
(a) gobbledygook (b) hoax (c) imposter
14. responding **indignantly** with a smart quip  
(a) satirically (b) wittily (c) irefully
15. the victory being **marred** by guilt  
(a) blemished (b) vilified (c) augmented
16. her hair tied back in a long **plait**  
(a) pleat (b) queue (c) pigtail
17. the insult caused **reproachful** emotions to well up inside him  
(a) contrite (b) woebegone (c) contemptuous
18. seated upon the soft **settee**  
(a) throne (b) divan (c) hassock
19. the blacksmith poured the heated **solder**  
(a) fusible alloy (b) bond (c) join
20. the view from the **spire** of the cathedral  
(a) acme (b) whorl (c) buttress
21. the sheep grazing in the **sward**  
(a) saber (b) coppice (c) pasture

**Exercise 3: Antonyms**

Provide an antonym for each of the following list words. (6 marks)

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Boisterous
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Gaunt
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Humbug
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Indignantly
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Mar
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Reproachful

**Exercise 4: Parts of Speech:**

Change the given list word (in boldface) to the part of speech that is indicated. If the word cannot take that form of speech, write "Ha, ha, you cannot trick me!" (or X for short). (12 marks)

1. The adjectival form of **bodice**: \_\_\_\_\_
2. The noun form of **boisterous**: \_\_\_\_\_
3. The verb form of **brocade**: \_\_\_\_\_
4. The adjectival form of **cyclone**: \_\_\_\_\_
5. The adverb form of **daunt**: \_\_\_\_\_
6. The adjectival form of **ermine**: \_\_\_\_\_
7. The verb form of **frock**: \_\_\_\_\_
8. The verb form of **gaunt**: \_\_\_\_\_
9. Another noun form of **humbug**: \_\_\_\_\_
10. The noun form of **indignantly**: \_\_\_\_\_
11. The verb form of **reproachful**: \_\_\_\_\_
12. The adjectival form of **solder**: \_\_\_\_\_

**Exercise 5: Etymologies:**

Provide the list word that originates from the word described. (8 marks)

1. Which list word originates from the Old French meaning *to defend*?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Which list word comes from the Latin meaning *to fold*?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Which list word is derived from the Middle English meaning *a monk's habit*?  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Which list word derives its origin from the Old English meaning *to impede*?  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. Which list word is perhaps derived from the Old French meaning *knee joint*?  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. Which list word comes from the Greek meaning *to rotate*?  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. Which list word originates from the Latin meaning *solid*?  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. Which list word is derived from the Italian meaning *twisted thread*?  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Exercies 6: Making Connections:**

*In a few sentences, describe the relationship between each pair of words. Use a good dictionary to clarify any unclear words. (5 x 3 marks)*

1. boisterous                  guffaw

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. frock                          gaberdine

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. gaunt                          obese

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. indignantly                  huff

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. solder                          flux

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

***It began with the bottom drawer of a filing cabinet . . .***

Lyman Frank Baum, eight days from his forty-second birthday, sat with his family in their Chicago home on the evening of May 7, 1898. As on many other occasions, he was entertaining neighborhood children with a fairy tale about fantasy characters of his own creation.

Suddenly, the enthusiastic curiosity of one little girl got the best of her, “Oh, please, Mr. Baum,” she interrupted. “Where did they live?”

According to Baum family legend, the soft-spoken storyteller glanced around the room until his eyes fell on a filing cabinet. The top drawer was labeled A – N.

The bottom drawer was labeled O – Z.

And so was born the marvelous land – a home for Dorothy, the Scarecrow, the Tin Woodman, and the outlandish, nonsensical inhabitants of Oz invented by L. Frank Baum. Although he couldn’t have realized it that night, he had finally (if auspiciously) discovered the key to the writing career of which he’d dreamed. And he was beginning as well to create a cornerstone in the history of both children’s literature and motion pictures. Two years to the day after Baum found the name of his magic kingdom, Chicago presses were printing the first edition of *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*.

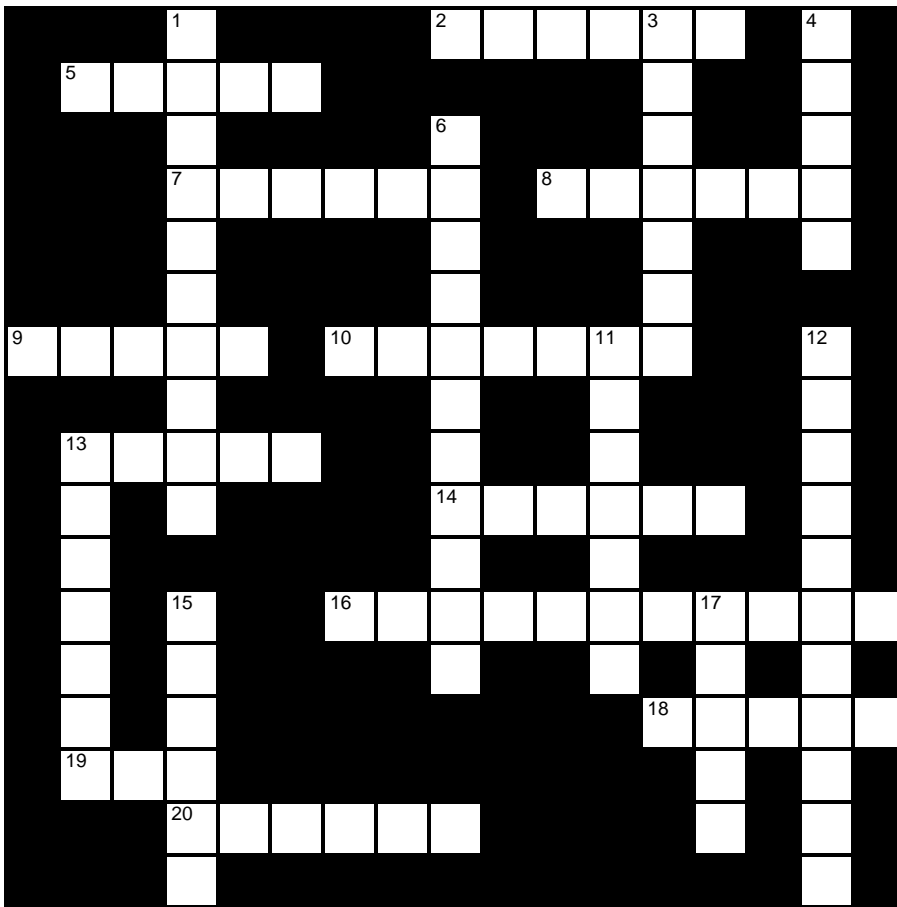
JOHN FRICKE, JAY SCARFONE,  
and William Stillman

*The opening paragraphs of The Wizard of Oz: The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Pictorial History, which chronicles the history of the Oz story, from the writing of the original novel, The Wonderful Wizard of Oz, to the creation of the 1939 smash-hit musical, The Wizard of Oz, to the Oz-mania that has since ensued.*

*The text and sentences used in this Avocabo Unit are taken from the 1987 Books of Wonder Reinforced Edition of L. Frank Baum’s The Wonderful Wizard of Oz, which is a reprint of the first edition of the novel of 1900, and the 1989 Warner Books Edition of John Fricke, Jay Scarfone, and William Stillman’s The Wizard of Oz: The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Pictorial History..*

**Unit contributed by Joseph Recchia**

# Wizard of Oz Words - The Crossword



## ACROSS

2. The close-fitting waist of a woman's dress.
5. An outer robe worn by monks, friars, and other clerics.
7. A long, high-backed wooden bench.
8. To join, or serve as a bond between.
9. A grassland or meadow.
10. A rich cloth embroidered with raised ornamentation.
13. Thin, angular, emaciated, or grim.
14. A hoax, fraud, deception, or imposter.
16. A comforter or bedspread.
18. To deter, dismay, or intimidate.
19. To deface, destroy, impair, or spoil.
20. A weasel that has a white coat of fur in winter.

## DOWN

1. Violent; stentorian, clamorous, vociferous.
3. A spiraling, violent, destructive storm.
4. A structure or formation that tapers to a point at the top.
6. Scolding, rebuking, condemning, or contemptuous.
11. One of a pair of similar or identical things.
12. Angrily, wrathfully.
13. A cotton fabric of dyed yarn often woven in patterns.
15. The story or room immediately beneath the roof of a structure.
17. A pleat or pressed fold.