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## Off to See the Wizard? Frank Baum's Oz

For over a hundred years, L. Frank Baum's classic fairy stories about the Land of Oz have been delighting children and parents alike.

It all started in 1900 when the first book was published, *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*. It was immediately a success. In 1903, it was adapted to a Broadway musical. This success led to Baum becoming a full-time writer.

Many consider his work the first home-grown fairy tales from America. The Oz stories combine magic, fantasy, and great characters like the Tin Woodsman, a talking scarecrow, and a cowardly lion. Dorothy and her dog represent a typical country girl.

These books have been translated into many different languages and sold millions and millions of copies all over the world. Baum wrote many other popular stories and books, but today most remember him for the Oz series.

Here is a complete listing of the books in the series that he wrote, the name of the illustrator (original editions all have great pictures), the year published, and the publishing company.

1. **The Wonderful Wizard of Oz, illustrated by W. W. Denslow (1900, George M. Hill).** Dorothy gets swept into the Land of Oz by a cyclone. She meets a living Scarecrow, a man made entirely of tin, and a Cowardly Lion while trying to get to the Emerald City to see the great Wizard. Also reprinted by various

### The Land of Oz

Oz is a wonderful place created by L. Frank Baum, a fantasy containing four territories under the rule of one monarch. It was first introduced in *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* in 1900. Baum created books about many exotic countries full of fairies and magical beings. Oz was the most popular and he returned to it again and again, creating a wonderful series of books.

While each book builds on the Oz story, they don't need to be read in the order they were written. Baum intended to end the series after the sixth book, *The Emerald City of Oz*, in which Oz becomes isolated from the rest of the world. Readers demanded more and Baum continued to add to the series.

Today, most are introduced to the Land of Oz by the film starring Judy Garland, *The Wizard of Oz*. The movie presents Oz as a dream. The books present Oz as a real land. Baum wrote fourteen books about. He also wrote six shorter books intended for younger readers. After his death, Ruth Plumly Thompson and other writers continued the series. Some characters that are featured throughout the series include:

- Dorothy Gale, a girl from Kansas
- The Tin Woodman (Nick Chopper), an enchanted man, made entirely out of tin, and the current Emperor of the Winkies
- The Scarecrow, a living man made of straw and briefly King of the Emerald City.
- The Wizard, the former ruler of Oz, originally Oscar Diggs from Omaha, Nebraska, and now a skilled wizard
- The Cowardly Lion, the timid King of Beasts
- Princess Ozma, the rightful ruler of Oz.
- Jack Pumpkinhead, a man made out of branches with a carved pumpkin for a head
- Tik-Tok, a super-intelligent, clockwork robot (one of the first robots in literature)
- The Patchwork Girl, (a.k.a. "Scraps") a living patchwork doll
- The Shaggy Man, another human from "the real world"
- Glinda, the good witch of the South, or Quadling Country, and its benevolent ruler (although in the 1939 MGM movie, she was the Good Witch of the North)

publishers under the names The New Wizard of Oz and The Wizard of Oz with occasional minor changes in the text.

2. **The Marvelous Land of Oz, illustrated by John R. Neill (1904 Reilly & Britton).** A little boy, Tip, escapes from his evil guardian, the witch Mombi, with the help of a walking wooden figure with a jack-o'-lantern head

named Jack Pumpkinhead (brought to life with the magic Powder of Life Tip stole from Mombi), as well as a living Sawhorse (created from the same powder). Tip ends up on an adventure with the Scarecrow and Tin Woodman. Tip finally learns that he is really Princess Ozma, the true ruler of Oz, is changed back into a girl, and ascends the throne of Oz. Also reprinted as The Land of Oz.

3. **Ozma of Oz, illustrated by John R. Neill (1907, Reilly & Britton).** While traveling to Australia with her Uncle Henry, little Dorothy is swept overboard with a hen named Billina. They land in Ev, a country across the desert from Oz, and, together with new-found mechanical friend Tik-Tok, they must save Ev's royal family from the evil Nome King. With Princess Ozma's help, they finally return to Oz.
4. **Dorothy and the Wizard in Oz, illustrated by John R. Neill (1908, Reilly & Britton).** On her way back from Australia, Dorothy visits her cousin, Zeb, in California. They are soon swallowed up by an earthquake, along with Zeb's horse Jim and Dorothy's cat Eureka. The group soon meets up with the Wizard and all travel underground back to Oz.
5. **The Road to Oz, illustrated by John R. Neill (1909, Reilly & Britton).** Dorothy meets the Shaggy Man, and while trying to find the road to Butterfield, they get lost on an enchanted road. As they travel they meet the rainbow's daughter, Polychrome, and a little boy, Button-Bright. They have all sorts of strange adventures on the way to Oz.
6. **The Emerald City of Oz, illustrated by John R. Neill (1910, Reilly & Britton).** Dorothy Gale and her Uncle Henry and Aunt Em come to live in Oz permanently. While they tour through the Quadling Country, the Nome King is tunneling beneath the desert to invade Oz.
7. **The Patchwork Girl of Oz, illustrated by John R. Neill (1913, Reilly & Britton).** A Munchkin boy named Ojo must find a cure to free his Uncle Nunkie from a magical spell that has turned him into a statue. With the help of Scraps, a living Patchwork Girl, Ojo journeys through Oz in order to save his uncle.
8. **Tik-Tok of Oz, illustrated by John R. Neill (1914, Reilly & Britton).** Betsy Bobbin, a girl from Oklahoma, is shipwrecked with her mule, Hank, in the Rose Kingdom. She meets the Shaggy Man there and the two try to rescue the Shaggy Man's brother from the Nome King. This book is partly based upon Baum's stage musical, The Tik-Tok Man of Oz, which was in turn based on Ozma of Oz.
9. **The Scarecrow of Oz, illustrated by John R. Neill (1915, Reilly & Britton).** Cap'n Bill and Trot journey to Oz and, with the help of the Scarecrow, overthrow the cruel King Krewl of Jinxland. Cap'n Bill and Trot had previously appeared in two other novels by Baum, The Sea Fairies and Sky Island. Based in part upon the 1914 silent film, His Majesty, the Scarecrow of Oz.
10. **Rinkitink in Oz, illustrated by John R. Neill (1916, Reilly & Britton).** Prince Inga of Pingaree and King Rinkitink and their companions have adventures that lead to the land of the Nomes and, eventually, Oz. This book only ends up in Oz at the end, because Baum originally wrote it as a non-Oz book, entitled King Rinkitink, and only rewrote it later.
11. **The Lost Princess of Oz, illustrated by John R. Neill (1917, Reilly & Britton).** Concerning the disappearance of Princess Ozma, the ruler of Oz. When she is discovered missing, four search parties are sent out, one for each of Oz's four countries. Most of the book covers Dorothy and the Wizard's efforts to find her. Meanwhile, Cayke the Cookie Cook discovers that her magic dishpan (on which she bakes her famous cookies) has been stolen. Along with the Frogman, they leave their mountain in the Winkie Country to find the pan.
12. **The Tin Woodman of Oz, illustrated by John R. Neill (1918, Reilly & Britton).** The Tin Woodman, Nick Chopper, is unexpectedly reunited with his Munchkin sweetheart Nimmie Amee from the days when he was flesh and blood. Along the way, Nick discovers a fellow tin man, Captain Fyter, as well as a Frankenstein monster-like creature, Chopfyt, made from their combined parts by the tinsmith, Ku-Klip.
13. **The Magic of Oz, illustrated by John R. Neill (1919, Reilly & Lee).** Ruggedo, former Nome King, tries to conquer Oz again with the help of a Munchkin boy, Kiki Aru. In the meanwhile, it is also Ozma's birthday, and all of Oz's citizens are searching for the most unusual present for the little princess. This was published a month after Baum's death.
14. **Glinda of Oz, illustrated by John R. Neill (1920, Reilly & Lee).** Dorothy, Ozma and Glinda try to stop a war in the Gillikin Country. This was Baum's last Oz book, and was published posthumously. Most critics agree this is Baum's darkest Oz book, most likely due to his failing health.