

Character Descriptions for Wizard of Oz

Dorothy Gale is a sweet, young lady with a streak of boldness. She lives on a farm, but dreams of escaping to a far-off place where she does not get into so much trouble. She and her dog, Toto, are inseparable. She is a bit outspoken and headstrong, but dearly loves her family and friends.

This character has the largest amount of lines, singing and dancing. It will need to be someone with a strong singing voice that is committed to this production %100 as you will have rehearsals on almost every Monday, Thursday and Saturday and need to memorize a lot of material. Casting will depend on height and the casting of the rest of the characters but will likely be someone with past experience in musicals and be in 6th grade and above.

Aunt Em is a typical hard-working farmer's wife. Although she is consumed by her responsibilities, underneath it all she cares very much for Dorothy's feelings and well-being. Aunt Em must be able to show both her strong side and her softer side. Aunt Em sings a solo in the reprise of "Over the Rainbow," and will double in the ensemble during the second half of the show but this is more of an acting role.

Aunt Em' will need to be someone capable of portraying an adult. She sings a solo in the reprise of "Over the Rainbow," and will double as a singer and dancer in the ensemble during the middle of the show.

Uncle Henry is the owner of the farm and Aunt Em's husband. He adores Dorothy, but it is clear that Aunt Em is much more in charge of Dorothy's upbringing.

Uncle Henry does not have to sing a solo but will double as a singer and dancer in the ensemble during the middle of the show. This should be a student able to portray an adult.

Hunk (Scarecrow) Hunk is one of the three farmhands who offers Dorothy advice about how to deal with Miss Gulch. Both characters talk about being smart and having a brain and the audience should be able to make the connection between the two through body language and speech.

The Scarecrow has a longer singing solo and multiple small solos with Dorothy, Lion and Tin Man. He or she must be a good character actor and is quite clumsy at first. Can be played by a male or female who is on the taller side

Zeke (Lion) Zeke is another farmhand who talks to Dorothy about her problems, advising her to just "have a little courage." His Oz alter ego, the Lion, is lacking courage. Although he will act tough from time to time, his true fearful self comes out in any scary situation.

The Lion sings two longer solos and has multiple short solos with Dorothy, Scarecrow and Tin Man. Must be an actor comfortable portraying a variety of emotions. Will likely be played by a male because of the singing range but females with strong lower range might be a possibility.

Hickory (Tin Man) is the third farmhand, and his Oz alter ego is the Tin Man, who lacks a heart. The Tin Man is kind, sweet and nurturing.

The Tinman has a longer singing solo and multiple small solos with Dorothy, Scarecrow and Lion. He or she must be a good character actor and is very stiff at first because of needing oil. May be played by a male or female.

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Miss Gulch (Wicked Witch) Miss Gulch is a well-off neighbor who is cold-hearted and hates Toto for getting into her yard. In Oz the Wicked Witch of the West wants revenge on Dorothy. Must be able to portray a mean person and have a good witch cackle. May have a short solo in the song Jitterbug depending on who is cast and their singing and dancing ability.

PLEASE NOTE: The Characters of Hunk/Scarecrow, Zeke/Cowardly Lion, Hickory/Tin Man and Miss Gulch/Wicked Witch might possibly each be portrayed by two actors. This will give more kids an opportunity to have lines and also allow for more in depth and detailed makeup and costuming. However when auditioning plan on portraying both parts.

Toto is Dorothy's beloved dog. When the action takes place in Kansas, Toto may be played by a puppet or a stuffed animal that is manipulated by an actor. In Oz, Toto should transform into an actor in a dog costume.

PLEASE NOTE: Toto is a large part as he/she appears on stage with Dorothy throughout almost the entire production. Although he/she doesn't talk like a human Toto does speak several lines as a dog and interacts with the other characters so he/she has to maintain character for each and every scene. Toto will have a lot of rehearsals on Monday and Thursday as well as Saturday. We will be looking for an older child who is small or a younger child who is very mature with a long attention span.

Professor Marvel (Wizard, Oz's Voice) is a traveling salesman whose career of the moment is fortune telling. The audience should get the idea that he is a bit of a con man; however, he has a good heart. Similarly, his Oz counterpart, the Wizard, is a con man as well—just an average guy with a fantastic façade. When he is playing Oz's Voice, he should sound strong and commanding.

Lady in Rocking Chair, Rowboat Person #1 & #2, Cow ~ All appear in the tornado and have a line.

These characters will also double in other parts such as Winkie Guards, Jitter Bugs, flying Monkeys and Ozians.

Glinda is the Good Witch of the North who guides Dorothy in her journey through Oz. She should have a delicate, graceful manner. Glinda is a mother figure for Dorothy, as well as for the Munchkins.

Glinda sings a solo and with the munchkins and Dorothy, she double as a dancer/singer in the second half of the show.

The **Doorman** of Emerald City is a comical character who tries to be tough but turns into a "softy." The **Guard** acts similarly, changing from harshness to sympathy upon hearing Dorothy cry. Can be played by a male or female.

The **Munchkins** are the little people who live in Munchkinland, the place in Oz where Dorothy's house has landed. The Munchkins have a child-like innocence, and they are full of joy and enthusiasm as they celebrate their newfound freedom. Some of the munchkins have solo speaking parts and some have musical solos. The munchkins will be younger or shorter actors and actresses, there are munchkins with group lines and some with individual lines. Munchkins will double as different parts in the second half of the show.

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Munchkin Breakdown

Munchkin #1 & Munchkin #2 Speaks a solo line in rhythm during a song.

Mayor of Munchkin City & Barrister speak several lines at different times in rhythm during the song

City Father #1 & City Father 2 Speaks a solo line in rhythm during a song.

Coroner Sings a solo with melody during the song

Three Tots (girls) Sing and dance as a trio

Three Tough Kids (boys or girls) Sing and dance as a trio

Crows (2-4) appear with the Scarecrow. They taunt and tease him with their “caws” and play keep away with his hat. They sing as a small group in Were Off to See the Wizard

Apple Tree #1, Apple Tree #2, Apple Tree #3 All have lines and are mad and throw apples at Dorothy, the Scarecrow and the Tin Man. They will double as other characters as well.

The **Winged Monkeys** are the Wicked Witch’s animal army. And are medium to small in height

Nikko is the leader of the Winged Monkeys and has a small speaking part using “monkey” lingo

The **Jitterbugs** are a small group of dancers who have been sent by the Wicked Witch to out-dance Dorothy and make her tired. They appear in a large production number and will be featured dancers and will also double as another part.

The **Winkie Guards** are a group of the Wicked Witch’s guards. Taller and imposing looking.

Leader of the Winkies is the leader of the Wicked Witch’s guards and has a few lines.

The Ozians are the people who live in Emerald City. Several Ozians have one or two lines.

IN GENERAL: The taller characters that are played by adults in the movie such as Tin Man, Lion, Witch, Glinda, Scarecrow and Wizard will be played by taller/older kids. The Munchkins will be played by shorter/younger kids. Dorothy will be in between those two sizes, let’s say medium so the size/age of Dorothy will be determined, in part, by the cast as a whole as well as ability. Also note, Dorothy appears in almost every song and scene so she will not be able to have conflicts. There will be no time to relearn or reteach Dorothy’s parts, since she will be learning new ones at every rehearsal. Other medium height/age characters may include Aunt Em and Uncle Henry, the trees, monkeys, Oz citizens, jitterbugs possibly Oz (if you have a deep voice). Again, parts will depend on the cast as a whole so you should be familiar with a variety of characters.