Dorothy and the Wizard of Oz

Dorothy lived in the midst of the great Kansas prairies, with Uncle Henry, who was a farmer, and Aunt Em, who was the farmer's wife. 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 cookstove, a cupboard for the dishes, a table, three or four chairs, and the beds. Uncle Henry and Aunt Em had a big bed in one corner, and Dorothy a little bed in another corner. There was no garret at all, and no cellar—except a small hole dug in the ground, called a cyclone cellar, where the family could go in case one of those great whirlwinds arose, mighty enough to crush any building in its path. It was reached by a trap door in the middle of the floor, from which a ladder led down into the small, dark hole.

When Dorothy stood in the doorway and looked around, she could see nothing but the great grey prairie on every side. Not a tree nor a house broke the broad sweep of flat country that reached to the edge of the sky in all directions. The sun had baked the plowed land into a grey mass, with little cracks running through it. Even the grass was not green, for the sun had burned the tops of the long blades until they were the same grey colour to be seen everywhere. Once the house had been painted, but the sun blistered the paint and the rains washed it away, and now the house was as dull and grey as everything else.

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 grey; they had taken the red from her cheeks and lips, and they were grey also. She was thin and gaunt, and never smiled now. When

Dorothy, who was an orphan, first came to her, Aunt Em had been so startled by the child's laughter that she would scream and press her hand upon her heart whenever Dorothy's merry voice reached her ears; and she still looked at the little girl with wonder that she could find anything to laugh at.

Uncle Henry never laughed. He worked hard from morning till night and did not know what joy was. He was grey also, from his long beard to his rough boots, and he looked stern and solemn, and rarely spoke.

It was Toto that made Dorothy laugh, and saved her from growing as grey as her other surroundings. Toto was not grey; he was a little black dog, with long silky hair and small black eyes that twinkled merrily on either side of his funny, wee nose. Toto played all day long, and Dorothy played with him, and loved him dearly.

Today, however, they were not playing. Uncle Henry sat upon the doorstep and looked anxiously at the sky, which was even greyer than usual. Dorothy stood in the door with Toto in her arms and looked at the sky too. Aunt Em was washing the dishes.

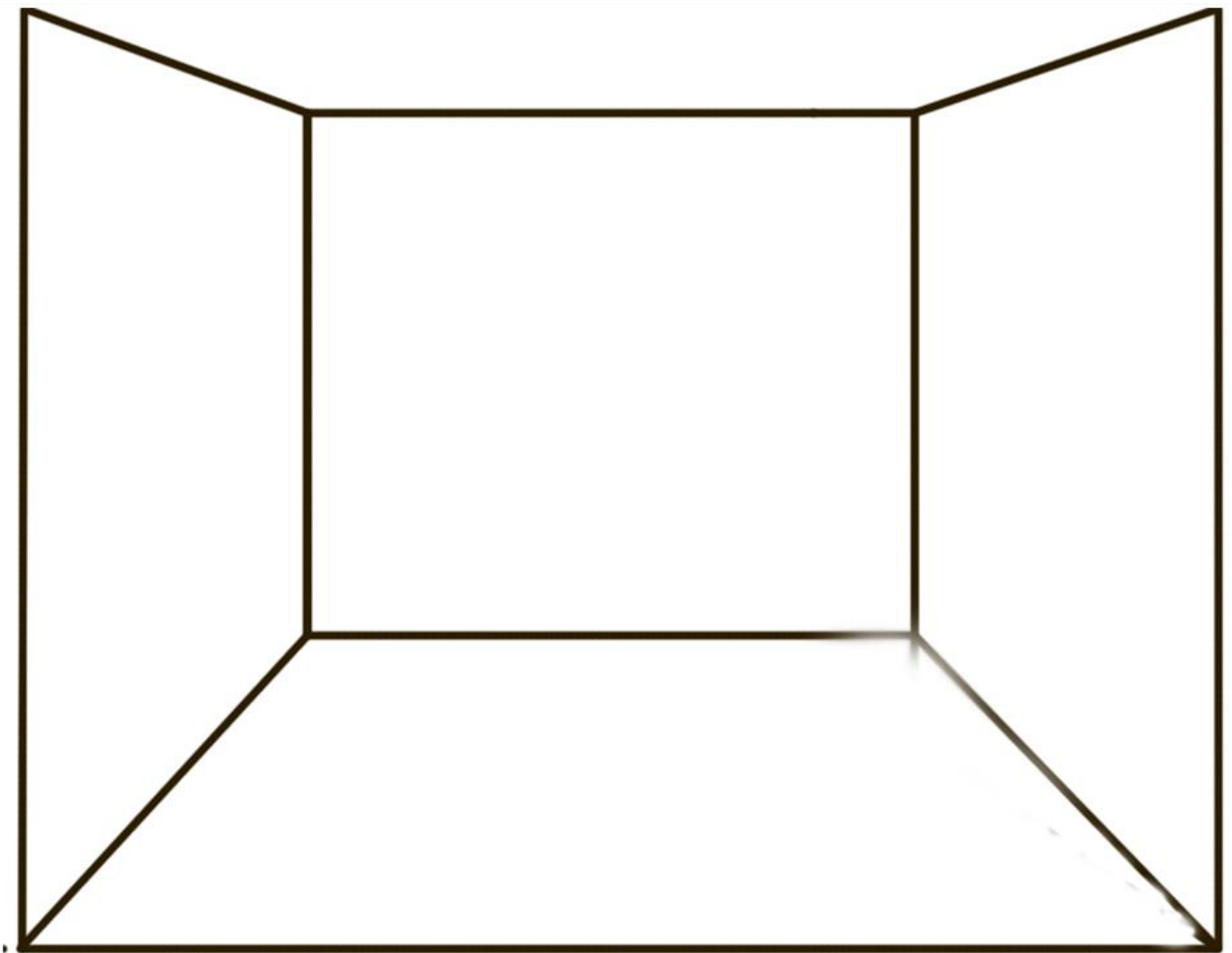(From *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* by L. Frank Baum)

Sample Performance Tasks

1   Using information from the text, learners draw and label a picture of the interior of the house. (LIT 5.2) *(Resource 1)*

2   After reading or listening to the story, learners **ask and answer questions** about the events that occur using key details from the text. (LIT 5.2 / LIT 5.5) *(Resource 2)*

3   Learners describe the characters of Dorothy, Auntie Em, and Uncle Henry. Learners can also complete a role on the wall for a character. (LIT 5.5) *(Resources 3 & 4)*

4   After reading or listening to this excerpt from L. Frank Baum's *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, learners complete a 'Tell Me' square about the text. (LIT 5.6) *(Resource 5)*

5   Learners predict what will happen next and use evidence in the text to support their ideas. (LIT 5.5 / LIT 5.6) *(Resource 6)*

6   After reading this excerpt, show pictures of Kansas prairie land. Look at the description of the prairie in this excerpt and identify the words the author uses to describe it. (LIT5.5) *(Resource 7)*

7   Have learners watch the opening scene from the The Wizard of Oz (1939) film *(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nDOO06ul5ic)*. Have them compare details from the excerpt with details in the film. (LIT 5.2/LIT 5.5) *(Resource 8)*
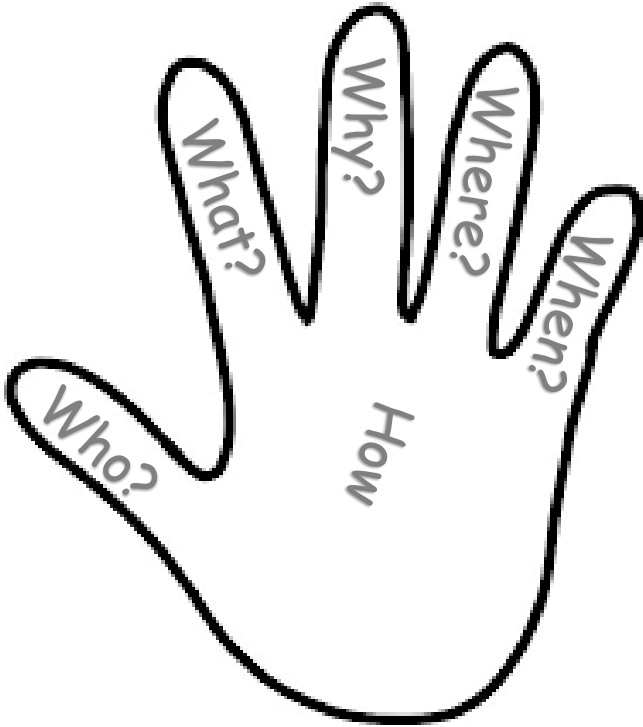
A room for a house

Directions: Read the first paragraph of the text 'Dorothy and the Wizard of Oz'. Draw and label a picture of how the room looks. Don't forget to add the cyclone cellar!

Asking Questions

Directions: What questions do you have about this text?

What? Why? Where? When? Who? How

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Asking Questions

Directions: What questions do you have about this text?

What? Why? Where? When? Who? How?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

About a Character

Directions: Choose a character from the extract and draw him / her in the middle. Add facts about your character to each box.

Description:

Actions taken by the character:

Words the character speaks:
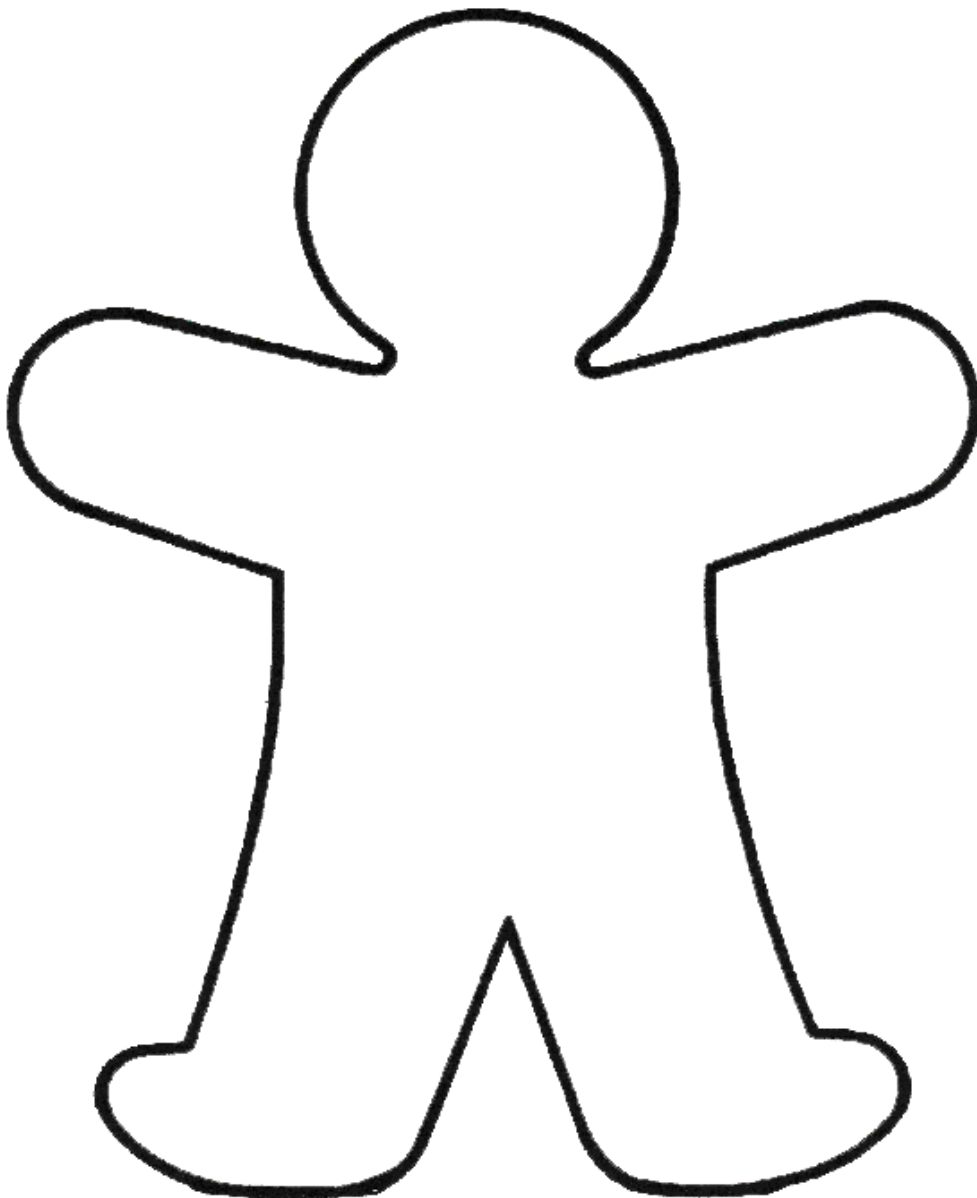
What would you change about this character?

Character traits:

Evidence:

Role on the Wall

Directions: Choose a character from the text. On the outside write what the person looks like. On the inside write what you know about their character, feelings, likes/dislikes and thoughts.

Character's Name: _____

Tell Me Square

Directions: Complete a 'Tell Me' square about the this text.

Likes What do you like about this text?	Dislikes What don't you like about this text?
Questions What questions would you like to ask?	**Connections** What does this text remind you of?

Making Predictions

Directions: At the end of the text, the author wants the reader to think that something is about to happen. What do you think is going to happen?
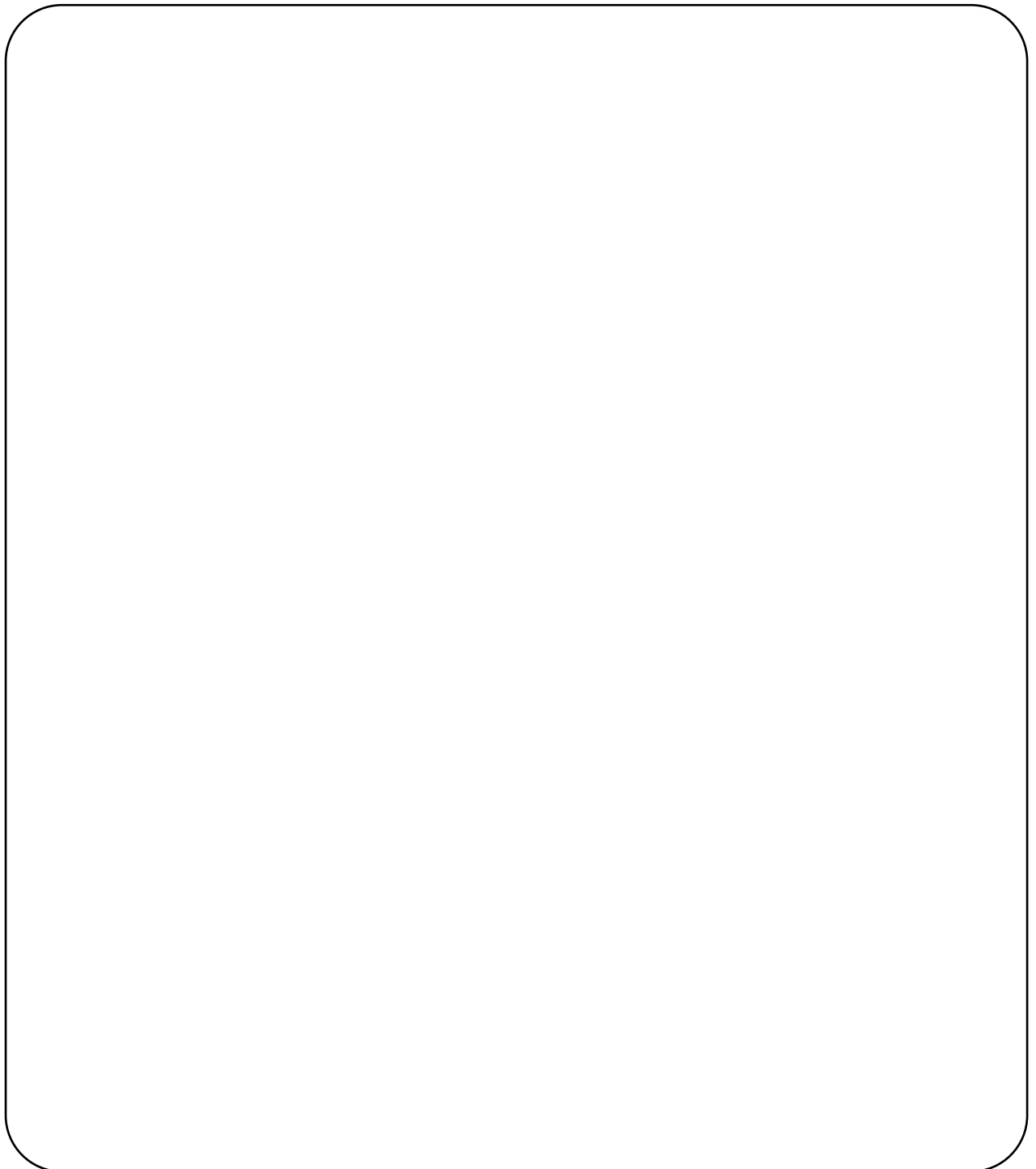
What is your prediction?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Draw your prediction.

Why do you think that will happen?

_____

_____

_____

_____

Adjective Box

Directions: In the box below write some adjectives to describe the scenery in Kansas. How does the author portray the land? You may use the words in the book or your own words to describe the setting.

Tip: Try to make the words look like the adjective. For example this is how you would write the word small.

Comparing the Book and Film

Directions: Watch the opening scene from The Wizard of Oz (1939) film. What differences do you notice between the excerpt you read and the film?

	Book	Film
Characters		
Setting		
Use of language		
I liked… because…		
Something which is the same is…		
Something which is different is…		