What does it take to become a magical wizard?

N1: Clouds roll in over a run-down carnival in the early 1900s. In a dusty tent, Oz stands onstage.

Oz: I am the Great Oz, master of magic! I need a volunteer from the audience. How about you, madam?

May: Oh, yes!

N2: May runs up onstage.

Oz (whispering to May): Remember, just like I told you.

N1: Oz instructs May to lie down on a table.

Oz: You are falling into a deep sleep.

May (yawning): Soooo sleeepy.
**OZ:** I call upon the spirits to make you rise.

**N2:** May’s body is lifted off the table with invisible wires. The audience gasps.

**N1:** A little girl in a wheelchair smiles up at Oz.

**LITTLE GIRL:** Make me walk.

**OZ (whispering to her):** It’s just a show, kid.

**LITTLE GIRL:** But I believe in you.

**CROWD 1:** Come on, make her walk!

**CROWD 2:** He’s a fake! Give back our money!

**N2:** The crowd rushes the stage.

**N1:** Oz dashes out and jumps into his hot-air balloon.

**CROWD 1:** There he is—get him!

**OZ:** I’ve cut the rope! So long!

**N2:** As the balloon rises into the sky, a dark swirling storm gathers.

**OZ:** Oh no! A twister!

**N1:** The storm pulls Oz and his balloon into its funnel.

**N2:** The roaring wind bashes and batters his balloon.

**OZ (yelling to the heavens):** Let me live, and I promise I will be a great man!

**N1:** Lightning flashes. Thunder claps. Oz cowers.

**N2:** Suddenly, the wind stops. Oz peeks out of the basket.

**OZ (bewildered):** Blue skies? White puffy clouds? And look at that sparkling river.

**N1:** The balloon gently lands.

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**SCENE 2**

**N2:** A woman appears.

**THEODORA:** Welcome to the Land of Oz.

**OZ:** Oz? That’s me. My name is Oscar Diggs. Everyone calls me Oz.

**THEODORA:** The prophecy is true! Our king’s dying words were that a great wizard named Oz would fall from the sky to save us. And here you are!

**N1:** Before Oz can reply, a flock of flying baboons swoops down, slashing at them with razor-sharp claws.

**THEODORA:** It’s the Wicked Witch’s minions. They will kill us!

**N2:** Oz takes a dove out of his hat and lets it go.

**OZ:** Fly away, little dove, and the baboons will follow.

**N1:** Theodora, impressed, watches the baboons fly after the dove.

**THEODORA:** You saved my life.

**OZ:** So, just how wicked is this witch?

**THEODORA:** She poisoned her own father, the king, because she wanted the throne for herself.

**OZ:** I don’t like witches. Never have.

**THEODORA:** I too am a witch. I’m Theodora the Good. And you, Great Oz, you’re going to be a great king.

**OZ:** Uh . . . king?

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**SCENE 3**

**N2:** Theodora brings Oz to the Emerald City, where turrets and towers soar into the sky.

**THEODORA:** All this will be yours.

**OZ:** Good thing my favorite color is green. But why are the shop windows smashed in? And why are there claw marks on the walls?

**THEODORA:** My sister chased the Wicked Witch from the Emerald City, but she sends her baboons every night. They destroy our land and torment our people.

**N1:** Oz sees a grand building ahead.

**THEODORA:** That is your palace.

**N2:** Theodora leads Oz to the beautiful throne room.

**THEODORA:** Allow me to introduce my sister, Evanora.

**EVANORA:** Great Wizard, I’ve kept watch over your throne. Shall I give you a tour?

**N2:** Evanora leads Oz to a secret room heaping with coins and jewels.

**EVANORA:** This treasure belongs to the king—

**OZ:** It’s all mine?

**EVANORA:** —but to become king.
you must kill the Wicked Witch.


EVANORA: Great Wizard, your magic is the only thing that can destroy her.

OZ: But how will I find her?

N2: Evanora snaps her fingers and a tiny winged monkey appears.

EVANORA: This is Finley. He will show you the way.

SCENE 4

N1: Oz walks with Finley, who keeps sighing worriedly.

OZ: OK, we find the witch, I kill her, then I get the gold.

N2: A cloaked figure floats down from the sky.

N1: Oz creeps closer, preparing to pounce.

FINLEY: Wizard, stop!

N2: The cloaked witch takes off her hood.

GLINDA: Did you say “wizard”? I have been waiting for you. I am Glinda, the Witch of the South.

FINLEY: Glinda the Good.

OZ: She’s good? Finley, why didn’t you tell me?

FINLEY: Evanora threatened to kill me.

GLINDA: Evanora is the true Wicked Witch. She made everyone believe I poisoned my father, but it was she who did it.

OZ: What about the baboons?

GLINDA: Evanora controls them. She has fooled everyone in the Emerald City, even Theodora, her own sister. The people of Oz live in fear. We need you.

N1: Suddenly, a swarm of Evanora’s screeching baboons rushes toward them.

OZ: What do we do?

GLINDA: You’re the wizard. Use your magic.

OZ: Uh . . . run!

N2: Glinda sees the fear in Oz’s eyes and realizes he is not a real wizard.

N1: She takes his hand. They rise into the sky inside a magic bubble. The baboons cannot get at them.

OZ: Oz, Glinda, and Finley float across the countryside.

GLINDA: There’s my kingdom, up ahead.

N1: Hundreds of people below are waving and cheering.
OZ: You are greatly admired.
GLINDA: The excitement is for you. They are happy because you’ve come to save them.
N2: They land at Glinda’s castle. A Munchkin approaches.
KNUCK: Welcome, Great Oz!
OZ (aside to Glinda): Look, I’m not exactly a wizard.
GLINDA: I know. But if you can make my people believe, then you are wizard enough.
OZ: Will I still get the gold?
GLINDA (sighing): Yes.
OZ (to the crowd): Good people of Oz, your Wizard is here!
CROWD 1 AND 2: Hooray! Hooray! Hooray!

SCENE 5

N1: Later that day, Oz and Glinda talk.
OZ: I assume you have a plan.
GLINDA: No, you have a plan.
OZ: Right. Are you going to tell me what it is?
GLINDA: You’re going to lead us into battle and take back the throne.

We’d run from this evil baboon too.

SCENE 6

N2: Oz gathers the people of Glinda’s kingdom. He shows them a blueprint for a large projector.
OZ: I need you tinkers to build this. Farmers, gather all the straw you have. And you, Munchkins, can you sew clothes for scarecrows?
KNUCK: Yes, indeedy!
N1: Everyone works excitedly on Oz’s plan.
N2: Finley speaks to Glinda.
FINLEY: Oz is teaching us to build little rockets called “fireworks.”
GLINDA: It’s been a long time since we had hope.
FINLEY: But Oz keeps sneaking off to his shredded balloon. I have doubts about him.
GLINDA: So do I. But I am choosing to believe he is a good man. We must always hold a place for each of us to grow into our best selves.
N1: Oz and the tinkers load the equipment onto a cart.
OZ: Everyone take your positions. It’s showtime.

SCENE 7

N2: From her perch, Evanora looks out over a foggy battlefield.
EVANORA: Glinda has sent soldiers. How sweet.
A horde of flying baboons swoops toward the field. Evanora: Tear those soldiers apart!
The baboons rip the soldiers to shreds. Evanora: It’s . . . a trick! Those . . . those soldiers are made of straw!
The soldiers are actually scarecrows. Glinda’s farmers are pushing them forward on rolling racks, into the poppy field. The baboons follow.
Evanora: Noooo! The poppy field! Retreat!
It’s too late. The baboons swoon and fall over.
Meanwhile, Oz leads his group to the Emerald City.
Oz: I’ll be right back, Finley.
Oz dashes away. Finley secretly follows Oz as he runs to the Treasure Room. Oz fills sacks with gold.
Oz takes the sacks to his repaired balloon and loads them in the basket.
Finley: This was your secret project? You’re leaving?
Oz: I’m just a con man, Finley.
Finley: No. You’re a wizard. Our people believe in you.

SCENE 8

Glinda is captured and brought to the palace. Evanora: Oh Glinda, why do you continue to resist?
Glinda: Because I believe in the Wizard.
Suddenly, they see Oz’s balloon rising into the sky.
Crowd 1: Where is he going?
Crowd 2: He’s abandoning us!
Evanora throws a fireball at the balloon. It explodes in a great burst of flames.
Evanora: He’s not so great and powerful after all.
No one knows that Oz wasn’t in the balloon. He turns on a secret projector.
Oz (in a booming voice): PEOPLE OF OZ! IT IS I, THE GREAT WIZARD.
An enormous hologram of Oz’s face appears.
Oz: YOU THOUGHT YOU COULD KILL ME? I AM MORE POWERFUL THAN EVER.
Evanora: Can this be true?
Oz: WATCH ME UNLEASH THE STARS!
The sky explodes in a spectacular fireworks display. Evanora thinks it is magic.
Evanora (scared): He is the Wizard.
Glinda: Wicked Evanora, you shall leave the Emerald City, and never return!
Evanora flees into the night.
Glinda: The Land of Oz is free.
Crowd 1 and 2: Hooray!
Oz appears behind Glinda, hidden from the crowd.
Oz: Pssst. Hi.
Glinda: I knew you had it in you.
Oz: Greatness?
Glinda: Something even better. Goodness.
Write About Greatness

L. Frank Baum achieved greatness, but it took many years, not unlike a certain wizard he created. In the play, how does Oz achieve greatness? What obstacles does he have to overcome, and who helps him along the way? Answer these questions in two to three well-organized paragraphs. Use text evidence. Sent your response to OZ CONTEST.

Five winners will each get Baum’s The Wonderful Wizard of Oz. See page 2 for details.