

THE WIZ

CONTENT GUIDE



THEATRE UNDER THE STARS

2018-2019 SEASON TEXAS ESSENTIAL
KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS DOCUMENT

THE WIZ

Show Dates: October 23 - November 4, 2018

Book by William F. Brown

Music and Lyrics by Charlie Smalls

The new musical version of *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* by L. Frank Baum

Curricular tie-ins provided for grades: K - 12

TEKS:

Fine Arts

[Fine Arts - Elementary School](#)

[Fine Arts - Middle School](#)

[Fine Arts - High School](#)

English Language Arts

[ELA - Elementary School](#)

[ELA - Middle School](#)

[ELA - High School](#)

Social Studies

[Social Studies - Elementary School](#)

[Social Studies - Middle School](#)

[Social Studies - High School](#)

The highlighted TEKS can be met by seeing the show, completing discussions, creating artwork and participating in the activities.

ABOUT THE SHOW

In October, we invite you to experience a super-soul, energetic Tony Award®-winner for Best Musical - *The Wiz!* A hip re-telling of L. Frank Baum's *The Wizard of Oz*, *The Wiz* is a jubilant tale of friendship and adventure.

With music and lyrics by Charlie Smalls, and book by William F. Brown, the original production won seven Tony Awards® when it opened on Broadway in 1975 including Best Musical. *The Wiz* resonates with young and old audiences alike, and has had numerous successful revivals and a recent live, television production on NBC.

The Wiz tells the story of thirteen-year-old Dorothy, who lives with her Aunt Em, Uncle Henry, and her dog, Toto. After a cyclone hits her house, Dorothy is transported to the magical land of Oz where she meets the Scarecrow, the Tin Man, and the Lion who help her on her journey to defeat the wicked Evillene, and find her way home.

Ease on down the road with Dorothy and her friends to find a world full of love, like yours, like mine - like home!

Disclaimers: *The Wiz contains lively disco and soul music, poppies, examples of courage, a journey, an adaptation of a familiar story, vibrant personalities, and an exploration of the relationship between imagination and reality.*

Damn: 1

Hell: 2

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Below are some general discussion questions that will get students thinking about the production they've just seen!

LEAVING HOME

Pre-Show Questions:

- What does the word home mean to you?
- How does the idea of home change depending on where you are from? Who you talk to? The language that you speak? Your experiences?
- Why is a journey or a quest a usual tool used by authors and playwrights to frame a story? How does a journey or quest relate back to story structure? (exposition, climax, resolution, etc.)

Post Show Questions:

- In the musical Dorothy is far from her home and is required to go on a journey to try to make it home.
 - How do you think Dorothy felt setting out on this journey?
 - Have you had a time that you had to accomplish something that seemed too big ?
 - How were her feelings similar to a time when you were lost or had something big to accomplish?
- Map out Dorothy's journey, focusing on the story arch and her character development.
 - How did important plot-points affect her character?

- Did Dorothy change depending on who she met? What happened to her? The actions she took? How did she change?
- Are these character changes the choice of the author? The playwright? The director? The performer? Why or why not?.

ACCEPTING OURSELVES

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Pre-Show Questions:

- “Stop holding on to the things that make us feel safe... And embrace what we fear. Ourselves in all our beautiful hang-ups!!”
 - How do these words make you feel?
 - What does it mean to embrace your fears?
 - What is a beautiful hang-up? Share an example of a beautiful hang up in your personal life.
 - How would you react if someone looked you in the eye and said this phrase to you?

Post Show Questions:

- How did the characters of *The Wiz* support each other?
- Why do you think the support occurred? Share specific examples and how they helped the story develop.
- How do you support the people around you? How does that support help in your daily journey? In their daily journey?

ADAPTATIONS AND SOCIAL CONVERSATIONS

Pre-Show Questions:

- What is an adaptation?
- Why do you think certain stories adapted into different time-periods, cultures, languages, etc? Does the story change when these adaptations happen?
- What is the benefit/detriment of an adaptation?

Post Show Questions:

- *The Wiz* is an adaptation of *The Wizard of Oz* that incorporates African American culture, including language, music, and social issues.
 - Did the story change? If so, how and why?
 - Did the characters change? If so, how and why?
 - Why do you think the playwright and composer decided to create *The Wiz* as an adaptation? Why do you think is it an important part of the musical theatre cannon and American popular culture?