

Andrea Schneider, 5.1 Oz Book & Film

I was amazed at how many differences there were between the book and the film. From what I gathered from people in my life, not many had read the book. Those that had read the book said that they barely remembered the differences because it had been so long since they had read it and had only viewed the movie in the more recent years. It's incredible how different the two stories can be when in the end, the same basic results occurred. Had to take notes specifically on the differences that I noticed throughout the book because I knew that by the end of the book, there was no way I would recall all of the many differences. I was disappointed with some parts that I read in the book that were not included in the movie. I would have possibly chosen these parts as some of my favorites had they been included in the movie.

One of the first differences I noticed as I started reading the book is that I was not introduced to any characters other than Dorothy, Toto, Aunt Em, and Uncle Henry. In the movie we are introduced to all the farm hands, Hunk, Hickory, Zeke, Miss Gulch, and Professor Marvel. This is important in the movie because in the end Dorothy just wakes up back at home and the whole story is a dream. At this time we are able to confirm that the scarecrow, tin man, lion, the Wicked with of the West and the Great Oz are in fact Hunk, Hickory, Zeke, Miss Gulch, and Professor Marvel who we had met earlier in the movie. There is no reference to these characters in the book. I had a difficult time trying to figure out why it was important for us to meet the "farm help" in the beginning. After watching the movie to the very end, I realized that because they create this story as a dream after being hit in the head, it only made sense that Dorothy would make connections to characters in her dream through those that she already knew.

In the book the scarecrow and tin man both explain how they came to be. It tells us the story of how they were created and how they were left in the field and near the house in the woods. This was a part in the movie that I wish would have been included. By knowing their past we get a better understanding of why they need/want their brains and heart. There was more of a connection made between myself and their hopes and wishes. People would probably be able to relate more to the scarecrow or tin man had they known this about them. Although they are obviously fictitious, it is important for readers/viewers to relate to characters.

The book does not present the Wicked Witch of the West until after the friends (Dorothy, Toto, Scarecrow, Lion, Tin Man) go to the Great Oz and ask for his help. After seeing the movie so many times before ever reading the book, I anticipated when she would come into the story. I felt like it was important to know about the witch early on like the movie presented her. Knowing she was a part of this new land presented a sense of anticipation of when she might show up again. It was exciting to know that at any point in the movie she might come out to scare the friends. This anticipation is not presented in the book.

One of my favorite parts of the book was when the friends were traveling through the poppy fields and became tired. I liked that this part was similar to the movie other than the fact that the journey on the yellow brick road was different (crossing a river to continue the journey, no yellow brick road). Instead of the Good Witch creating snow to help wake up the sleeping friends, the scarecrow and tin man get out ok without falling asleep as they are not made of flesh. When they get Dorothy and Toto out they are unable to figure out how they might get the lion out of the poppy fields. He is too heavy to carry out. In come the field mice and their queen. Due to the field mouse being chased by a wildcat and the tin man saving the Queen Mouse, they are able to get help from the field mice to carry the lion out of the poppy field. I could so vividly see this in my mind as I was reading. I felt like this was a part that should have been in the movie. It is my own opinion but I thought it would be a fun scene to watch. As I

reflected on why this part may not have been included I came to the conclusion that the technology may not have been enough at that time to create such a scene. All of the scenes in the movie were done by the actresses and there was no way to create mice carrying a lion with the technology they had. It's easy to forget that what was available then was nothing compared to what we have to create movies with now.

Another part that seemed to be a relevant difference is the way the Wicked Witch was introduced and her powers over the winkies. When she saw that the friends were coming to her castle she sent wolves, crows, bees, and the winkies to do what they wanted to the scarecrow and tin man but to make sure Dorothy, Toto, and the lion were brought back to her castle. I found that this part seemed very violent in the way that the tin man cut the heads off all of the wolves. When the crows were sent the scarecrow broke all of their necks. This may be one reason why these parts were not included in the movie. In the book the winged monkeys were then sent to do to the friends what the rest were unable to do. I wish the use of the winged monkeys the same from the book to the movie. I thought there was so much to learn from the decisions made regarding the golden cap. The idea that the winged monkeys were available to only the person who possessed the golden cap made the monkeys not seem so frightening and mean. Going back to being kid friendly, I think this concept would have been easier for the children to watch but maybe not as easy to understand. Along with only the person who possesses the cap can call on the monkeys they also have to be smart in their thinking because they can only call on them 3 times. Since this is a guideline the person calling on the monkeys needs to consider, it is important for their decision making to be carefully done. Even though this might be hard for children to understand it is good for them to start realizing that they need to be careful of their decisions and that their decisions have consequences.

Just for fun, I loved the way the Emerald City was described. I enjoyed the fact that the emerald city wasn't really all green but that the glasses everybody was required to wear was the reason for the green. This would have been fun to see in the movie. Maybe the addition of color to the movie screen is why this was not able to be included.

When focusing on the book and what it had to offer over what the movie offered I thought there was so much more that I got from the book. I enjoyed reading about the creation of the scarecrow and tin man and where they came from. The descriptions included in how the scarecrow was made and how he came to "see" the world were interesting. It provided some guidance into where they had come from and why getting a brain and heart were so important to them.

The plot in the book was circular in that we began in Kansas and at the end of the book Dorothy was sent back to Kansas. Although we do not actually travel back to Kansas with her, the book eludes to the fact that Dorothy is heading back home where she has longed to be during her time in Oz. There were many climaxes in the book. There were so many incidences that occurred throughout the story that helped lead up to the big event of meeting the Great Wizard and then the Wicked Witch, and finally back home. There was so much anticipation in when/where I might meet another character or when another situation might go wrong. I looked forward to how the friends would solve each of their problems as they arose.

The setting was all based on a fictional place that has been created in the minds of the reader. The setting was well described with every detail added as we entered into a new scene. We learned about so many different settings from the dreariness of Kansas, to the dark forests, the bright green Emerald City, to the village made of all china. Even if the reader did not have a vivid imagination, Baum did a great job of painting the setting for you.

The well-developed characters included Dorothy, the scarecrow, the tin man, and the lion. The less-developed characters in the book were Glinda, Wicked Witch, and Oz. There were also many other characters included in the book but that did not hold a significant amount of importance. We learned about the existence of Munchkins, Quadlings, and Winkies. We also met the Field Mice, Winged Monkeys, and all those that the friends met on their journey to see Oz.

I'm sure there are many themes that can be drawn from the story of The Wizard of Oz. I thought that maybe the theme of the movie was to appreciate what you have. At the end, Dorothy couldn't wait to get back home and she felt bad for ever even thinking about running away. Often times I think people get fed up with what is happening in their lives and think that running from what they don't want is easier than accepting and appreciating what we have. This theme alone is an important one. Another theme might be to accept new people and understand that everybody is different and wants/needs different things to make them happy in life. Dorothy was very open in accepting her friends along her journey and even welcoming them to visit Oz.

The story of The Wizard of Oz was fairly simple. I thought it was a really easy read. Although there was much detail to remember it was amazing how much I was able to recall and connect to the story as I continued through it. Baum did a great job of using great descriptions to create the picture in the readers mind and to feel like they are truly there in Oz. There is also quite a bit of conversation throughout the whole book. Rather than just be narrated through the whole book we also hear the conversations going between the characters. It is easy to also add inflection while reading this story and feel like a true character within the story.

As always, there were some parts in the movie that were not in the book. There seems to always be additions to the storyline or to details that cannot be included in the book. The movie provides a vivid picture of what Munchkin Land is all about. Although the book did a fantastic job of providing descriptions of what Dorothy was seeing, it was made that much better when I was able to see how the producers interpreted the scene. The brightness of the film helped us see how truly amazing the land must be.

The connection that was made between the farm hands, Miss Gulch and Professor Marvel and the scarecrow, tin man, lion, witch, and oz was neatly done. I remember as a child how I never really made that connection until after Dorothy woke up back in Kansas at the end of the movie. As I watched the film again for this class, I focused more on the words the characters used and how they were referenced from the very beginning of the movie as being cowardly, heartless and dumb. Although I realized that the professor was also the Great Oz (as well as other characters such as the doorman) I wondered why they had to add him to the beginning of the movie. I never really liked that part of the movie and think that they could have done without. Wouldn't Dorothy have ran back home as soon as she realized the weather was getting bad? I feel like this part was a little more than needed to be included. If they had added the story of where the Great Oz came from being a balloonist and how he got lost this might have made more sense to me.

The movie shows the winged monkeys as the "pets" of the Wicked Witches castle. They are portrayed as mean, frightening, and heartless creatures that will do anything the witch asks. They are also ugly and I have discovered that children are actually frightened of them. The book on the other hand did not portray them as such awful creatures.

The movie provides more emotion than the book indicated. The way the lion came into the story as this big, scary animal was entertaining. I could almost imagine how frightened the scarecrow, tin man, and

Dorothy were. I also liked watching the emotions pour from the lions face when he was hit by Dorothy. It truly showed his cowardliness. I also liked the way you could actually read the fear on the characters faces when the Witch would show up or when they went to meet Oz.

The film crew did an amazing job of using multiple types of shots. This is such an old movie that I was actually really impressed with the way the encompassed so many different pieces of film making. From the very beginning of the movie we see a number of shots. The movie starts out with a long shot showing Dorothy running toward home and in the background all we see is the land and off into the distance then we are quickly zoomed into a close up of Dorothy bent down near Toto to show the concern and fear on her face as she is running from Miss Gulch.

When the tornado is seen it quickly becomes an intense scene. There is an overwhelming amount of sound that is heard. We hear whistles of the wind, the cracking and crashing of fences, doors, windows. The lighting is also adjusted. There was initially a dreary feeling about Kansas from the start but at least the dreariness was helped with some bright, white lights. As the tornado comes, the whole place becomes dark, gray, black and almost sad looking. We see views from above the land to show the effects the wind is having on the farm and also to include the tornado being seen in the distance. All along we are able to see the tornado in the background while also showing the concern of the characters that are frantically trying to find safety before the tornado hits. When Dorothy is hit by the window crashing in we hear a cymbal crash and the noisiness seems to stop and the next thing heard is the dreaminess of when she awakes in her dream.

As soon as the house lands in Munchkin Land there is complete silence until Dorothy opens the door to see the beauty of Munchkin Land. As the door opens we begin to hear the peacefulness of Munchkin Land. Birds are chirping, the sounds we hear make me think of happiness and wonder. The cameras then show us the amazing land of the munchkins. The color is so vivid it makes one want to actually go to a place as beautiful as Munchkin Land. While in Munchkin Land we are able to see the overall beauty of this place. We are also able to see the difference in size between Dorothy and Glinda compared to the Munchkins. It was neat to see the land from the same level as the Munchkins but as we see the munchkins speaking to Dorothy and Glinda, we see the difference in sizes.

When Dorothy meets the scarecrow the view seems to remain so that we can see the background but we are also close enough to feel the interaction between the two strangers who quickly become friends. As the movie goes on and the day gets later we begin to see the background between the trees become a deeper and deeper blue. As the friends enter the forest where the lion lives we see the darkness really show through. The friends become concerned about the scariness of the area they are in. It feels almost frightening for the viewer. It is easy to put yourself into the setting and imagine how they must feel going into such a scary place.

The way the smoke and flying was included in the movie was another amazing feat that occurred in this movie. Even though the strings for helping the witch and monkeys fly are visible, it is still incredible that they were able to incorporate this into the movie. The characters all did a great job of performing during these parts. To think that at that time there were no stunt people to do these parts for the actors/actresses I am truly amazed that the actors were willing to do this. What a scary yet exhilarating experience. After reading the articles about Margaret Hamilton I am so surprised that she stuck with the job. After receiving the 2nd and 3rd degree burns I think I would have said forget the rest of the movie. The use of pyrotechnics at that time was way too underdeveloped. It's a shame that two people were injured due to the malfunctions of this equipment. Even though these parts were underdeveloped, I am still amazed at how well it all turned out. When watching the movie so many

years and advancements later, I still think it's a well done movie. Would it look different if it was redone now? Yes, but I also think that it wouldn't be as entertaining only because so much of what we see now is computer animated. This movie was truly based on real true acting and the latest equipment advances available.

The movie did such a good job of making the viewer feel as though he/she may be a part of the whole experience. By seeing the close-ups of the emotions that the characters must have felt we can relate to the characters and truly understand how they must be feeling. The movie allowed us to really embrace the beauty of this wonderful world that Dorothy experienced. Even though the book did a great job with details and helping to paint a picture of what it must have been like, we were able to better understand how truly amazing the land was by viewing the movie and how the filmmakers envisioned what the book had explained.

As far as putting this movie/book combination into contemporary culture, I think both are somewhat put on the back burner. I think that the movie has more of a chance to be included only because it was the first movie to add color and that alone will hold out in keeping it popular with all audiences. When reading the question about the book and movie being represented equally in pop culture, I actually laughed. I had never known anything about the book or that it even existed until I had to read it for this class. I was never introduced to the fact that it was ever a popular book to read. None of my English classes through my schooling K-college ever mentioned this story. After reading the story and realizing what a great story it is, it's a shame that I never had the opportunity to read it before now. I really enjoyed the book and thought that it was a great way to open up my imagination and really put myself into the scenes described in the book. It's discouraging to think that children these days may never read the book. I think the reason the movie is so much more popular than the book is because children are so much more interested in movies now that books don't seem exciting anymore. I find that there are much more children who don't read books than those that do. The love of reading and getting involved in a book is quickly leaving. It's sad that there are not as many young book readers these days.

Now that I've taken the time to really watch the movie again, I wonder if children would still be interested in viewing the movie. After all the Disney and Pixar movies they have watched I'm not sure it would hold their interest in the beginning with it being in black and white. All the information I read about the creation of the movie is amazing to me. To think that someone actually wore a 90 lb. suit or wore a rubber mask for hours in a hot studio that didn't have air conditioning could be a beginning to interesting children in watching this film. It is sad that so much of filmmaking is so far advanced that only the next great movie is the exciting one. Once one new advance is discovered, the last popular movie is quickly forgotten. However, one thing The Wizard of Oz has is the fact that it was the first to use color and pyrotechnics. This alone could keep the movie somewhat popular and maybe on a list of "classic" movies.