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# ALL ABOUT Alliteration

The name **'Wicked Witch of the West'** has three words next to each other that begin with the same sound. They all begin with the letter **W**. This is a clear example of how fairy tales make use of that powerful poetic device<sup>\*</sup> called **alliteration**.

**alliteration** (n.) the repetition of the same sounds at the beginning of words.

'Henry hurries home to do his homework', or 'A rabbit running over roses' are simple examples of how alliteration can be used in a sentence. It is important to remember, however, that it is the sound, and not the letter of the alphabet, that must be the same. For example, the 's' in 'shy' does not alliterate with the 's' in sun, because they do not have the same sound.

## SAY IT!

Which of these words alliterates with **sun**?  
Say them aloud first!

- ☐ **sure**
- ☐ **summer**
- ☐ **circle**
- ☐ **swim**

## GLOSSARY

- **alliterative:** that use alliteration
- **poetic device:** tool a poet uses to add meaning, rhythm, etc.



Alliteration is used in all types of literature, but mostly in poetry. Many of our favourite characters have alliterative names: Bugs Bunny, Donald Duck, King Kong, Mickey Mouse, Woody Woodpecker. And in the language that we use every day, there are lots of common phrases that use alliteration:

**BACK TO BASICS**

**JUMP FOR JOY**

**GREEN AS GRASS**

And in many tongue twisters, too, words that begin with the same sound are placed close together:

**'A busy buzzing bumblebee went busily buzzing by'**

**'She sells seashells by the seashore'**

## *Over to you*


Can you find other examples of alliteration in everyday language?

Do you know other fantasy characters with alliterative names?

Write a sentence using alliteration of the sound of your first name (Eg. 'Michael makes money'). Then do the same with the names of your classmates.

## **SAY IT!**

How quickly can you say them?

 Time yourself and a friend.





# The Wizard of Oz

The Scarecrow

The Cowardly Lion

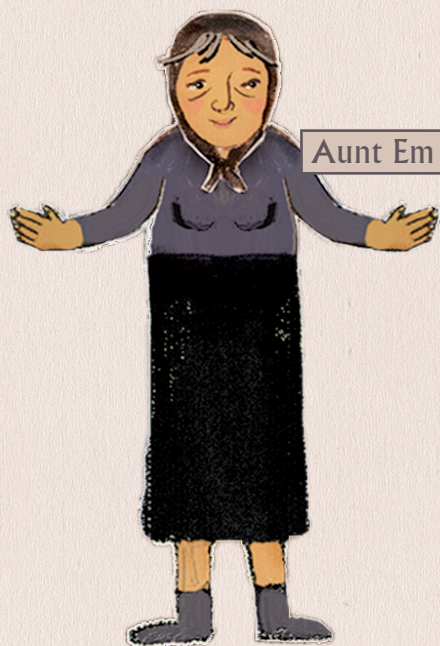
The Tin Woodman

Dorothy

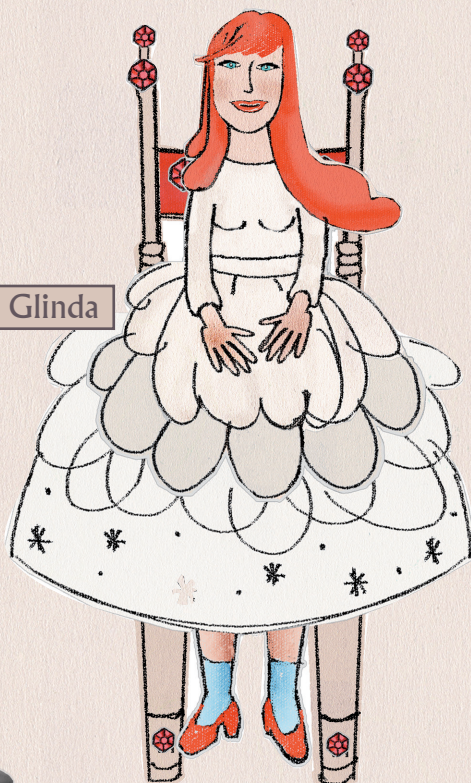
Toto

The Wizard of Oz





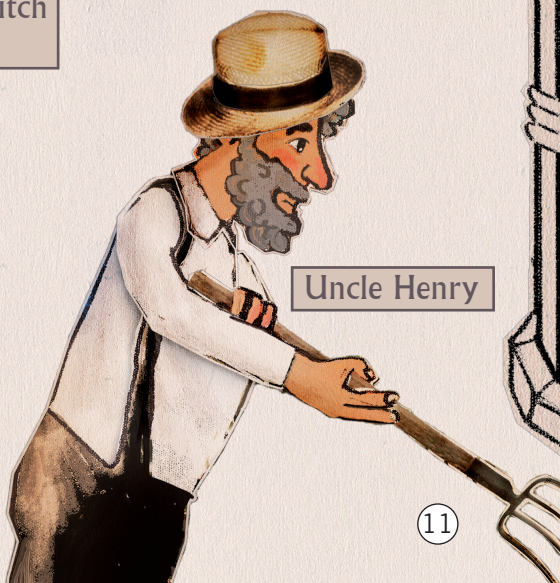
Aunt Em



Glinda



The Wicked Witch  
of the West



Uncle Henry

## BEFORE READING

-  **1** Listen to Dorothy talking about herself and her home. Complete the text with the words in the box.

cyclones   dog   grass   orphan   prairie   stove

**A** I haven't got a mother and father. I'm an ..... I live with my Aunt Em and Uncle Henry in Kansas.

**B** I live on a farm on the ..... The land is flat and covered with .....

**C** My best friend is my ..... Toto. I love him very much.

**D** There are often ..... in Kansas. They are very strong winds.

**E** My house has one room. There's a ..... for cooking, a cupboard, a table, some chairs and our beds.







**2** Look at the pictures of three characters Dorothy meets in the Land of Oz. Match the words below to the numbers.



**The Scarecrow**



**The Tin Woodman**



**The Cowardly Lion**

- a** ☐ axe      **b** ☐ paws      **c** ☐ pole      **d** ☐ straw

**3** Now use the words in the sentences below.

- a** ..... is made from the dry stems of corn.  
**b** A ..... is a long piece of wood or metal.  
**c** An ..... is a tool for cutting down trees.  
**d** The ..... of animals like cats, dogs and bears are their feet.

**4** Complete the sentences with the correct adjective.

brave      clever      kind

- a** If you have courage you are .....  
**b** If you have a heart you are .....  
**c** If you have a brain you are .....

**5** The three characters in Exercise 2 want to have courage, a brain and a heart. Who wants what? Share your ideas with a partner.







## 1 THE CYCLONE



It's always hot and windy on the prairies• in Kansas. The hot sun and the strong wind make everything grey. They make the grass grey. They make the flowers grey. They make the houses grey. They even make people's faces grey.

Dorothy lives in the middle of a big prairie in Kansas. She lives with her Uncle Henry and Aunt Em. Uncle Henry has got a small farm there. Their house is made of wood, and it has only got one room. There isn't much furniture in it. There's an old stove• for cooking, and a cupboard for the cups and plates. There's a table and three or four chairs, and two beds. Uncle Henry and Aunt Em's big bed is in one corner. Dorothy's little bed is in another corner.

There isn't an attic•, and there isn't a real cellar•. There's only a small dark hole under the floor. The family go there when there's a cyclone•. They call the hole "the cyclone cellar". Cyclones are very strong winds, and they're very dangerous. They move quickly and break everything in their path•. There are often cyclones in Kansas.

### GLOSSARY

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- **attic:** room in a house under the roof
- **cellar:** room in a house under the floor
- **cyclone:** violent storm with the air moving very fast in a circular direction
- **path:** way; road; track
- **prairies:** large areas of flat grassy land
- **stove:** piece of equipment for cooking or heating

Uncle Henry and Aunt Em work very hard. They work from morning to night. Uncle Henry looks after the cows, the horses and the chickens. Aunt Em looks after their small house. They never smile or laugh. There isn't much happiness in their lives. Poor Uncle Henry and Aunt Em!

Dorothy lives with them because she's an orphan. She hasn't got a mother or father. Her best friend is her little dog. His name is Toto. He has got long black hair, black eyes and a little nose. Dorothy loves him very much. Toto plays all day, and Dorothy plays with him. He's very funny and he makes her happy.

## BEST FRIENDS

Who is your best friend?

What do you do with your best friend?

Uncle Henry is sitting outside the door of his small house. He's worried<sup>•</sup>. He's looking at the sky. It's full of black clouds. There's a very strong wind, too. It's blowing<sup>•</sup> across the prairies. It's making a loud whistling noise<sup>•</sup>.

Suddenly, Uncle Henry stands up.

'A cyclone is coming!' he shouts. 'Dorothy! Em! Go into the cellar! Quick!'

## GLOSSARY

- **blowing:** (of air) moving
- **whistling noise:** high sound that a strong wind makes
- **worried:** unhappy because something bad can happen







Aunt Em runs out of the house. She sees the black cone• in the sky. She's afraid because the cone is moving fast towards their house.

'Dorothy!' Aunt Em shouts. 'Come here! We must go into the cyclone cellar!' She opens the little door in the floor and starts to climb down• into the hole.

Dorothy picks up• Toto and runs into the house. Poor Toto! He's afraid, too. He jumps out of Dorothy's arms and runs under the bed. Dorothy runs after him and pulls him out.

'Dorothy!' Uncle Henry calls. 'Quick! Come into the cellar! The cyclone is coming!'

Dorothy starts to run to the little door in the floor, but the cyclone hits the house before she can get there.

Everything in the room is shaking•. The cups and the plates fall on the floor. Dorothy falls on the floor, too. BUMP! She can't stand up again.



## GLOSSARY

- **climb down:** move by going down
- **cone:** (here) see pictures on pages 19 and 20
- **picks up:** lifts with her hands
- **shaking:** making little quick movements





Then the wind picks up the house and carries it away. The little house spins• slowly round and round in the cone of the cyclone. Up and up it goes. Soon, it is high in the sky. Dorothy and Toto are very frightened. Toto starts barking•. 'It's alright, Toto,' Dorothy says to him. 'I'm here!'

The wind carries the house for miles and miles. Now Dorothy can stand up, because the house isn't spinning any more. She goes and sits on her bed. She holds Toto in her arms and waits. Hours pass. It gets dark outside. The wind continues to blow. Toto falls asleep. Dorothy isn't afraid any more. She closes her eyes and falls asleep, too.

- 
- **barking:** making the noise that a dog makes
  - **spins:** turns round and round

## AFTER READING VOCABULARY

### 1 Match the words in the box with their meaning.

stove throne failure stream  
scent corn rope ruler paws

- a** the opposite of success .....
- b** feet of an animal .....
- c** thing you use for cooking or heating .....
- d** very small river .....
- e** yellow plant used to produce flour .....
- f** smell; perfume .....
- g** chair for a king or queen .....
- h** strong thick string .....
- i** person who controls a country .....

### 2 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs in the box.

carry cross fly go lie reply say try

- a** 'You're a coward,' Dorothy ..... – 'I know,' the Lion ..... sadly.
- b** The Monkeys ..... into the castle and stop in front of the Witch.
- c** The Lion ..... all the friends on his back and they ..... the river.
- d** Dorothy ..... to find a way to go back home.
- e** The little girl ..... down and sleeps until morning.
- f** 'Come on, Toto! Let's ..... and look for the yellow brick road!'

### **K** A2 Key English Test Reading and Writing Part 4

**1** For each question, choose the correct answer (A, B or C).

- 1** '..... we help you?' Dorothy says.  
**A** Can't                      **B** Must                      **C** Can
- 2** 'When it rains, I get wet and then I ..... move.'  
**A** mustn't                      **B** can't                      **C** must
- 3** 'How ..... we cross the ditch?' Dorothy asks her friends.  
**A** mustn't                      **B** can                      **C** can't
- 4** '..... you tell us the way to the Emerald City?'  
**A** Can't                      **B** Can                      **C** Must
- 5** 'Oh no!' Dorothy cries. 'I don't want to kill anybody.'  
'You ....., ' Oz says.  
**A** must                      **B** can                      **C** can't
- 6** Oz: 'I ..... help you, but you ..... help me.'  
'What ..... I do?' Dorothy asks.  
**A** can't                      **B** can                      **C** must  
**A** must                      **B** can't                      **C** can  
**A** can                      **B** must                      **C** can't
- 7** 'I'd like a brain. .... you give me one?'  
**A** Mustn't                      **B** Must                      **C** Can
- 8** 'You ..... go to the land of the Winkies and kill the Wicked Witch.'  
**A** must                      **B** can                      **C** mustn't
- 9** 'You ..... put on these glasses.'  
**A** can                      **B** must                      **C** can't
- 10** 'The girl has the grey mark of the Good Witch, and we ..... hurt her!'  
**A** can                      **B** mustn't                      **C** must