

Name: _____ Class: _____

Arriving at Emerald City

From The Wonderful Wizard of Oz

By L. Frank Baum
1900

Lyman Frank Baum (1856-1919), also known as L. Frank Baum, was an American author, best known for his children's books. Baum is the author of The Wonderful Wizard of Oz and its sequels. He wrote 14 novels in the Oz series. In this excerpt from The Wonderful Wizard of Oz, Dorothy and her friends arrive at the Emerald City. As you read, take notes on how the Great Oz is described to Dorothy and her friends.

- [1] The next morning, as soon as the sun was up, they started on their way, and soon saw a beautiful green glow in the sky just before them.

"That must be the Emerald City," said Dorothy.

As they walked on, the green glow became brighter and brighter, and it seemed that at last they were nearing the end of their travels. Yet it was afternoon before they came to the great wall that surrounded the City. It was high and thick and of a bright green color.



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In front of them, and at the end of the road of yellow brick, was a big gate, all studded with emeralds¹ that glittered so in the sun that even the painted eyes of the Scarecrow were dazzled² by their brilliancy.

- [5] There was a bell beside the gate, and Dorothy pushed the button and heard a silvery tinkle sound within. Then the big gate swung slowly open, and they all passed through and found themselves in a high-arched room, the walls of which glistened with countless emeralds.

Before them stood a little man about the same size as the Munchkins.³ He was clothed all in green, from his head to his feet, and even his skin was of a greenish tint. At his side was a large green box.

When he saw Dorothy and her companions, the man asked, "What do you wish in the Emerald City?"

"We came here to see the Great Oz," said Dorothy.

The man was so surprised at this answer that he sat down to think it over.

1. decorated with green gems
2. **Dazzled (verb):** to amaze someone
3. In The Wonderful Wizard of Oz, Munchkins are small childlike creatures.

- [10] "It has been many years since anyone asked me to see Oz," he said, shaking his head in perplexity. "He is powerful and terrible, and if you come on an idle⁴ or foolish errand to bother the wise reflections⁵ of the Great Wizard, he might be angry and destroy you all in an instant."

"But it is not a foolish errand, nor an idle one," replied the Scarecrow. "It is important. And we have been told that Oz is a good Wizard."

"So he is," said the green man, "and he rules the Emerald City wisely and well. But to those who are not honest, or who approach him from curiosity, he is most terrible, and few have ever dared to ask to see his face. I am the Guardian of the Gates, and since you demand to see the Great Oz, I must take you to his Palace. But first you must put on the spectacles.⁶"

"Why?" asked Dorothy.

"Because if you did not wear spectacles the brightness and glory of the Emerald City would blind you. Even those who live in the City must wear spectacles night and day. They are all locked on, for Oz so ordered it when the City was first built, and I have the only key that will unlock them."

- [15] He opened the big box, and Dorothy saw that it was filled with spectacles of every size and shape. All of them had green glasses in them. The Guardian of the Gates found a pair that would just fit Dorothy and put them over her eyes. There were two golden bands fastened to them that passed around the back of her head, where they were locked together by a little key that was at the end of a chain the Guardian of the Gates wore around his neck. When they were on, Dorothy could not take them off had she wished, but of course she did not wish to be blinded by the glare of the Emerald City, so she said nothing.

Then the green man fitted spectacles for the Scarecrow and the Tin Woodman and the Lion, and even on little Toto, and all were locked fast with the key.

Then the Guardian of the Gates put on his own glasses and told them he was ready to show them to the Palace. Taking a big golden key from a peg on the wall, he opened another gate, and they all followed him through the portal into the streets of the Emerald City.

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4. pointless
5. thoughts or ideas
6. glasses

Text-Dependent Questions

Directions: For the following questions, choose the best answer or respond in complete sentences.

1. In the passage “Arriving at the Emerald City,” what does the word “perplexity” mean as it is used in paragraph 10?
 - A. forgetfulness
 - B. uncertainty
 - C. disagreement
 - D. anxiety

2. PART A: Which statement best describes what Dorothy thinks of the Emerald City as she first arrives?
 - A. The gates and walls of the Emerald City are radiant.
 - B. The streets of the Emerald City are clean and simple.
 - C. The people of the Emerald City are festive and excited.
 - D. The sights and sounds of the Emerald City are terrifying.

3. PART B: Which paragraph in the passage best supports the answer to Part A?
 - A. Paragraph 4
 - B. Paragraph 6
 - C. Paragraph 10
 - D. Paragraph 12

4. PART A: How does the Dorothy feel about the green glasses?
 - A. She worries that they will not fit her.
 - B. She is fearful she will not be able to take them off.
 - C. She is puzzled about why they need to wear them.
 - D. She wants to see what city looks like without them.

5. PART B: Which paragraph supports the answer to Part A?
 - A. Paragraph 12
 - B. Paragraph 13
 - C. Paragraph 14
 - D. Paragraph 15