

Dear Educator,

Take your students on a once-in-a-lifetime learning adventure when **The Wiz LIVE!** kicks off the holiday season on Thursday, December 3rd at 8/7c on NBC.

The Wiz made Broadway history in 1975 when it transformed *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* into a celebration of African American culture. Without changing the main characters, plot, or themes, *The Wiz* reimagined the story from an African American perspective, adding soul music, style, and a fresh, funky twist to the beloved classic.

With **The Wiz LIVE!**, NBC continues this tradition for today's generation, bringing together a Tony-winning creative team, the hugely imaginative Cirque du Soleil® Theatrical, and an all-star cast of multi-talented African American performers that includes Queen Latifah, Mary J. Blige, David Alan Grier, Ne-Yo, and Common to create an eye-popping LIVE spectacular event unlike anything seen before.

This study guide, created by NBC and the curriculum experts at Young Minds Inspired, is designed to help make **The Wiz LIVE!** a "teachable moment" for your students, with activities that introduce the beloved characters of this classic tale and explore what their journey down the Yellow Brick Road can teach us about our own journey through life.

Plan now to have your students complete these three in-class and take-home activities before, during, and after they watch this LIVE musical television event with their families. Please alert your students and families to mark their calendars for **The Wiz LIVE!** on Thursday, December 3rd at 8/7c on NBC.

We hope that you will share this unique educational opportunity with other teachers at your school. Please let us know your opinion of the program by returning the enclosed reply card or at ymiclassroom.com/feedback-thewiz.

Sincerely,

Dr. Dominic Kinsley
Editor in Chief
Young Minds Inspired

GRADE LEVEL

This program can be adapted for use with elementary and secondary school students as a supplement to the English language arts curriculum.

EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES

- Help students and their families experience the excitement of seeing a Broadway musical performed live on television as they watch **The Wiz LIVE!** on Thursday, December 3rd at 8/7c on NBC.
- Channel the anticipation and thrill of this viewing experience into learning activities that spark critical thinking, creativity, and imaginative engagement.
- Encourage students to reflect on their viewing experience, explore their personal feelings about the performance, and discuss its impact.

PROGRAM COMPONENTS

- This one-page teacher's guide
- Three reproducible student activity sheets for use before, during, and after the December 3rd broadcast of **The Wiz LIVE!**
- A wall poster for display in your classroom
- A reply card for your comments or reply online at ymiclassroom.com/feedback-thewiz

HOW TO USE THIS PROGRAM

Photocopy this teacher's guide and the three student activity sheets before putting the wall poster on display in your classroom. Provide other teachers with photocopies of these reproducible classroom materials. Schedule the program for December 1st - 4th. Plan to have students complete the activities before, during, and after watching **The Wiz LIVE!** on Thursday, December 3rd at 8/7c on NBC.

STANDARDS ALIGNMENT

This program meets Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts in the elementary and secondary grades. For detailed standards correlation, visit ymiclassroom.com/thewiz.

ACTIVITY ONE WE'RE OFF TO SEE THE WIZ!

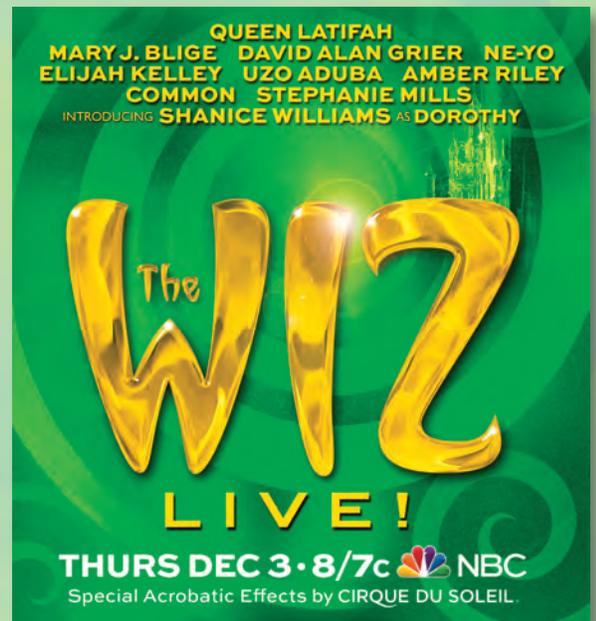
Schedule this activity for December 1st or 2nd to build anticipation and excitement for the December 3rd broadcast of **The Wiz LIVE!**

The introduction to this activity provides background on the historical significance of *The Wiz* and how this adaptation of *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* is a celebration of African American culture. Review the introduction in class and discuss how the title change from *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* to *The Wiz* illustrates how the old story has been modernized.

To Oz! introduces the main characters of **The Wiz LIVE!** with a matching quiz. Have students complete the quiz in class and review the answers, then have students imagine themselves as a character in **The Wiz LIVE!** Ask: What sort of character would you be? What would you ask the Wiz for and why? Provide time for students to write descriptions of their characters on the back of the activity sheet and share them in class. Conclude by having students discuss which character they would like to have as a friend and why.

Keeping the Tradition Alive asks students to talk with parents, grandparents, and/or other family members about their memories of *The Wiz*. Have students take notes on these conversations to share in class. Older students can turn this into an oral history project to which they will add their own chapter after they watch **The Wiz LIVE!** on Thursday, December 3rd at 8/7c on NBC.

Answers: 1-d, home; 2-c, brain; 3-a, heart; 4-b, courage.



ACTIVITY TWO FOLLOW THE YELLOW BRICK ROAD

Distribute this activity sheet to students on December 3rd so they can use it while they watch **The Wiz LIVE!** with their families at 8/7c on NBC.

Review this activity in class so students will come back prepared to discuss on Friday, December 4th.

The activity sheet features a Yellow Brick Road trivia quiz and a quiz about the witches of Oz for students and their families to complete as they watch **The Wiz LIVE!** After the broadcast, students should record their family's favorite characters, scenes, songs, and dances on the back of the activity sheet. Lastly, just as Dorothy does in the song *Home*, students should reflect on what home means to them by completing the first line of the song and by using the **The Wiz LIVE!** meme generator at <http://theresnoplacelikehome.com> to create and digitally share a meme about where they call home.

When students bring the sheet back to class on Friday, review the trivia quiz as a group, then tally up the family favorites to find out which is the overall favorite character, scene, song, and dance. Invite students to read aloud how they completed the first line of Dorothy's song and to describe the meme they created about where they call home, then discuss similarities and differences in their feelings about home.

Trivia Quiz Answers: 1-Dorothy was born in Omaha, Nebraska.

2-The Munchkins are the people Dorothy frees when she accidentally kills the Wicked Witch of the East. 3-Addaperle's stage name is The Feel Good Girl.

4-Dorothy's magic slippers are silver. 5-Scarecrow sings *You Can't Win*.

6-Mamie was Tin Man's girlfriend before he was turned into tin by the Wicked Witch of the East. 7-The old owl is Lion's psychiatrist.

8-Kalidahs are shape-shifting monsters who live in the dark forest.

9-The Wiz lives in the Emerald City. 10-The Winkies are the slaves of the Wicked Witch of the West. 11-Glinda sings *A Rested Body*.

12-Dorothy clicks the heels of her silver slippers three times to get home.

Which Witch Is Which?: Addaperle is the Good Witch of the North, Evillene is the Wicked Witch of the West, Evvamene is the Wicked Witch of the East, and Glinda is the Good Witch of the South.

ACTIVITY THREE THE MAGIC INSIDE YOUR HEART

Have students complete this activity on Friday, December 4th, after they have watched **The Wiz LIVE!**

Use the activity to help students explore the message of the story and what we can learn from it.

Begin by having students read the stanza from the song *Believe in Yourself* and recall the scenes in which the Wiz and Glinda teach Dorothy and her friends about the power of believing in yourself. Ask students what the story teaches us about this power. What makes it different from mere wishful thinking? What kinds of experiences and friendships make it stronger?

Use this discussion to set the stage for having students write a journal entry from the future in which they describe how the power of believing in themselves helped them get something they wished for, just as it helped the characters in **The Wiz LIVE!** Provide time for students to share their journal entries in class.

WE'RE OFF TO SEE THE WIZ!

Get ready for a once-in-a-lifetime LIVE experience when **The Wiz LIVE!** kicks off the holiday season with an epic night of spectacular Cirque du Soleil® acrobatics and show-stopping hit songs, Thursday, December 3rd at 8/7c on NBC.

The Wiz made Broadway history in 1975 when it transformed *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* into a celebration of African American culture. Without changing the main characters, plot, or themes, *The Wiz* reimagined the story from an African American perspective, adding soul music, style, and a fresh, funky twist to the beloved classic.

Now, **The Wiz LIVE!** continues this tradition for today's generation, bringing together an all-star cast of multi-talented African American performers that includes Queen Latifah, Mary J. Blige, David Alan Grier, Ne-Yo, Elijah Kelley, Uzo Aduba, Amber Riley, Common, and Stephanie Mills, plus newly-discovered teenage rising star Shanice Williams as Dorothy.

TO OZ! **The Wiz LIVE!** tells the story of four friends who "ease on down" the Yellow Brick Road to ask a great wizard for help. Get to know these main characters by matching them to their descriptions and filling in the blanks with what each character wants from the Wiz.



1. Dorothy _____

a. Sensitive and caring, he feels hollow inside. He wants the Wiz to give him a _____.



2. Scarecrow _____

b. A show-off who backs down when he's challenged. He wants the Wiz to give him _____.



3. Tin Man _____

c. A quick-witted fast-talker who thinks he's empty-headed. He wants the Wiz to give him a _____.



4. Lion _____

d. A Midwesterner stranded in a world of fantasy who needs the Wiz's help to get _____.

Now imagine that you are part of the story!

What kind of character would you be? What would you want from the Wiz? Use the back of this sheet to describe your character and your wish. Share which character you would like as a friend and why. Discuss your ideas in class.



KEEPING THE TRADITION ALIVE

Take this sheet home, and talk to your parents, grandparents, and/or other family members about *The Wiz*. Don't be surprised if they start singing the songs and teaching you the moves they remember from when they first saw the show. If they have never seen it, ask them what they most want to see — which character? which song? which scene? Tell your family about the character you imagine yourself playing in the story and what you would want the Wiz to give you. Find out what they would ask for, then make sure everyone will be there for **The Wiz LIVE!** at 8/7c on NBC.

The
WIZ
LIVE!

THURS DEC 3 • 8/7c  NBC
Special Acrobatic Effects by CIRQUE DU SOLEIL.

FOLLOW THE YELLOW BRICK ROAD

Tonight's the night! Gather your family and tune in to **The Wiz LIVE!** at 8/7c on NBC. Use this trivia quiz to add to the fun. As you follow Dorothy and her friends down the Yellow Brick Road, watch and listen for the answer to each question. Write the answers on the back of this sheet. By the end of the show, you should be an expert in Oz-ology!



1 Where was Dorothy born?

2 Who are the Munchkins?

3 What is Addaperle's stage name?

4 What color are Dorothy's magic slippers?

5 Who sings *You Can't Win*?

6 Who is Mamie?

7 Who is the old owl?

8 What are Kalidahs?

9 Where does the Wiz live?

10 Who are the Winkies?

11 Who sings *A Rested Body*?

12 How does Dorothy get home?

WHICH WITCH IS WHICH?

You've seen them all, but can you match the four witches of Oz with their places on the compass?

Addaperle Evillene Evvamene Glinda

_____ The Good Witch of the North

_____ The Wicked Witch of the West



_____ The Wicked Witch of the East

_____ The Good Witch of the South

STARTING A NEW TRADITION

After you watch **The Wiz LIVE!** with your family, discuss your favorite parts of the show.

List your family's favorite characters, scenes, songs, and dances on the back of this sheet to share in class.

HOME IS WHERE...

Dorothy sings about her wish to return home in the song *Home*. Think about your own home. How would you finish the first line of Dorothy's song? Write your thoughts here:

When I think of home, I think of _____

Now create and share a digital meme about where you call home at <http://theresnoplacelikemyhome.com>.

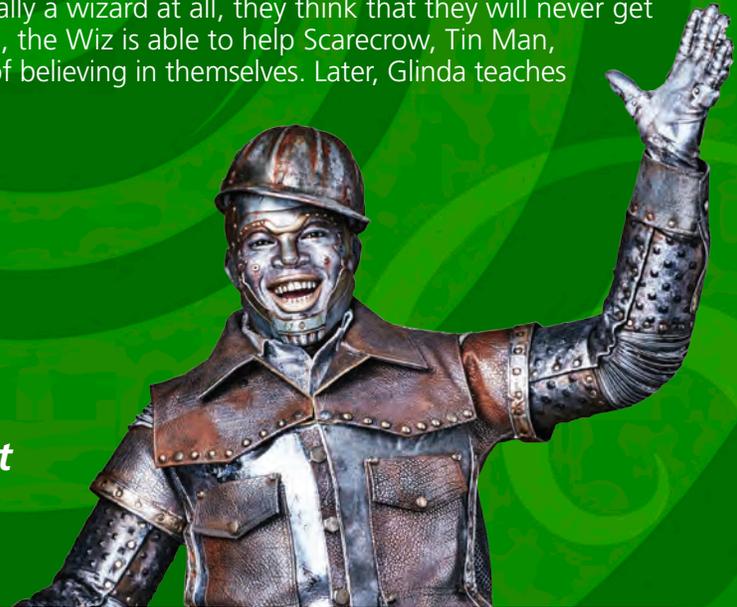


THURS DEC 3 • 8/7c **NBC**
Special Acrobatic Effects by CIRQUE DU SOLEIL.

THE MAGIC INSIDE YOUR HEART

When Dorothy and her friends discover that the Wiz is not really a wizard at all, they think that they will never get the things they want. However, even without magical powers, the Wiz is able to help Scarecrow, Tin Man, and Lion get what they wish for by teaching them the power of believing in themselves. Later, Glinda teaches Dorothy the same lesson with the song *Believe in Yourself*:

*Believe that you can go home
Believe you can float on air
Then click your heels three times
If you believe, then you'll be there
Believe in yourself right from the start
Believe in the magic that's inside your heart*



BELIEVE IN YOURSELF

What do these scenes in **The Wiz LIVE!** teach us about the power of believing in yourself? How is it different from wishful thinking? What happens in the story to make Dorothy and her friends believe in themselves? How do they learn to stop focusing on what they want and look inside themselves instead to find the power they've had all along? Share your ideas in class about how the challenges the characters face together help Dorothy and her friends learn to believe in themselves.

RESOURCES

ymiclassroom.com/thewiz
NBC.com/the-wiz-live
#TheWiz

BELIEVE IN YOUR FUTURE

Use the back of this sheet to write a journal entry from the future in which you describe how believing in yourself helped you get something you wanted. Maybe it helped you get a college degree. Maybe it helped you succeed in sports or get your dream job. Maybe it helped you become President of the United States! Let your hopes and dreams tell you what you can be, and imagine how believing in yourself could make those dreams come true.



THURS DEC 3 • 8/7c  **NBC**
Special Acrobatic Effects by CIRQUE DU SOLEIL.