

Synopsis

Dorothy, an orphanage young girl who is unhappy with her drab black-and-white existence on her aunt and uncle's dusty Kansas farm. Dorothy yearns to travel "over the rainbow" to a different world, and she gets her wish when a tornado whisks her and her little dog Toto to the Land of Oz. Having offended the Wicked Witch of the West, Dorothy is protected from the old crone's wrath by the silver shoes that she wears. At the suggestion of the Good Witch of the North, Dorothy heads down the Yellow Brick Road to the Emerald City, where dwells the all-powerful Wizard of Oz.

On the journey, Dorothy meets a Scarecrow who can't scare anything; a Tin Woodman who is all rusted for lack of a bit of oil; and a Cowardly Lion who is afraid of everything. The Lion wants courage, the Scarecrow needs brains, and the Woodman longs a heart to love with. All Dorothy wants is to return to Uncle Henry and Aunt Em in Kansas. They hope that the Wizard will help them too. So they join Dorothy on her journey to the Emerald City. And then Dorothy and her friends look for the yellow brick road to the Emerald City of the wonderful Wizard of Oz. The companions elect to go to the Emerald City to beg the great Oz to grant their wishes, never realizing the dangers of the trip. Before their wishes come true, they also discover an amazing secret about the magnificent Oz himself. Soon afterwards, all of them got all the best things for them and Dorothy comes back home again.

Appendix

Biography of the Author

Died at the age of 63 years old, Lyman Frank Baum, the author of "*The Wizard of Oz*" has definitely left both valuable and impressive works behind. The fact that he decided to write literary works that are meant for children has brought him to be known as one of the greatest author of children literature. The point we could find in reading the works of this author, which distinct him from other authors at his time in the same field of writing is the decision he made in his works.

With the experience Frank had had in his childhood in reading fairy tales, he got certain effects from the process that brought critics in his thoughts. But this kind of thinking did not trigger him to be a critical person only without having any intention to improve the condition. Realizing the need and talent Frank had in writing, he started writing his own works of fiction. The article entitled *The Man behind the Curtain: L Frank Baum and the Wizard of Oz* by Linda McGovern gave sufficient information about the author's journey in life, supported by the data provided in the internet. As we can see through his walk of life in relation to his literary works, Frank's life could be divided into two important stages. We will look upon the literary works done by L. Frank Baum from the time of his youth as a single man and after he gets married and become both a husband and a father.

In the first stage of literary work production in L. Frank Baum's youth. In 1871, Frank had his first attempt in writing and publishing in a small printing press his father bought for him that finally made his own newspaper called *The Rose Lawn Home Journal*. We could see the family influence in discovering the talent Frank had in writing. The financial support given by Benjamin Baum, his father, and the help he got from his brother, Harry, in running the newspaper seemed to be the factor that encouraged his career. Other factor such as the talent Frank has in writing added with imaginative creativity also played a major part in his life.

The Rose Home Lawn Journal did quite well as a local newspaper. Some stores even bought advertisement space in the newspaper that contains articles, editorials, fiction, poetry, and word games. This success produce a new paper later on called *The Empire* and another magazine called *The Stamp Collector*. Other different magazine inspired by Hamburg¹ and chicken breeding called *The Poultry Record* was started afterward. Not only that Frank published the magazine, he also published his book entitled *The Hamburgs, A brief Treatise upon the Mating, Rearing, and Management of the Different Varieties of Hamburg*. It is his debut book, published when he was 30 years old.

Still in the first stage of Frank's life, we could see that he found the object of his affection other than writing that is in acting. As a productive and energetic person who always has seriousness in everything he is in to, Frank went to plays, studied actor techniques and viewed it as an art. He even memorized

¹ Small colorful birds popular at that time

Shakespeare's passages and formed a Shakespearean troupe. This interest on acting and theatre has also caught the attention of Benjamin Baum to support his son, Frank Baum, to be able to improve himself. His first performance was with Albert M. Palmer and his Union Square Theatre in New York taking Louis F. Baum and George Brooks as the pen names. By the time he reaches the age of 24, L. Frank Baum had become a manager of string opera houses in New York and Pennsylvania that are use to be owned by his father. Frank was quite sensitive to see how the audiences reacted to the theatre, so he wrote original plays that it would delight the people to enjoy the theatre. This experience made Frank as an author who would always think of his work to be visualized.

His successful play was called *The Maid of Arran* based on a novel *A Princess of Thule* wrote by William Black, a Scottish novelist, that he acted and became the manager of the company. This amazing play is his first major literary work, which was reviewed positively. All these literary work produced by Lyman Frank Baum proved himself as an author who had expressed his critics on the fairy tales he read at childhood and considered to be frightening and horrifying and innovated them to believe in the power of children's imagination.

After all the acting pursuing we have followed in Frank's life, we will get to the transition time where we are about to move from the first important stage of his life into the second one. This is the time when someone new is entering the life of Lyman Frank Baum. That special person is his future wife namely Maud Gage. She is the girl who was studying in Cornell University, brought up in a prosperous family living in Fayetteville, New York. A nationally known feminist,

Matilda Joslyn Gage whose husband was a dry good merchant, is Maud's mother. Frank's future mother in law apparently also has an interest in writing shown by the book entitled *History of Woman Suffrage*, which she wrote together with Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony. The book was published in four volumes from 1881 – 1902. From the same woman, L. Frank Baum was considered as an unstable match for Maud Gage. Yet, they went against the will of Matilda and got married on November 9th, 1882. Soon after that, this newly married couple lived nomadically since they are following the tour of the theater company with the famous play, *The Maid of Aran*.

One reason that makes this couple to settle is the coming of their first child. Syracuse is the place chosen for them to rent a home. Frank and Maud are not the couple who are in love with each other simply because they are quite the same person, but their opposite natures were actually a good combination that leads them to happiness in marriage. Maud seemed to be the kind of wife who controls everything in the family including the financial aspect of their company and up held the discipline for the employees also. The chance given by the head of the family to the wife here had in fact brings peace and harmony to always grace in their home.

Aside from the happy marriage and a peaceful home owned by Frank together with his family, these still cannot prevent his condition to be in a bad level of health. Having the medical record of a heart attack, dizzy spells and, nausea had given Frank the experience to have an uncertain health. A very unpleasant time happened in 1884 when the hired bookkeeper to replace for

Frank's ill uncle had turned things up side down. So, it could be said that everything was quite a mess at that time. Anyhow Frank made it to survive by working as a salesman in the family Castorine Business.

Then after the death of Benjamin Baum, Frank was in bad condition of health and very busy with his work. For the second time a hired clerk deceived the family business. Dramatically, the clerk committed suicide and later on Frank and Maud decided to move from Syracuse to Aberdeen. There, they started a new chapter of their life by running a general store named "Baum's Bazaar". Frank did not waste the opportunity to develop his creativity by managing a weekly newspaper, *The Aberdeen Saturday Pioneer*. He wrote all sorts of social events, being an editor that had disparaging racial comments and illustrated an intolerant attitude towards Native American Indians during their conflicts with the government. This proves the capacity of Frank as a person who has a concern on social matters. Unfortunately the newspaper went bankrupt.

One true fact in L. Frank Baum is that he never stopped believing in the creative powers of the imagination. It is something common to see Frank sitting at sidewalks telling stories to children who begged him to tell about his own creation of magical countries. He just could not help to hold back the gift he has but practice it right away by doing so. The year 1893 is the time of the early step Frank has as an author of children literature. Frank's talent started to be shown and it was actually seen by his mother-in-law. She encouraged Frank to write his stories and publish them. Story telling was regarded as a gift that Frank has. He

got the ability to capture the imagination of children and to create words of timelessness in his stories.

An outstanding sentence written in the introduction of *The Lost Princess of Oz* by Frank is that he told us imagination has given us the steam engine, the telephone, the talking-machine, and the automobile, for these things had to be dreamed of before they became realities. So I believe that dreams –day dreams...with your eyes wide open...are likely to lead to the betterment of the world. The imaginative child will become the imaginative man or woman most apt to create, to invent, and therefore to foster civilization. He shared that a prominent educator tells him that fairy tales are of untold value in developing imagination in the young and he believes it.

Frank is a writer who would never waste any opportunities or the time he has by writing continuously. Later on he mentioned that he was looking for a publisher to Opie Read, a popular novelist, about his writings on Mother Goose stories. And then in 1897, he met Chancey L. Williams of Way & Williams Publishing and the illustrator Maxfield Parrish through Opie Read. They changed Frank's *Mother Goose Stories* into *Mother Goose in Prose*, and publish it. At the same time, Frank has a bad health condition because of nasal hemorrhages, and terrible chest pains that the doctor told him to find a settled job. Frank also managed a monthly trade magazine, *The Show Window* that was finally sold in 1902.

His next writing career was publishing short stories by Stanley Waterloo and Gardner C. Teall and by writing himself about the values of window

advertising in specific trades. Another opportunity brought by his friend Opie Read led him to meet William W. Denslow that from then on, his life would never be the same. Though these both men had contradictory personalities, they worked together to publish *Father Goose, His Book* in 1899. This book was an immediate success for Frank for it became the best selling children's book of the year. *The Tribune* reported in June 1900 that this book achieved the record of having the largest sale of any juvenile in America. Even the verses were put into music. Frank's original purpose to please children was achieved through his verses combined with Denslow's illustrations.

An interesting hobby Frank has was poured in the cottage he bought and named "The Sign of the Goose". He made all the woodwork furniture by hand and engraved also stenciled geese into it and into a stained glass window. All of these works were done after recovering from an attack of facial paralysis. His most notable work *The Wizard of Oz*, left the inheritance of *Toto*, as his dog's name, and *Ozcot* as his house's name in California. As a very involved person in community social life and a writer, Frank then wrote *Tamawaca Folks A Summer Comedy*, a book about Macatawa in 1907, although this was considered an unfavorable account by some people.

A story that he told to his own children as well the children in the neighborhood about Dorothy, the Scarecrow, and the city of Oz entitled *The Wizard of Oz* was produced by The Baum Denslow team. This book was the most popular, worthy, notable, and lasting piece of work. This work was originally titled *The Emerald City*, but it was changed because of the superstitious notion the

publisher had about the jewel mentioned there. The team later on collaborated with Paul Tietjens and Julien Mitchell to produce an adult version of *The Wizard of Oz* as a musical stage play. But after this success, Frank and Denslow split up. They no longer work together.

Frank's fame rest on *The Wizard* and 13 other stories of Oz, two of which are *Ozma of Oz* (1907), and *The Scarecrow of Oz* (1915). His books mostly emphasize on American virtues as practicality, self-reliance, tolerance, and egalitarianism. On the whole, Frank was regarded as the contributions and innovations of the 19th century, continued to the 20th century, achieving a distinct place in literature for children's book.