

Magical Voyages to Magical Worlds

- 1 Some books are doorways to other places—to magical worlds! These are worlds where impossible things happen, where animals change shape, trees talk, and witches and wizards appear and disappear. These are worlds of enchantment, beauty, and danger.
- 2 You may have already visited one such world through the movies. *The Wizard of Oz*, one of the most popular movies ever made, is based on a book of the same name that first appeared in 1900. The book, by L. Frank Baum, tells the adventure of Dorothy Gale, a Kansas girl. If you've seen the movie, you know the basic story: a tornado lifts up Dorothy's house and drops it in Oz, where she travels with the Cowardly Lion, the Tin Woodsman, and the Scarecrow.
- 3 But there are stranger creatures in the book that don't appear in the movie. For example, at different times Dorothy is attacked by fighting trees, by men who hammer with their heads, and by creatures that are part bear and part tiger. She meets the queen of field mice and learns about winged monkeys. She also visits a country where people are made of delicate china and must be glued together when they break!
- 4 Baum wrote *The Wizard of Oz* to entertain children, and he succeeded so well that his readers demanded more. So he wrote thirteen

more Oz books. These too were so popular that later, other writers wrote twenty-six more books about Oz! Journey to Oz once, and you'll want to return again and again.

- 5 Another magical world is called Middle Earth, which J. R. R. Tolkien created in his 1937 book, *The Hobbit*. Hobbits are little creatures who live in holes in the ground and have enormous appetites and furry feet. But hobbits are not just ordinary animals. They have definite personalities, and their comfortable homes have pantries, furniture, and coat hooks for guests.
- 6 As a general rule, hobbits are cautious creatures, but one hobbit by the name of Bilbo Baggins is talked into going on a dangerous expedition. The wizard Gandalf persuades Bilbo to search for a hidden treasure. What's so dangerous about that? The treasure—a very powerful ring—is guarded by Smaug, a vicious dragon!
- 7 Bilbo agrees to go, and thirteen dwarves accompany him on his search. Along the way, they meet trolls, elves, and goblins, and Bilbo learns how to defend himself in many ways against all kinds of weapons, magic, and monsters. At one point, when he is trapped in a cave with an unpleasant creature called Gollum, Bilbo must correctly answer difficult riddles or be killed. Like Dorothy, Bilbo sadly longs to get back to his safe, cozy home.
- 8 Middle Earth is filled with towering mountains to climb and treacherous rivers to cross. It even has a language all its own. You can find out more about Middle Earth in Tolkien's three-part series, *The Lord of the Rings*, which continues the story of the dangerous ring, and more. If you've never visited the wonderful land of Middle Earth, go soon. You're sure to love it.
- 9 Not all magic worlds are far away or long ago. Some lie just beyond a door—in another universe! The world of Narnia, created by C. S. Lewis in 1950, is one such place. Like Middle Earth, it is a world of magic and danger.
- 10 Narnia is first described in *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*. In this book, a young English girl named Lucy explores a wardrobe—a piece of furniture that's used to store clothes. Lucy is surprised to find an entrance to Narnia at the back of the wardrobe, behind some fur coats. Once in Narnia, she has tea with a friendly faun, a creature that is both man and goat, and he tells her about the evil White Queen who rules the land.
- 11 When Lucy returns home, her sister and two brothers don't believe her amazing story about another world. But soon they too climb through the wardrobe and discover Narnia. Although it's summer in England, in Narnia the children find themselves in a snowy forest, and before long, they meet dwarves, giants, and talking beavers.
- 12 Narnia's ruler, the White Queen, can (and does) turn living things into stone. The children help the gentle lion Aslan overthrow this cruel queen, and in gratitude, Aslan crowns the children rulers of Narnia. They govern for many years, but when they return to earth, they find that only a few minutes have passed there, and that they are once again children.
- 13 *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* is the first of seven books that make up *The Chronicles of Narnia*. In the other books of this series, the children return to Narnia. They find magic waters and an army of talking beasts, and they meet the Emerald Witch and a talking horse.
- 14 Oz, Middle Earth, and Narnia are three very special fantasy lands, but there are still other magic worlds you can visit. Perhaps you'd like to take a trip through outer space. Then join Meg in *A Wrinkle in Time*, by Madeleine L'Engle. Meg searches other planets for her missing father, accompanied by three funny but magical ladies who help her battle an evil brain.
- 15 You could also visit the Neverland, created by J. M. Barrie in *Peter Pan*. In Neverland, children can fly and can visit the fairy Tinkerbell or fight the evil Captain Hook. And in *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, by Lewis Carroll, you can follow Alice down a rabbit hole into a nonsense world where she drinks tea with talking animals, chats with a vanishing cat's head, and runs away from an angry deck of cards!
- 16 In all of these books, you'll find magic and adventure. You might not want to live in these enchanted worlds, but you can visit them safely. How do you get there? Easy! Just open the book and start reading, and you'll be carried away to another place and time. So plan a journey soon to a world in which anything can—and often does—happen.

How Well Did You Read?

Write the letter of the best answer for each question.

- 1 Why did L. Frank Baum write *The Wizard of Oz*?
 - a To teach about tornadoes
 - b To entertain children
 - c To describe a place he had once visited
- 2 Which story takes place in outer space?
 - a *A Wrinkle in Time*
 - b *The Hobbit*
 - c *The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe*
- 3 Which world is reached through a rabbit hole?
 - a Neverland
 - b Middle Earth
 - c Wonderland

If a sentence describes *The Wizard of Oz*, write *W*. If it describes *The Hobbit*, write *H*. If it describes *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, write *L*. If it describes all of them, write *A*.

- 4 It has no human characters in it.
- 5 It was one of several books that described the same magic world.
- 6 There are dangers in its magic world.
- 7 Its main character brings her sister and brothers to the magic world.
- 8 Its magic world has a special name.
- 9 Its magic world has its own language.

Learn about Words

Vocabulary

A You can often tell the meaning of a word by reading the words around it.

Look at each number in parentheses. Find the paragraph in the story with the same number. Then find the word that fits the given meaning. Write the word.

- 1 rooms for storing food (5)
- 2 careful (6)
- 3 special trip (6)
- 4 go along with (7)
- 5 wishes; wants (7)
- 6 very high (8)
- 7 very dangerous (8)
- 8 history, tales (13)

B A word may have more than one meaning.

Look at each number in parentheses. Find the paragraph in the story with the same number. See how the word in **heavy type** below is used in the paragraph. Decide whether it has meaning **a**, **b**, or **c**. Write *a*, *b*, or *c*.

- 9 **point** (7)
 - a time
 - b sharp end
 - c land sticking out into water
- 10 **overthrow** (12)
 - a turn over
 - b end
 - c defeat; get rid of

Word Study

- C** poison + **ous** = poisonous (full of poison)
cloud + **y** = cloudy (characterized by clouds)
fear + **less** = fearless (without fear)

Many adjectives end in *ous*, *y*, and *less*. Often *ous* means "full of" or "possessing the qualities of," *y* means "characterized by," and *less* means "without." Read the definitions below and then choose *ous*, *y*, or *less* to complete the word in **heavy type**. Write the completed word. (Sometimes you may need to drop the last letter of a word before adding the ending.)

- 11** full of danger: **danger** ____
12 characterized by dirt: **dirt** ____
13 without a flaw: **flaw** ____
14 without a home: **home** ____
15 characterized by smoke: **smoke** ____
16 full of virtue: **virtue** ____
17 characterized by wealth: **wealth** ____
18 characterized by grass: **grass** ____
- D** Many English words come from the Latin language and contain Latin roots. For example:

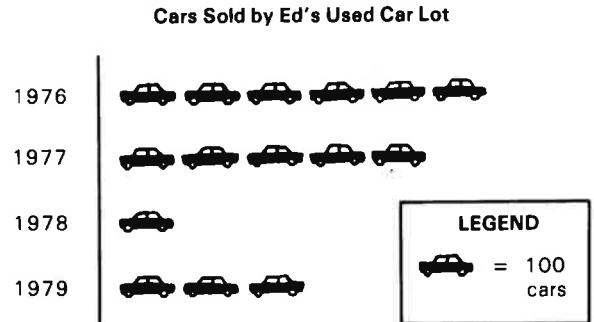
port = to carry (as in *portable*)
sect = to divide (as in *section*)
vert = to turn (as in *invert*)

Knowledge of Latin roots will sometimes help you unlock the meanings of new words. Read the sentences below. The word in **heavy type** is a clue. It will help you find the right Latin root to complete the partial word. Complete the word and write it in full.

- 19** Some ____able television sets are hard to **carry**.
20 We **divided** the orange by bi____ing it.
21 The goods were ex____ed when they were **carried** out of the country.
22 Mr. Boe **turned** away from bad habits when he was con____ed to our religious faith.
23 These im____ed fabrics were **carried** here from Burma by my father.

- 24** **Turn** the river away by di____ing it with a dam.
25 The **division** of the city into ____ors seemed sensible.
26 The ____er found that she could **carry** three bags at once.

- E** A *picture graph* uses symbols to stand for numerical information. The graph's *legend* tells what the symbols mean. In this graph, one symbol stands for one hundred cars. To find out how many cars were sold in any one year, just count the symbols beside that date and multiply by 100.



Notice how readily you can compare the different years. A graph lets you see the facts at a glance. Use this picture graph to answer the questions below. Write *Yes*, *No*, or a numeral for each question.

- 27** Has Ed's business improved with each passing year?
28 In what year did Ed sell the most cars?
29 In what year did Ed sell the fewest cars?
30 Did Ed sell 200 fewer cars in 1977 than in 1976?
31 Did Ed sell 100 fewer cars in 1977 than in 1976?
32 How many cars did Ed sell in 1976?
33 Did business improve somewhat in 1979?

Use Your Imagination

Imagine you could create a magic world of your own. What do you wish you could do there that you can't do here on earth?