

Appendix. The Wizard of Oz: A Quotable Movie

The movie *The Wizard of Oz* (1939) is a frequently quoted American movie. It's been popular for at least four generations now. Let's watch parts of the movie and discuss key quotes from it.¹

Dorothy Gale (Judy Garland) is an orphaned teenager who lives with her Auntie Em and Uncle Henry on a Kansas farm. She daydreams about going "over the rainbow" to escape her problems. One day, she's about to run away from home when a tornado approaches the farm. Unable to open the door to the storm cellar, Dorothy enters the house, and is knocked unconscious. The tornado picks up her house and flies it away.

Quote #1: "I have a feeling we're not in Kansas anymore."

What does it mean in the movie? _____

*You get your first assignment. You are being sent overseas into a combat zone. Your stomach tightens; you knew you signed up for this, but the danger seemed far away back then.... When you step off the plane, it hits you that **you are not in Kansas anymore**. This is foreign territory. (Smith, 2021)*

What do you think it means in this quote? _____

Can you think of a situation in which you would say, "you're not in Kansas anymore"? _____

¹ Summary sections of *The Wizard of Oz* are from IMDb.com. (n.d.).
https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0032138/plotsummary?ref_=tt_stry_pl#synopsis

The tornado drops Dorothy's house on the Wicked Witch of the East, killing her. The Munchkins of Oz come to thank Dorothy.

Quote #2: "Ding dong the witch is dead."

What does it mean in the movie? _____

James Holzhauer, who amassed winnings at a startling rate during his 32-game win streak on Jeopardy!, wasn't playing games when he eviscerated Mike Richards on Tuesday. After word got out that Richards was pushed out as executive producer following his resignation as the quiz show's new host, Holzhauer tweeted a GIF of "Ding Dong The Witch Is Dead." (Dicker, 2021)

What do you think it means in this quote? _____

Can you think of a situation in which you would say, "Ding dong the witch is dead"? _____

The Wicked Witch of the West (Margaret Hamilton), who is the sister of the dead witch, threatens Dorothy. But Glinda (Billie Burke), the Good Witch of the North, gives Dorothy the dead witch's enchanted Ruby Slippers, and the slippers protect her. Glinda advises that if Dorothy wants to go home to Kansas, she should seek the aid of the Wizard of Oz, who lives in the Emerald City. To get there, Dorothy sets off down the Yellow Brick Road.

Quote #3: "You're off to see the wizard." (*Later in the movie they also sing "we're off to see the wizard."*)

What does it mean in the movie? _____

[In this car] the 2.5 turbo [engine] is fairly sedate until 3500rpm, at which point the turbo kicks in, things get loud and you're off to see the wizard, with a huge grin on your face.

(McKinnon, 2017)

What do you think it means in this quote? _____

Can you think of a situation in which you would say, "we're off to see the wizard"? _____

Along the Yellow Brick Road, Dorothy meets several companions: a talking Scarecrow (Ray Bolger) whose dearest wish is to have a brain; a Tin Woodman (Jack Haley), who longs for a heart; and the Cowardly Lion (Bert Lahr), who wishes for courage. All four of them want to see the wizard and get his help.

Despite the Wicked Witch of the West's interference, the four reach the Emerald City. The friends are frustrated at their reception by the "great and powerful" Wizard of Oz (Frank Morgan). He refuses to help unless they bring him the broomstick of the Wicked Witch of the West. They head for the Witch's castle, but get attacked by Flying Monkeys that the Witch has enslaved.

Dorothy kills the Wicked Witch. Dorothy and her friends bring the broomstick back to the Emerald City, but the wizard isn't pleased to see them again.

Quote #4: "Pay no attention to the man behind the curtain."

What does it mean in the movie? _____

In this last election, with Trump mostly out of sight, voters were able to focus on their frustrations with President Joe Biden, and on other issues. Pay no attention to the man behind the curtain, Republicans seemed to be saying. It worked, but the curtain is rustling; the man behind it is restless. He won't stay hidden for long. (Ghitis, 2021)

What do you think it means in this quote? _____

Can you think of a situation in which you would say, "pay no attention to the man behind the curtain"? _____

The wizard tries to fly Dorothy home in a hot-air balloon, but only manages to fly himself out of Oz. Glinda appears and explains that Dorothy has always had the power to get home; Glinda didn't tell her before because Dorothy wouldn't have believed it.

Quote #5: "There's no place like home."

What does it mean in the movie? _____

Want to buy some drugs? It's time to click your heels together three times and repeat: "There's no place like home." If State Senator Ronald Rice has his way, people caught buying or selling drugs beyond the borders of their hometowns could face stiffer mandatory minimum penalties. (Bruder, 2005)

What do you think it means in this quote? _____

Can you think of a situation in which you would say, “there’s no place like home”?

In the end, Dorothy wakes up in her own bed with Auntie Em and Uncle Henry fussing over her. Oz was only a dream. (The Wizard of Oz).

Sources

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