

READING COMPREHENSION

Somewhere Over the Rainbow There's a . . . Costume Designer

Sit back, relax, and enjoy the costumes! Every show we watch, whether on television, Broadway, or the big screen, has costume designers. Even if the characters look "ordinary," you can bet that many hours have been spent selecting their outfits, makeup, and hairstyles.

One classic example of the importance of costume design is the film *The Wizard of Oz*. The clothes in this film have been admired for generations.

(1) In the beginning of the movie, we meet hard-working farm hands who are wearing *disheveled* work shirts and overalls. (2) We see Auntie Em in a *dowdy* housedress. (3) Uncle Henry wears *drab* trousers and a sweater.

A terrible tornado soon carries Dorothy and her dog, Toto, off to the Land of Oz, where everything is different from their home back in Kansas. A change overtakes Dorothy and Toto, too. It may not be obvious, but their appearances improve. Dorothy's hair is smoother, and her dress is neater. Even little Toto is more neatly groomed.

At first, everything in Oz seems attractive. (4) The Munchkins wear fancy, tailored *garb*. (5) Glinda the Good Witch sparkles in her *chic* gown, and she gives Dorothy a pair of radiant ruby slippers. However, the entrance of the Wicked Witch of the West introduces a more threatening tone. The witch's clothes are as dark as her mood.

On her way to find the wizard, Dorothy meets the Scarecrow, the Tin Man, and the Lion. Underneath their elaborate costumes, these characters bear remarkable resemblance to the farm hands back home in Kansas. Later, when Dorothy and her friends reach the Emerald City, they tremble when they hear the booming voice of

the Wizard. His actual appearance, however, is quite a surprise. (6) He is not tall, strong, or *debonair*, but round, short, and a bit embarrassed. (7) He wears no *ostentatious* robes, capes, crowns, or magical medallions. In fact, he looks a lot like Dorothy's Uncle Henry! (8) Soon after the Wicked Witch of the West has melted into an *unsightly* black puddle, Dorothy learns how to use her magic ruby slippers to go home. The characters gather around her for a grand send-off. (9) The many costumes are perfect, not at all *rumpled*.

When Dorothy awakens, she and Toto are back home in Kansas. Auntie Em, Uncle Henry, the hired hands, and the neighbors welcome them home. The costume designers have transformed the Scarecrow, the Tin Man, and the Lion back into farm hands.

At the end of the movie, Dorothy expresses her love for her home, her family, and her friends. (10) While she was in Oz, she learned that appearances are only a *veneer*. It is what is in our hearts that really matters.



Each sentence below refers to a numbered sentence in the passage. Write the letter of the choice that gives the sentence a meaning that is closest to the original sentence.

- _____ 1. In the beginning of the movie, we meet hard-working farm hands who are wearing _____ work shirts and overalls.
a. fashionable b. untidy c. outrageous d. costume
- _____ 2. We see Auntie Em in a(n) _____ housedress.
a. newfangled b. wrinkled c. elegant d. old-fashioned
- _____ 3. Uncle Henry wears _____ trousers and a sweater.
a. bright b. sophisticated c. faded d. wool

NAME _____

DATE _____

- _____ 4. The Munchkins wear fancy, tailored _____.
a. layers b. tornadoes c. clothing d. shoes
- _____ 5. Glinda the Good Witch sparkles in her _____ gown.
a. stylish b. dull c. hole-free d. crowned
- _____ 6. He is not tall, strong, or _____, but round, short, and a bit embarrassed.
a. sophisticated b. messy c. intelligent d. magical
- _____ 7. He wears no _____ robes, capes, crowns, or magical medallions.
a. showy b. wrinkled c. dull d. messy
- _____ 8. The Wicked Witch of the West has melted into a(n) _____ black puddle.
a. interesting b. old-fashioned c. nasty-looking d. evil
- _____ 9. The many costumes are perfect, not at all _____.
a. stained b. stylish c. sophisticated d. wrinkled
- _____ 10. While she was in Oz, she learned that appearances are only a(n) _____.
a. ugly reality b. wrinkled mess c. thin cover d. old-fashioned style

Indicate whether the statements below are TRUE or FALSE according to the passage.

- _____ 1. The movie *The Wizard of Oz* is famous for its costume design.
- _____ 2. In realistic television shows, there is no need for a costume designer.
- _____ 3. The Wizard of Oz looks just like he sounds.

WRITE THE DERIVATIVE

Complete the sentence by writing the correct form of the word shown in parentheses. You may not need to change the form that is given.

- _____ 1. James Bond, international spy, is known for his _____ ways. (*debonair*)
- _____ 2. Mom tried to smooth out Ned's _____ shirt. (*rumple*)
- _____ 3. The woman who lives across the street is a good example of _____; she wears only 1950's housedresses. (*dowdy*)
- _____ 4. The _____ of the party made some of the guests feel uncomfortable. (*ostentatious*)
- _____ 5. My _____ aunt buys all of her clothes in Italy. (*chic*)
- _____ 6. Chopping down more trees to make room for a new mall would contribute to the _____ of this neighborhood. (*unsightly*)
- _____ 7. The bookshelf was not solid oak, but had an oak _____. (*veneer*)
- _____ 8. The _____ of the day made everyone feel depressed. (*drab*)
- _____ 9. The dance student's _____ consisted of a leotard and tights. (*garb*)
- _____ 10. No matter how neat they look in the morning, young children come home from school looking completely _____. (*disheveled*)