

### Summary: Chapter I: The Cyclone

The story begins by introducing Dorothy, an orphan who lives with her Uncle Henry and Aunt Em in the middle of the Kansas prairie. Their simple house, in the middle of nowhere, is surrounded by treeless land and open sky. The house has a small cyclone cellar for protection since cyclones commonly occur in Kansas. Uncle Henry and Aunt Em are drab, hardworking farmers who do not smile or laugh. Dorothy’s only playmate is her little black dog, Toto, who makes her laugh.

When a cyclone hits, Uncle Henry rushes to secure the livestock. Aunt Em urges Dorothy to get to the cellar and hurries there herself. But Dorothy instead searches for Toto, who has disappeared under the bed. Suddenly, a strong wind lifts the house along with Dorothy and Toto high into the sky. Toto falls through the house’s open trap door that normally leads to the cellar but now just leads to the sky. But the strong winds hold Toto up so he doesn’t fall down. Dorothy grabs Toto, and they lie on the bed. Suspended at the center of the cyclone, the swirling house rocks Dorothy to sleep.

### Summary: Chapter II: The Council with the Munchkins

Dorothy awakes with a jolt to find the house no longer moving and the sun shining. The house landed in the Land of Oz, a beautiful place, brilliant with color and life. A group of strange-looking people, whom Dorothy soon learns are Munchkins, approach her. An old woman refers to Dorothy as a sorceress and tells Dorothy that she killed the Wicked Witch of the East, freeing the Munchkins from years of slavery. Dorothy protests but then sees that the house has indeed landed on the Wicked Witch of the East.

Dorothy learns that the old woman is the good Witch of the North, a friend of the Munchkins. She also learns that the Wicked Witch of the West remains alive somewhere. The good Witch gives Dorothy the Wicked Witch of the East’s charmed silver shoes. Dorothy wants to return to Kansas but learns that this will be difficult since Oz is surrounded by deserts. When Dorothy starts to cry, the Munchkins suggest she go to the Emerald City to ask the Wizard of Oz forss help. To get there, Dorothy must follow the yellow brick road, a difficult journey, but a magic kiss from the good Witch should protect her.