

LEVEL B1

ENGLISH READERS EDELVIVES



CLASSIC TALES

L. Frank Baum

ILLUSTRATIONS Paula Blumen



CLASSIC TALES

L. Frank Baum

Illustrations
Paula Blumen

before reading

1 L. Frank Baum is sometimes called “the wizard of words” because of his most famous story, The Wizard of Oz. **Match up** the names of these famous wizards and magicians.

The Wizard	Voldemort
Albus	Potter
Harry	Granger
Harry	Nostredame (Nostradamus)
Morgana	of Oz
Lord	Copperfield
Michel de	the Grey
Hermione	Le Fay
Gandalf	Dumbledore
David	Houdini

2 **Find** 10 words about magic and magic people.

ESCAPOLOGIST	Y	W	W	H	Q	D	K	Z	C	L	Z	T
WIZARD	F	X	Y	C	Y	B	Q	X	E	S	S	O
SPELL	R	O	R	T	S	P	G	Q	U	I	M	U
WITCH	F	D	E	I	O	T	N	N	G	A	Z	S
MAGICIAN	B	P	R	W	Q	I	O	O	G	C	H	C
CONJURER	L	F	U	A	Y	N	L	I	T	L	W	O
ILLUSION	D	E	J	N	Z	O	C	S	B	I	Z	F
HYPNOTIST	G	F	N	D	P	I	S	U	L	R	S	E
MAGIC	S	J	O	A	A	H	W	L	Y	W	B	T
WAND	F	M	C	N	R	H	E	L	N	T	O	X
	I	S	S	P	G	P	Z	I	U	P	Y	J
	E	N	Y	K	S	T	L	E	Y	R	F	J

- 3 L. Frank Baum's most famous story was about a girl called Dorothy and her adventures in the Land of Oz. **Unjumble** these elements from the story.

The Emerald	brick road
The Wicked Witch	ruby shoes
The yellow	Lion
The Tin	of the North
The Scare	Man
The Cowardly	crow
Dorothy's	City

- 4 The Wizard of Oz appears on the British Film Institute's List of the 50 Films You Should See by the Age of 14. **Think** of 5 more films you would add to the list.

- 5 Using colour in film was quite a new invention when Baum made The Wizard of Oz into a film in 1939 using a process called Technicolor. **Put** these inventions that changed the cinema industry into chronological order.

- ☐ Computer-generated images
- ☐ Cinematograph (a camera and projector in one machine)
- ☐ Animation
- ☐ Technicolor (colour in films)
- ☐ Vitaphone (sound in films)
- ☐ 3-D animation
- ☐ Cinemascope (used to make widescreen films)

- 6 L. Frank Baum was American and so his stories have some words and spelling which is different to British English. **Translate** these American words into British English!

Cookie b

Movie f

Center c

Sidewalk p

Color c

Donut d

Pants t

- 7 L. Frank Baum was a very popular American author. **Decide** if these authors are from the USA or the UK.

Author (and an example book)	USA	UK
Jeff Kinney (<i>Diary of a Wimpy Kid</i>)		
Julia Donaldson (<i>The Gruffalo</i>)		
Roald Dahl (<i>Matilda</i>)		
Dr. Seuss (<i>The Cat in the Hat</i>)		
Dav Pilkey (<i>Captain Underpants</i>)		
A. A. Milne (<i>Winnie the Pooh</i>)		
J. K. Rowling (<i>Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone</i>)		

The Box of Robbers

1 **Locate** where everybody was that afternoon.

	With her friends	In the attic	At the office	With her boyfriend	At home	Across the road
Martha						
Mrs. McFarland						
Sister Nell						
Daddy						
Mary Ann						
Emeline						

2 **Name** the three bandits: Luigi, Beni and Victor.

This bandit was short and fat, wearing a red velvet jacket and carrying a knife in his belt.

This bandit was a middle-sized Italian, with a long curling moustache and a hat with ribbons.

This bandit was tall and thin. He had gold earrings, silver buttons on his short blue trousers and a pistol in his belt.

during reading

- 3 **Choose** the words to complete the story of the box.

adventurer key Uncle killed opened
closed Africa Italy

The box arrived from _____ before Martha was born.
_____ Walter had sent it with instructions to keep it
_____ until he returned. But this strange uncle never came
back. He was an _____ and he went to _____
to hunt. Martha's Daddy said an elephant had probably _____
him. Martha found a strangely shaped ancient bronze _____
in the kitchen, and _____ the mysterious box.

- 3 **Unjumble** the jobs the three Italians could do in Chicago.

DITBAN _____

WALYER _____

LICEPO INSPORTEC _____

SUB VERRID _____

POSH TASSITANS _____

SAG CEOFFI ROKWER _____

LICIAN TIPO _____



5 What loot did the bandits steal in the house? **Decide** if the things on this list are correct (✓) or wrong (X).

Bananas ✓ X

Apple pie ✓ X

Clock ✓ X

Pistol ✓ X

Bible ✓ X

Silver forks ✓ X

Fur coat ✓ X

Blood ✓ X

6 **Complete** Martha's plan for getting the bandits to go away.

When the postman rang
on the doorbell

guns and swords and pistols
and axes and cannons.

Martha looked out of
the window and

they had eaten the apple pie.

She told them that the
police had

she told the bandits she could
count 112 police officers.

Martha promised to
save her friends and

carried all the loot back
downstairs.

The bandits were
uncomfortable in the
box because

she told them to get inside
the box.

Martha locked the box
and

she told the bandits it was
the police.



The Queen of Quok

- 1 **Tick** (✓) the things the old king owned.

The King of Quok had a palace (□) with grand furniture (□), rich carpets (□), a big wooden bed (□), silver and gold plates (□), a crown (□), money (□), jewels (□), a fur robe (□), a small wooden chair (□) and a ten-year-old son (□).

- 2 **Answer** the questions about the characters in the story.

The young king The queen
The politicians and the prime minister
The prime minister The gardener's daughter
A rich woman

Who were too proud and too lazy to work?

Who liked to play in the garden?

Who decided the young king must marry a rich lady?

Who died when the young king was a baby?

Who did the young king want to marry?

3 **Order** the story of the royal auction.

- ☐ The angry-looking old lady smacked the king's bottom.
- ☐ The prime minister dressed the king in the dirty fur robe.
- ☐ The king cried when the angry-looking old lady paid the money.
- ☐ The prime minister told the king to sit on the small wooden chair.
- ☐ The rich ladies marched into the audience chamber.
- ☐ The prime minister put an advertisement in the newspaper.
- ☐ The rich ladies offered more and more money.
- ☐ The prime minister filled the crown with old newspapers.
- ☐ The angry-looking old lady's wig fell off and her teeth fell out.
- ☐ The prime minister washed the king's face.

4 **Finish** the sentences.

The king decided he was not going to marry anyone, because _____

The king asked the prime minister to make a public declaration that

The prime minister told the king that he couldn't return the money because _____

The police promised to look for the robbers, but _____

The prime minister told the king he had to marry Mary Ann Brodjinsky de la Porkus, or _____

When the prime minister told Mary Ann Brodjinsky she was not going to be queen, she got very angry and _____

during reading

- 5 Choose** the correct verb to complete the story of the Slave of the Royal Bed.

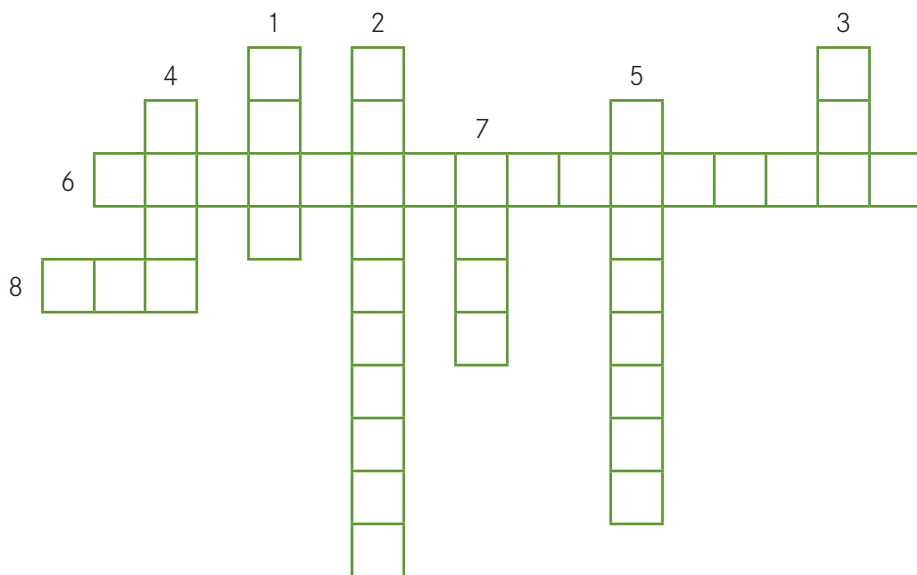
The king pushed / pulled a little old book out of the secret panel.

The poem told the king to write on / burn the page.

The Slave of the Royal Bed asked the king what he wanted / hated.

There was always millions of silver coins / one silver coin in the leather purse.

- 6** Mary Ann Brodjinsky de la Porkus paid three million, nine hundred thousand, six hundred and twenty-four dollars and sixteen cents to be Queen of Quok. **Fill in** the crossword with more numbers from the story.



Clues down

1. The number of teeth Mary Ann Brodjinsky de la Porkus had.
2. The value of the cent coins in the purse.
3. The age the king was when he was told to marry.
4. The amount of hair Mary Ann Brodjinsky de la Porkus had.
5. The dollars one angry old lady wanted to pay to be Queen of Quok.
7. The number of dead husbands one angry old lady had.

Clues across

6. The second offer in the auction to be Queen of Quok.
8. The number of chairs in the palace.

The Girl who Owned a Bear

1 Match the people in the story to the activities they were doing and where they were.

Jane Gladys	was cleaning the silver	in the middle of the room.
Mummy		
Nora the maid	was standing	in the big sitting room.
Daddy	was sewing	in town.
The strange fat man	was shopping	in the kitchen.
	was working	at the office.

2 Answer these questions about the colours in the story.

What colour clothes was the strange visitor wearing? _____

What colour was the cover of the book? _____

What colour was Jane Gladys's name on the front page? _____

What colour were the clown's clothes? _____

What colour was the clown's face? _____

What colour was the clown's back? _____

What colour was the donkey? _____

during reading

3 **Classify** the following information for each character.

short left legs
big ears
can jump

silly laugh
white back
can talk

angry
no claws
spotted

crazy smile
claws
teeth

clumsy
eats girls
falls over

The Clown	The Monkey	The Donkey	The Leopard	The Bear

4 **Correct** the 7 mistakes.

Jane Gladys was very happy when she listened to the animals’ conversation. Now she understood what the monkey had said when he gave her the book about taking photos. Her daddy would be very interested that he hadn’t visited the “Complete Works of Peter Smith” when he came home and found his little dog eaten up by a big black hole.

- 5 Give each illustration from the story a title, describing what was happening.



after reading

1 Match these words from the story with their definitions.

Maid	A country ruled by a royal king or queen.
Small change	Objects stolen in a war or a robbery.
Thingamajig	A way of selling something where people offer more and more money, and the person who offers the most money buys the object.
Loot	A word used to talk about something you do not know the name of.
Kingdom	A line on your skin, as you get old you get more and more.
Auction	A woman who works in somebody's house, cleaning and cooking for them.
Wrinkle	Money in coins of little value.

2 Think about the three stories and decide which sentences fit which character.

	Martha in The Box of Robbers	The young king in The Queen of Quok	Jane Gladys in The Girl who Owned a Bear
Who lived in a normal house?			
Who was brave?			
Who was frightened?			
Who changed the plans of an adult?			
Whose story had some magic in it?			
Whose story had a happy ending?			

- 3 The three stories have a moral at the end. What did the author want to teach his readers? **Unjumble** the lessons for the reader.

The Box of Robbers / with things that are not / teaches us / our business. / not to interfere

and not to want things / to be careful with money / teaches us / we shouldn't wish for. / The Queen of Quok

and clearly. / the importance of / The Girl who Owned a Bear / thinking quickly / teaches us

- 4 L. Frank Baum always mixed fantasy and real life in his writing. **Add** items to the table from the three stories.

FANTASY

REAL LIFE

<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>

after reading

5

Think about these different characteristics and how they affected the stories. **Finish** the sentences.

Boredom: If Martha hadn't been bored, _____
_____.

Curiosity: If Martha hadn't been curious, _____
_____.

Inventiveness: If Martha hadn't been inventive, _____
_____.

Greed: If Mary Ann hadn't been greedy, _____
_____.

Carelessness: If the prime minister hadn't been careless, _____
_____.

6

L. Frank Baum's interest in inventions made him include fantastic, unknown machinery in his stories, like the cable-free telephones in Tik-Tok of Oz and the laptop computer in The Master Key. **List** some modern inventions that could have helped the characters in these three stories.
