



SUMMARY

This take on *The Wizard of Oz* tells the story of Elphaba and Glinda before they became the Wicked Witch of the West and Glinda, the Good Witch, respectively. We follow how mutual disdain evolves into a strong friendship that changes them for good.

CHARACTER GUIDE

Elphaba: Misunderstood eldest daughter of the Governor of Munchkinland. She is sent to Shiz University to support her sibling's studies, Nessarose. Elphaba possesses both a strong ability with magic and bright green skin.

Glinda: A bubbly blonde student at Shiz University who has experienced popularity for her entire life. Through a moment of confusion, Glinda becomes Elphaba's roommate, a situation about which neither of them is happy.

Nessarose: Elphaba's younger sister, whom she has always been fiercely protective of. Their father's favorite daughter, Nessarose, who uses a wheelchair due to complications at her birth, longs for independence and romantic love.

Madame Morrible: Headmistress at Shiz University with strong political ambitions. She is the first to recognize the significance of Elphaba's power and intends to make use of it for her own personal gain.

Boq: A student of Shiz University who is both deeply in love with Glinda and the object of Nessarose's affection.

Doctor Dillamond: The only Animal professor left on the faculty of Shiz University. Doctor Dillamond is suffering harassment due to a growing prejudice against talking animals.

Fiyero: A decidedly unserious prince who aims to float through life. Glinda sees him as her perfect match, but he has his heart set on someone else.

The Wizard: The beloved leader of the Land of Oz who aims to make his people content.



EXERCISES & ACTIVATIONS

Writing

Choose a character from a story that you know. It may be the heroine or the villain. First, write down what you already know about them. What if what you know isn't true? Imagine that this is the case and write a new backstory for your character that will cause the reader to have a different perspective about them. If the character is the villain in a story, such as the Wicked Witch of the West in *The Wizard of Oz*, perhaps your adaptation will portray them as the hero. If the character is known to be strong, perhaps your story reveals their weakness. You may start with, "Everyone thinks that they know the truth about (your character's name), but they don't know the real story."

Embodying

Read the character descriptions and create a dance move for each character. You could do this activity in separate smaller groups and then make connections between the different dances for Elphaba or Mrs. Morrible.

Contextual

Read the lyrics for "Popular" and notice how the song is put together. Where do you notice rhyme? What words stand out? What words does Glinda use to describe herself? What words does she use to describe Elphaba? What does the song convey about their relationship? What does the song say about the value of being popular? What do you think about being popular? Is there a downside? Now, take a listen to a recording of the song. What new things did you notice about the lyrics? What surprises were there? What new ideas do you have?

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