

## Exemplar for the Argumentative Essay about the Wizard of Oz

"Looking at life as an outsider and feeling as though one is being treated as an outsider is a matter of perspective or point of view. Someone who always feels like an outsider may conclude that life is unfair"(S.E. Hinton)

This quote by the famous writer of *The Outsiders* describes the plight of the outsider character in literature. Usually a protagonist or hero, this character cannot help but feel that life is unfair because of life's circumstances, even though its unfairness might be the result of the character's perspective as a youth. I believe that this situation occurs in *The Wizard of Oz*. Many people think of this story as a fanciful fairy-tale or myth for an audience of children. However, I see it as a tale with an outsider theme because of Dorothy's youth and inexperience.

This story begins in the bland, ordinary world of Kansas, probably in the 1930s. She is a young teenager who does not fit into her world. Early in the movie, she falls into a pig sty at her aunt's farm where she lives. And she is harassed by a witch of a woman in Mrs. Gulch, who wants to put her dog Toto down for its mischievousness. She runs away from home and meets Mr. Marvel, a fake psychic. He encourages her to return home after pretending to see Dorothy's Auntie Em upset at her loss. Dorothy is knocked unconscious by a swinging door in her aunt's farmhouse and dreams about a land far away, which she had wished for previously. The dream is about the land of Oz, a place where she meets the good witch Glenda, who becomes her mentor. But she also meets a mean witch, the Wicked Witch of the West; she is a villain, tormenting Dorothy throughout the movie. After allying with some new friends that she meets along the way--she confronts a challenge posed by the great Oz, a wizard, defeats the witch, and returns home to her family, and especially, her beloved Auntie Em.