

June Music Lessons 2021

Pre-K through 2nd Grade

Watch Motown Magic in class. Have a class discussion on the events and history of Motown.

<https://www.motownmuseum.org/>

Last week of school- Enjoy playing some fun interactive music games.

3rd through 8th Grade

Watch The Wiz in class.

Learn about the history and discuss the discussion questions.

The Wiz is a 1978 American [musical adventure fantasy film](#) produced by [Universal Pictures](#) and [Motown Productions](#) and released by Universal Pictures on October 24, 1978. A reimagining of [L. Frank Baum's](#) classic 1900 children's novel *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* featuring an all-black cast, the film was loosely adapted from the [1974 Broadway musical of the same name](#). It follows the adventures of [Dorothy](#), a shy, twenty-four-year-old [Harlem](#) schoolteacher who finds herself magically transported to the urban fantasy [Land of Oz](#), which resembles a dream version of [New York City](#). Befriended by a [Scarecrow](#), a [Tin Man](#), and a [Cowardly Lion](#), she travels through the city to seek an audience with the mysterious [Wiz](#), who they say is the only one powerful enough to send her home.

Filming took place in Queens, New York from October to December of 1977. Produced by [Rob Cohen](#) and directed by [Sidney Lumet](#), the film stars [Diana Ross](#), [Michael Jackson](#), [Nipsey Russell](#), [Ted Ross](#), [Mabel King](#), [Theresa Merritt](#), [Thelma Carpenter](#), [Lena Horne](#) and [Richard Pryor](#). Its story was reworked from [William F. Brown's](#) Broadway libretto by [Joel Schumacher](#), and [Quincy Jones](#) supervised the adaptation of [Charlie Smalls](#) and [Luther Vandross'](#) songs for it. A handful of new songs, written by Jones and the songwriting team of [Nickolas Ashford & Valerie Simpson](#), were added for the project.



The Wiz

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How was this show similar or different to the original *The Wizard of Oz*?
- Among Dorothy, Scarecrow, Tinman and Lion, who do you relate to the most? Why?
- Why do you think Dorothy fears taking on more responsibility around Aunt Em's house?
- Why are the munchkins significant?
- Why do you think Addaperle didn't tell Dorothy how to get home when they first met?
- Scarecrow, Tinman, and Lion all want things that they don't realize they already possess. Does this kind of mindset exist in our society today?
- What is significant about the things The Wiz gives to Scarecrow, Tinman and Lion?
- Why is getting home so important to Dorothy? What is your definition of home?
- How do the characters change after The Wiz gives them what they want?



- Why do you think Dorothy chooses to help her new friends get what they want rather than just focusing on her goal to get home?
- What do Dorothy's new friends help her realize about herself?
- The Wiz believes the simple things in life are power, prestige and money. What does this tell the audience about what kind of person he is?
- Oz is a magical world with all kinds of creatures. Why do you think the Oz citizens are so amazed by the balloon and green glasses the Wiz brought with him to Oz?
- What does the poppy field symbolize?
- The Winged Monkeys are not loyal to anyone in the play. Why do you think the playwright chose to depict them this way?
- Power struggles run all through this play. What are some examples you see of that?
- Oppression is also a major theme in the play. What is an example from the play that is used to convey this theme? What is an example of oppression currently faced in our society today that is similar to the example you gave from the play?
- *The Wiz* is what many believe to be a depiction of Afrofuturism. What comes to mind when you hear the word Afrofuturism? Why do you think *The Wiz* would fall under this category?
- In 1975, *The Wiz* was a huge hit on Broadway and won seven tony awards. Why do you think productions like *The Wiz* and *Black Panther* are so successful?
- *The Wiz* is an adaptation of L. Frank Baum's 1900 novel, *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*. How do you think this adaptation altered the themes that were in the original book?