

THE LAND OF OF



Lyman Frank Baum was born in Chittenango, New York in 1856, into a childhood of indulgent luxury. He tried several professions – actor, playwright, theatre manager, newspaper reporter, salesman – secure in the knowledge that his father’s money would support him. He married in 1882 but then, a year after his father’s death in 1887, it was discovered that a clerk had embezzled most of the capital in the family’s oil company. In 1891 Baum took his wife and four young sons to Chicago, leaving two failed enterprises behind in South Dakota. In 1896 he completed the manuscripts of his first two children’s books. Now in his early forties, Baum decided to earn his living as a writer.

The Wonderful Wizard of Oz was published in 1900 and illustrated by newspaper cartoonist William Wallace Denslow. The story was inspired by Baum’s own love of Grimms’ *Fairy Tales* and by a wish to give his sons “a modernised fairy tale, in which the wonderment and joy are retained and the heartaches and nightmares left out”. One of his sons said the name of Oz came to his father when he was asked where his characters lived. Baum’s eye fell on the drawer of a filing cabinet which stored papers alphabetically O-Z and ‘Oz’ was born.

The earliest title for the book was *The City of Oz*, then *The City of the Great Oz*, *The Emerald City*, *From Kansas to Fairyland*, *The Fairyland of Oz*, *The Land of Oz* and, finally, *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*. Although the book was a great success, Baum did not write the next one, *The Marvellous Land of Oz*, until 1904, followed in 1907 by *Ozma of Oz*.



At the request of his publishers, Baum produced an Oz book every year. Each was more popular than the one before but, following the publication of *The Emerald City of Oz* in 1910, he announced that the adventures in Oz were at an end. However, in 1911 he was declared bankrupt for a second time and this, along with the overwhelming number of letters from children asking for “more about Dorothy”, persuaded him to change his mind. In 1913, *The Patchwork Girl of Oz* appeared, and Baum became the Royal Historian of Oz for life. After his death in 1919, his two final Oz books were published and a successor was sought. Established children’s writer Ruth Plumly Thompson took over as Royal Historian until 1940. Others took up the challenge, with Thompson adding two more stories in the 1970s.

As early as 1903, Baum had produced an elaborate Oz entertainment: a combination of hand-coloured silent films, slides, orchestral music and narration by Baum himself. In 1910, three short silent films were made based on Oz tales, and this inspired Baum to form the Oz Film Company and produce *The Patchwork Girl of Oz* and *His Majesty, the Scarecrow of Oz* in 1914, although neither was particularly successful.

Twenty-five years later, in 1939, MGM released their film of *The Wizard of Oz*. Although always considered an important film for the studio – a vehicle for their starlet Judy Garland – no-one dreamt they were involved in creating a classic. It cost more and took longer to make than any other film made by MGM that year; it was over 20 years before it earned back its production costs of \$2.75 million.

More than 14 writers had a hand in the script and there were five directors over the five months it took

to shoot. Margaret Hamilton (the Wicked Witch of the West) developed a green patina on her skin as a result of the make-up, then spent six weeks off the set when she suffered first and second degree burns. Her stand-in, Betty Danko, suffered even worse burns on a re-shoot. Ray Bolger was originally cast as the Tin Man, but he had been such a fan of the Oz stories as a child that, when he had signed his contract with MGM, it was agreed that he would play the Scarecrow if an Oz film was ever made. The other actor involved, Buddy Ebsen, did not mind at all, but this role swap was destined to take him off the film in a very dramatic way. Ray Bolger developed lines from gluing his mask to his face, but Buddy also had a problem with make-up: “they glued a cap on my head and covered it and glued a rubber nose and a rubber chin and then covered the whole thing with clown white and then powdered aluminum dust on my face and head.” Two weeks later, Buddy Ebsen was unable to breathe and ended up in hospital. His replacement, Jack Haley, could not sit down in his costume. Bert Lahr, as the Cowardly Lion, wore more than 50 pounds of real lion skin and lots of padding. To add insult to injury, none of the principal actors except Judy Garland were allowed to eat in the MGM refectory – in case they frightened the other staff!

Even the dog who played Toto did not escape the curse of the filming – she had to be replaced for a few shots when one of the extras trod on her!

But was it worth all the pain and effort? *The Wizard of Oz* had the misfortune to appear in the same year as *Gone With the Wind*, which scooped most of the Oscars, and it was not initially popular with critics or filmgoers either. However, over time *The Wizard of Oz* became an American institution and, in 1977, it was voted into the Top Ten Best American Films.

A is for **A**merica
That's where we set our scene.

B is for the **B**rain
Which is the Scarecrow's fondest dream.

C is for the **C**ourage that the Lion strives to find
And also for the **C**oward that he wants to leave behind.

D brings us to **D**orothy, transported in a whirl
And **E** is for her Aunt **E**m who loves the little girl.

The **E**merald City begins with **E** as well
F says that it is **F**ar away, how far we cannot tell.

Glinda and Miss **G**ulch are introduced with **G**
And Tin Man wants his **H** for **H**eart as soon as that may be!

I is for **I**mpossible, that's what this quest would seem
J is for the **J**ourney's end – it may be just a dream.

K is for **K**ansas where that journey starts and ends
L is for the **L**ion as he joins this group of friends.

M finds out the **M**unchkins and Professor **M**arvel too,
N's for **N**ever giving up – they'll certainly come through!

O will be the land of **O**z, strange and full of wonder
P the pretty **P**oppy field – we'll try not to go under!



OZAZZ

Q is for the **Q**uiet when our story's being told
R is for the **R**ainbow – at the end a pot of gold!

S is for the **S**lippers – an enchanting ruby red
And for the brainless **S**carecrow – there seems nothing in his head!

T brings in the **T**in Man who seems 'heart-less' without doubt
And **T**oto too the little dog – we musn't leave him out!

U's the **U**nderstanding that the travellers soon show
And **V** the **V**ery weary way – they still have far to go.

With **W** we're back again with **W**itches
and with **W**izards
But which is good and which is bad –
one holds us back with blizzards!

Wicked witch, then good witch,
now the **W**izard you must see
But even when you find him he's not all he seems to be.

X is for the **eX**tra help to keep bad spells at bay
Y the **Y**ellow bricks that show we're going the right way.

Z is for the happy **Z**one to which we all aspire
Where Dorothy and all her friends achieve their
hearts' desire.

Finally, she's certain that wherever she may roam
Munchkinland or even Oz, there's just no place
like home!



WITCHES & WIZARDS

WITCHES!

Witches have been around for a very long time.

Practically every culture and civilisation we know about has had its wise women and powerful goddesses who have cast spells, healed the wounded and changed the fate of many lesser mortals.

After the classical witches such as Circe in the *Odyssey* who bewitched sailors on her island and turned them into pigs, we come across rather kinder witches in the Bible, where we find the benevolent witch of Endor.

In medieval times, much was written about witches, but most of what was believed about them was based on fear and superstition rather than real knowledge of the facts. There were official witch-hunts – we even had a Witchfinder General at one time – and, sadly, many perfectly innocent old women who just happened to live alone with a black cat were persecuted and even killed, because people were afraid of what they might do.

We can find a lot about magic and witches in the plays of William Shakespeare, who was writing in the time of Elizabeth I and James I. There was much interest in witches and King James himself wrote a book about witchcraft! Shakespeare's most famous magician is Prospero in *The Tempest*, and the most memorable witches are the three weird sisters in *Macbeth*, who seem to be able to foretell the future, casting spells and chanting:

*Fair is foul, and foul is fair
Hover through the fog and filthy air.*

Nowadays, we can see and read about all kinds of different witches: there are reruns of a popular television series from the 1960s, *Bewitched*, which shows the funny side of the trials and tribulations of a 'mixed' marriage between a witch and a mortal; Roald Dahl has created some pretty

frightening witches, and Terry Pratchett's witches of Discworld glory in such names as Granny Weatherwax and Nanny Ogg. And we must mention the lovely Sabrina, a witch for the 21st century, who had her own series on television!

The opposition of good and evil magic in the two witches in *The Wizard of Oz* might also remind us of the battle between the Jedi Knights and those who have gone to the Dark Side in the *Star Wars* saga.

It is certainly the case that witches turn up in quite a few fairy tales: while Cinderella's wicked stepmother is not exactly a witch, her Fairy Godmother has many of the powers traditionally associated with witches; she can turn animals into other things for instance. Snow White's stepmother also shows many of the telltale signs, including the possession of a magic mirror. In *Sleeping Beauty*, it is the bad fairy who puts a curse on the baby Princess Aurora, and even the last of the good fairies cannot remove the spell, only make it slightly less awful.

WIZARDS!

The word 'wizard' comes from the Old English word 'wys' which means 'wise'.

'Wizard' is also an old-fashioned word you might have seen in a school story from 50 or 60 years ago – a kind of schoolboy slang word which meant 'wonderful' or 'brilliant'.

Sometimes it is difficult to discover whether famous wizards of the past were actual historical figures or characters from myth and legend – often it turns out to be a combination of the two.

The Egyptian Claudius Ptolemaeus, known to us as Ptolemy, was a real person, and lived in Alexandria in the early part of the 2nd century AD. He was an astronomer and mathematician and wrote a book about what he observed in the stars, which influenced scholars for more than a thousand years – even though he was wrong about the Earth being the centre of the universe rather than the Sun!

Two wizards born in Europe at the end of the 15th century were both involved with medicine. Heinrich Cornelius Agrippa worked as a doctor, lawyer, astrologer and faith healer, but he made enemies as well as

friends and was denounced as a sorcerer. The Church condemned him as a heretic and sent him to prison.

Philippus Aureolus Paracelsus began his career as a medical doctor, then he turned to the study of magic, especially alchemy and divination. He said: "The universities do not teach all things, so a doctor must seek out old wives, gypsies, sorcerers, wandering tribes, old robbers, and such outlaws and take lessons from them. A doctor must be a traveller. Knowledge is experience."

Nowadays, we should probably think of him as a practitioner of alternative medicine, and he got results – he helped stop an outbreak of the plague in 1534 by using a kind of vaccination!

Finally we come to someone considered to be one of the greatest and wisest of wizards – Merlin. Even though the Merlin we read about today is a character created from fantastic old legends, he may well have been based on a real person. He is most often associated with King Arthur – he of the sword in the stone and the round table – and there are many stories of Arthur calling on Merlin for his wise counsel.

Wizards have always been popular in stories and, in the last few years, some of these famous wizards have been brought to life in film, particularly Gandalf in JRR Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy and, of course, a complete wizard civilisation and culture in the *Harry Potter* stories!

Elaine Peake © John Good



WIZARDLY

WORDSEARCH

Can you find all the words listed at the bottom of the page in the wordsquare? The hidden words may run backwards, forwards, up, down and even diagonally!

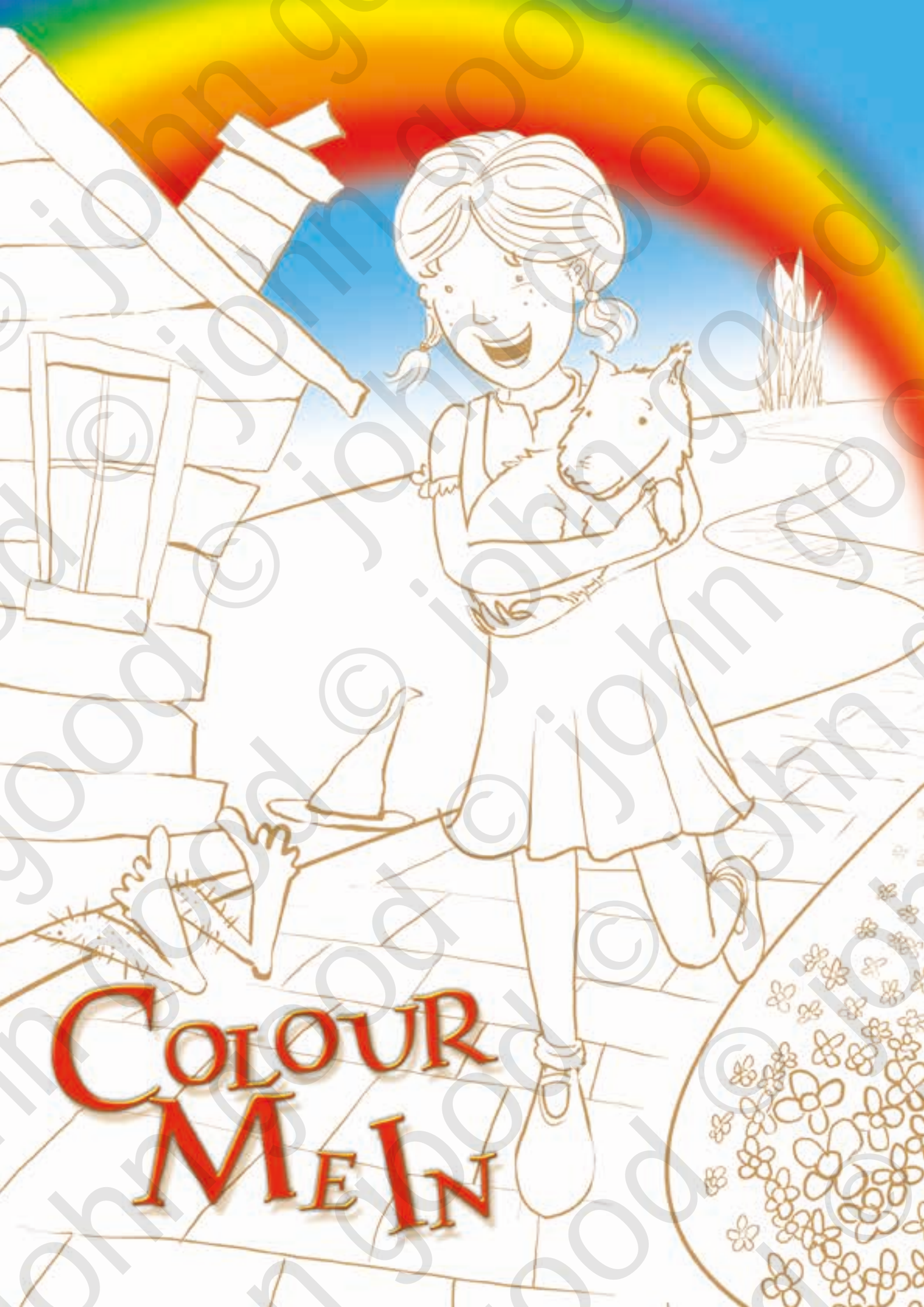
Y G S Y E K N O M D E G N I W E
C E R U B Y S L I P P E R S M L
O Y L P O P P Y F I E L D E G Y
W B M L L O I U H G V B R A I N
A H T R O N Q E F F X A C V B N
R W I S L W B G F D L T R A E H
D E N N A E B W A D D H C T I W
L S M I U V F R C Y H T F D W O
Y T A K N K J I I X O N U I O R
L Y N H T Q T Z Y C I T H D B C
I B I C Y Y I U H G K C O R N E
O G X N E A Q E T F X R I T I R
N J E U M O X G F D E T O H A A
V Z F M G E Y H T O R O D A R C
T O R N A D O Q S A S N A K D S

HEART
MUNCHKINS
WINGED MONKEYS
POPPY FIELD
DOROTHY
TOTO

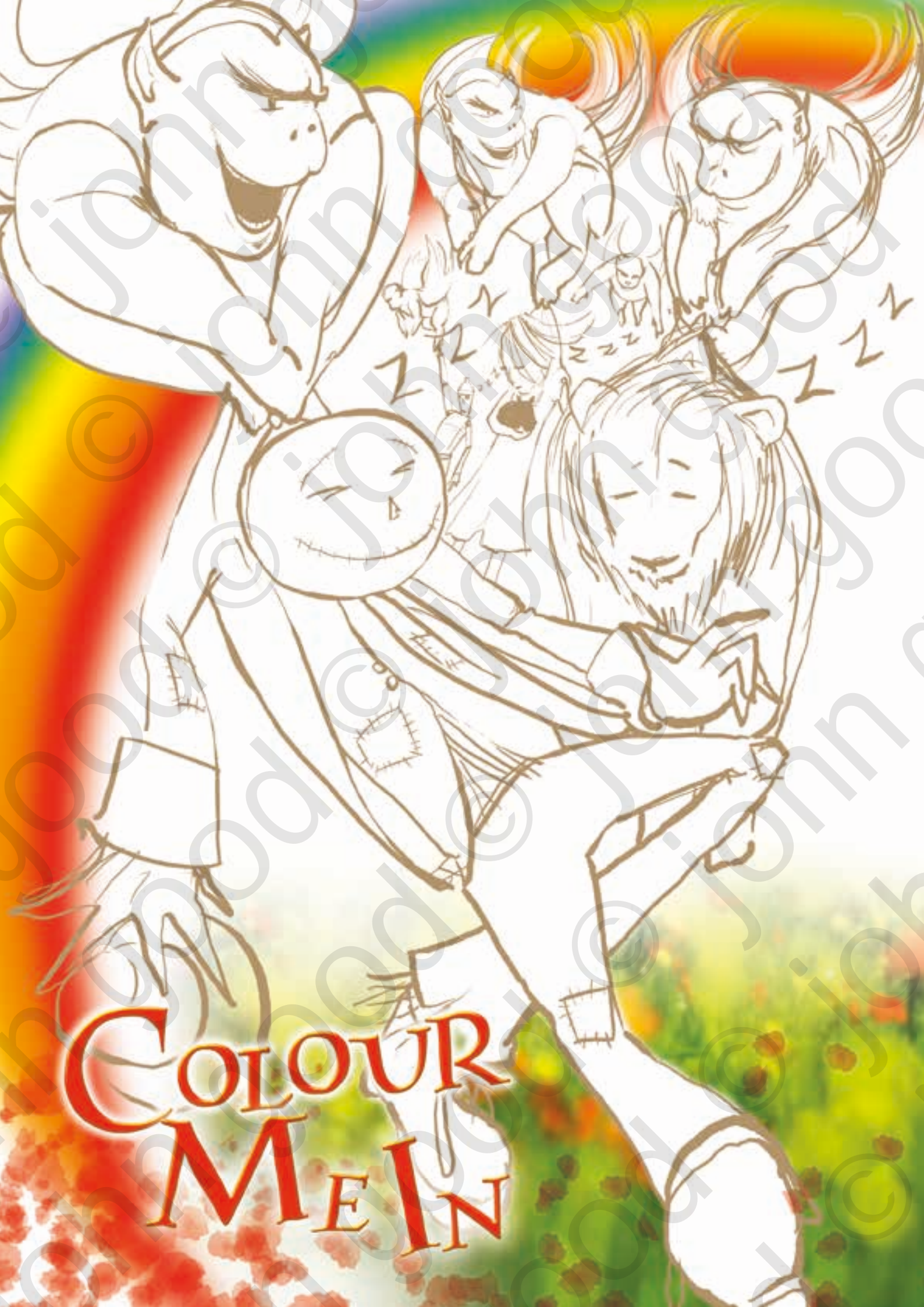
WEST
RAINBOW
AUNTY EM
BRAIN
RUBY SLIPPERS
KANSAS

EMERALD CITY
COWARDLY LION
TINMAN
TORNADO
WITCH
NORTH

OZ
SCARECROW
YELLOW BRICK ROAD



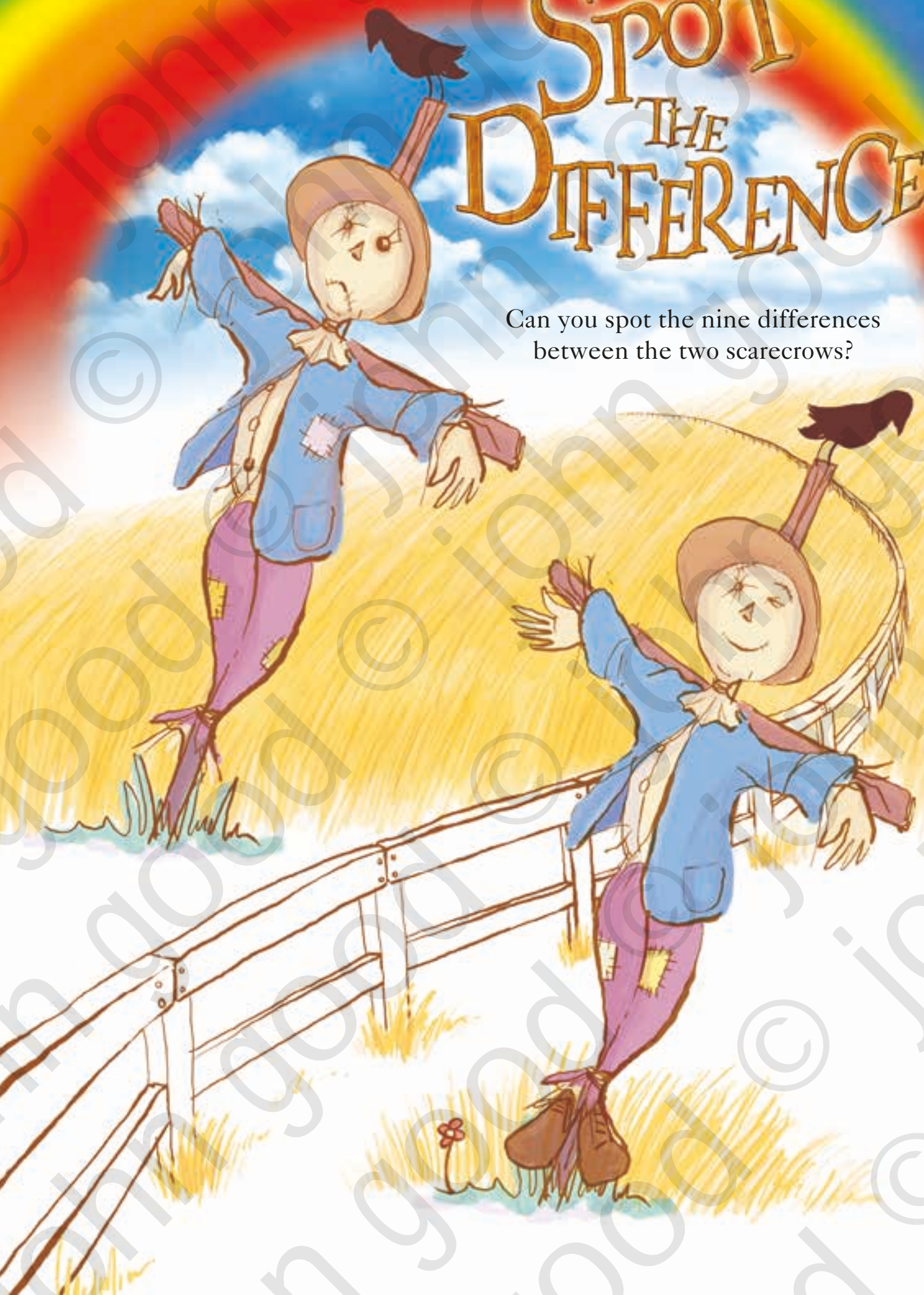
COLOUR ME IN



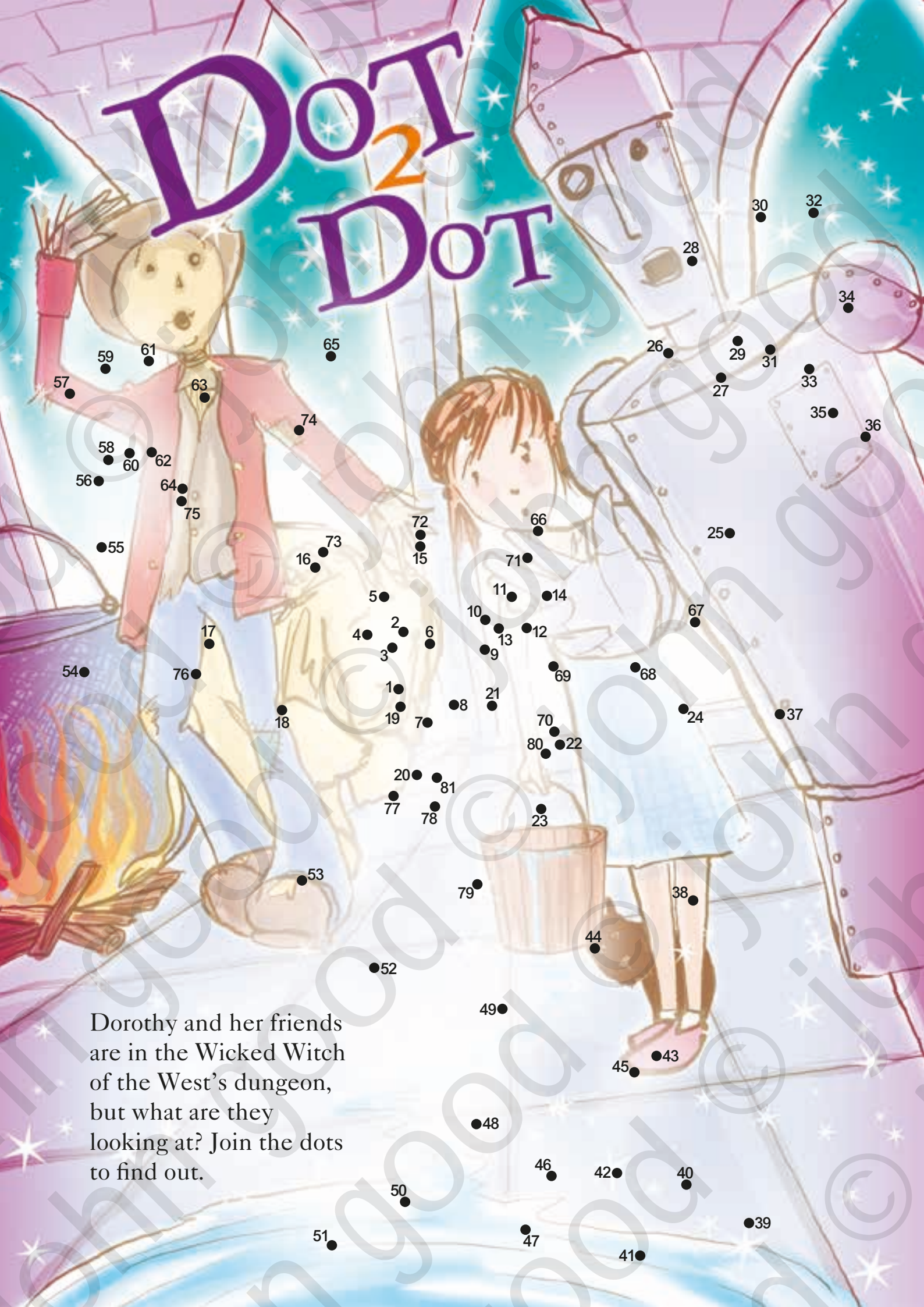
COLOUR
ME IN

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Can you spot the nine differences
between the two scarecrows?



Dot 2 Dot



Dorothy and her friends are in the Wicked Witch of the West's dungeon, but what are they looking at? Join the dots to find out.

51

50

47

41

39

46

42

40

48

45

43

38

79

23

80

22

70

21

20

81

77

78

4

2

3

6

10

11

13

12

14

71

15

72

16

73

17

74

18

75

19

76

20

77

21

78

22

79

23

80

24

81

25

82

26

83

27

84

28

85

29

86

30

87

31

88

32

89

33

90

34

91

35

92

36

93

37

94

38

95

39

96

51

50

47

41

39

46

42

40

48

45

43

38

79

23

80

22

70

21

20

81

77

78

4

2

3

6

10

11

13

12

14

71

15

72

16

73

17

74

18

75

19

76

20

77

21

78

22

79

23

80

24

81

25

82

26

83

27

84

28

85

29

86

30

87

31

88

32

89

33

90

34

91

35

92

36

93

37

94

38

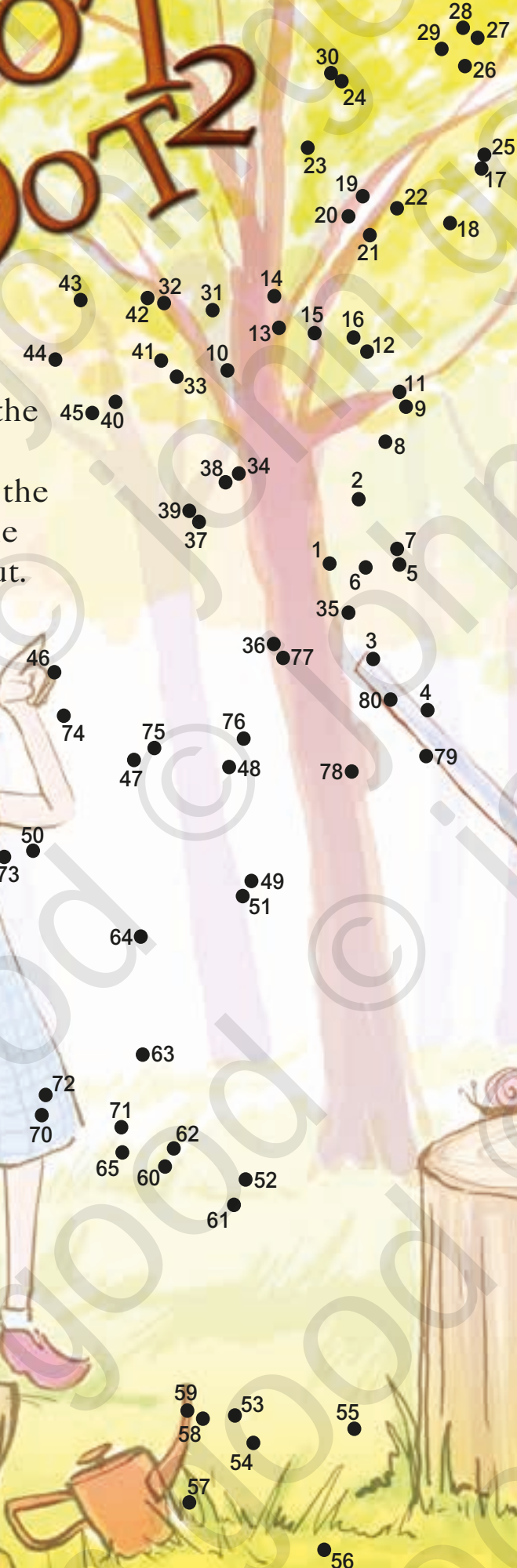
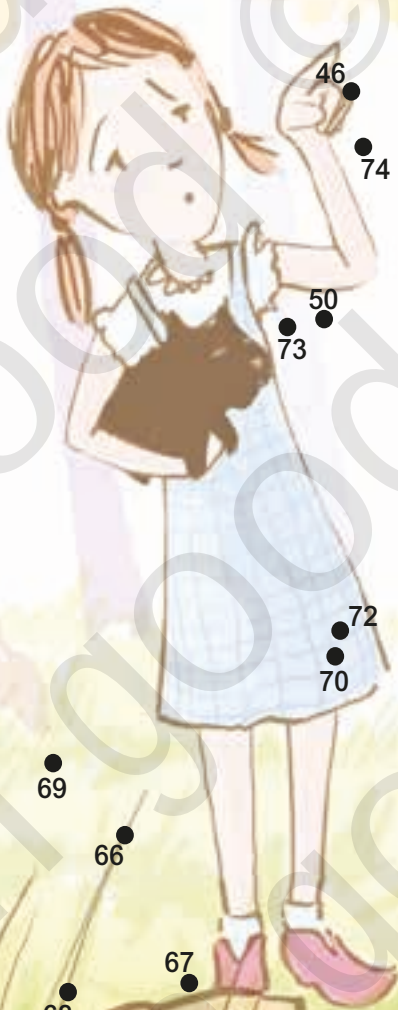
95

39

96

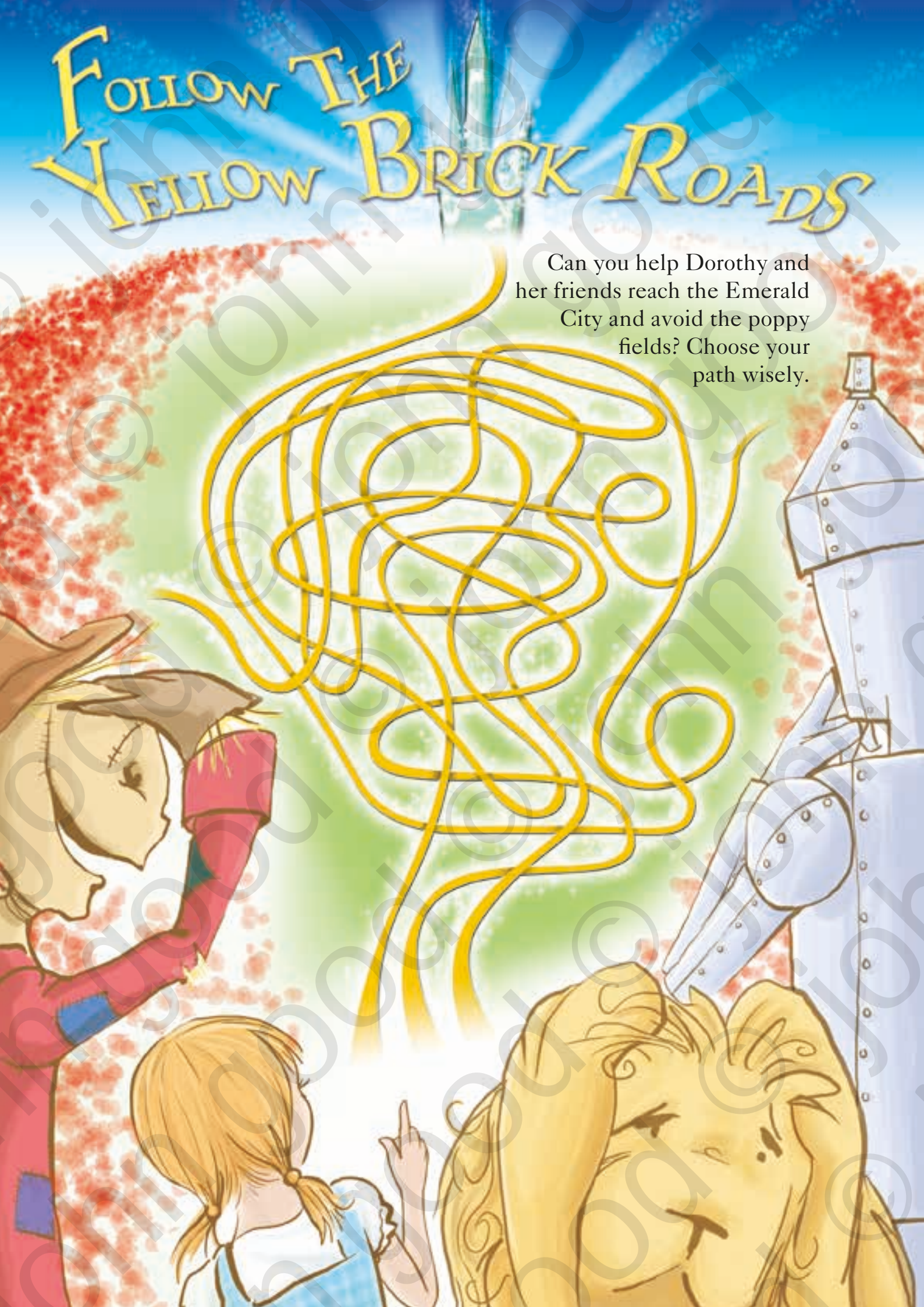
Dot Dot 2

What can Dorothy and the Scarecrow be pointing at in the forest? Join the dots to find out.



FOLLOW THE YELLOW BRICK ROADS

Can you help Dorothy and her friends reach the Emerald City and avoid the poppy fields? Choose your path wisely.



ANSWERS

FOLLOW THE YELLOW BRICK ROADS

WIZARDLY WORDSEARCH

V	G	S	Y	E	K	N	O	M	D	E	G	N	I	W	E
C	E	R	U	B	Y	S	L	I	P	P	E	R	S	M	L
O	Y	L	P	O	P	P	Y	F	I	E	L	D	E	G	Y
W	B	M	L	O	T	U	H	G	V	B	R	A	I	N	
A	H	T	R	O	N	Q	E	F	F	X	A	C	V	B	N
R	W	I	S	L	W	B	G	F	D	E	T	R	A	E	H
D	E	N	N	A	E	B	W	A	D	D	H	C	T	I	W
L	S	M	I	U	V	F	R	C	Y	H	T	F	D	W	O
Y	T	A	K	N	K	J	I	X	O	N	U	L	O	R	
L	Y	N	H	I	Q	T	Z	Y	C	I	H	D	B	C	
I	B	I	C	Y	V	I	U	H	G	K	C	O	R	N	E
O	G	X	N	E	A	Q	E	T	F	X	R	I	F	I	R
N	J	E	U	M	O	X	G	F	D	E	T	O	H	A	A
V	Z	F	M	G	E	Y	H	T	O	R	O	D	A	R	C
T	O	R	N	A	D	O	Q	S	A	S	N	A	K	D	S



SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

