

FAN FICTION

WRITING FROM SOURCE MATERIAL

*Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West** is a novel which was written when the author imagined what had happened before the story of *The Wizard of Oz*. The writer, Gregory Maguire, decided he wanted to put his own spin on the story and on an existing character, who was very well known.

Below are some exercises which might help students to develop ideas and create their own piece of 'fan fiction' to enter into the Wicked Young Writer Awards!

BEFORE THE STORY

In *Wicked*, Gregory Maguire explored the world of Oz before the story of the Wizard of Oz began.

Think of a story you like – this might be from a novel, a film, a play, a song or a poem. What do you think the characters were doing before the story began? Perhaps there are moments in their lives which are not told in the story, which would explain why they are behaving a certain way, or have a certain reputation?

You could write up your idea as a short story, or an earlier chapter to the novel.



DURING THE STORY

Sometimes in a story, a film, a play or a poem, certain events are alluded to but they are not actually part of the story. For example, in *Wicked*, examples could include:

- Nessarose, Elphaba and her father travel together to Shiz University
- Glinda introduces Elphaba to her parents
- Fiyero confides in one of his friends that he has feelings for Elphaba

Think about a moment in a novel, play or film that is 'missing' from the story. What do you think might have happened during that scene?

Students should now write that scene in their chosen style (e.g. as prose, a script, in verse) to fit in with the rest of the story.



CHARACTER EXPLORATION

Choose a character from a book you know well. Write a short story or poem that reveals a different side to the same character, explaining their actions or revealing something extra the reader does not know.

You could also do this exercise about real life people – either someone you know or a famous person, and write a story in which they are the central figure.



AFTER THE STORY

Often a film or story ends once a particular problem has been resolved. But the characters can often be starting off on a new ‘chapter’ of their story.

Think about a story which ends in this way. What do you think might have happened next?

Write up your idea as a story.

A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

Through *Wicked*, we learn that first impressions are not always what they seem. If you have seen the show, try using these as prompts to take the tale of *Wicked* in a new direction.

Discuss the topics, or brainstorm a few of your own:

- What if Elphaba had never met Glinda?
- What if Glinda had ‘defied gravity’ with Elphaba and run away from the Wizard?
- What if Fiyero hadn’t stood up to the guards to save Elphaba?

If you haven’t seen the show, you could apply similar ‘What If’ questions to a story you know.



Once the students have completed their stories, remember you can enter these to the Wicked Young Writer Awards online or via post for the chance to win some amazing prizes for your students and your school!

www.wickedyoungwriterawards.com

**Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West* is a book appropriate for readers aged 16+