

Wizard of Oz

The Wizard of Oz is a 1939 American musical fantasy film produced by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, and the most well-known and commercially successful adaptation based on the 1900 novel *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* by L. Frank Baum. The Wizard of Oz is widely noted for its musical selections and soundtrack. The music was composed by Harold Arlen, and the lyrics were written by E. Y. "Yip" Harburg, both of whom won the Academy Award for Best Original Song for "Over the Rainbow." In addition, Herbert Stothart won the Academy Award for Best Original Music Score.

The music in the *Wizard of Oz* not only adds to the movie, it also helps the viewer to become emotionally invested in the movie. While traveling to Oz to meet "the great and powerful" wizard, Dorothy encounters three highly unique characters and these four become fast friends. Each of these characters is searching for something they believe they lack and sing a song to describe to the audience their particular need. These three songs identify that the scarecrow is searching for a brain, the tin-man a heart, and the lion-nerve.

Task: The Wizard of Oz was released during the Great Depression, a dark time in history when many Americans were unemployed, lived in poverty, and desired many things they now lacked. Entertainment, movies and music, were a way to brighten the mood during this dark time. The upbeat and positive message and music of the *Wizard of Oz* gave many comfort and hope. Considering this, you and your partners will be taking on the role of someone who lived during the Great Depression. You will then create a version of "If I Only had a..." taking into account the desires and needs of someone from this time period. Your lyrics should follow the same rhythm and beat as the original songs.

Once you have written your song, you will share it with the class. Since many of you are not "Idol" worthy, you may just speak it to the class.

Listed below are the lyrics to *If I Only Had a Brain*, *If I Only Had a Heart*, and *If I Only Had The Nerve*. You can use these lyrics to help you accomplish your task.

If I Only Had a Brain

I could while away the hours
Conferring with the flowers
Consulting with the rain.
And my head I'd be a-scratchin'
While my thoughts were busy hatchin'
If I only had a brain.

I'd unravel every riddle
For any individdle
In trouble or in pain
With the thoughts I'd be a-thinkin'
I could be another Lincoln
If I only had a brain.

Oh I could tell you why
The ocean's near the shore
I could think of things I'd never thunk
before
And then I'd sit, and think some more.

I would not be just a nothin'
My head all full of stuffin'
My heart all full of pain
I would laugh and I'd be merry
Life would be a dingederry
If I only had brain.

If I Only Had a Heart

When a man's an empty kettle
He should be on his mettle
And yet I'm torn apart
Just because I'm presumin'
That I could be kinda human
If I only had a heart

I'd be tender
I'd be gentle
And awful sentimental
Regarding love and art
I'd be friends with the sparrows
And the boy who shoots the arrows
If I only had a heart

If I Only Had the Nerve

Life is sad, believe me, Missy,
when you're born to be a sissy,
without the vim and verve.
But I could change my habits,
never more be scared of rabbits,
if I only had the nerve

I'm afraid there's no denying,
I'm just a dandelion,
a fate I don't deserve.
But I could show my prowess,
be a lion not a meowess,
if I only had the nerve.

Picture me
A balcony
Above a voice sings low
Where for art thou, Romeo?
I hear a beat
How sweet

Just to register emotion
Jealousy, devotion
And really feel the part
I could stay young and chipper
And I'd lock it with a zipper
If I only had a heart

Oh, I'd
be in my stride
a king down to the core.
I could roar a way I never roared before,
and then I'd... RRWWWWWWOOOOF!
And roar some more!!

I could show the dinosaur
whose king around the forest
a king they better serve.
Why with my regal beezer
I could be another Caesar
if I only had the nerve