

Silver Shoes

**Symbolic of:**

Silver money

**Characteristics:**

The Populists thought silver would answer their problems. However, when Dorothy arrives back in Kansas, she no longer has the shoes- representing the fade of the silver issue.

Dorothy

**Symbolic of:**

“Miss Everyman”  
Common people

**Characteristics:**

Although common, they won't just sit back and take what is given to them. Dorothy was too innocent to realize the power she had.

Glenda the Good Witch

**Symbolic of:** Universal Goodness

**Characteristics:** Not all is bad. No matter how bad or grim there is always hope.

Emerald City

**Symbolic of:** Washington, D.C.

**Characteristics:** Emeralds represented “greenback” currency

The Yellow Brick Road

**Symbolic of:** The gold standard

**Characteristics:** Each dollar was equal to and redeemable for a set amount of gold. The amount in circulation was limited by the amount of gold held in the U.S. treasury.

The Wizard of Oz

**Symbolic of:** any U.S. President from Grant to McKinley

**Characteristics:** He is able to be everything to everybody but in reality he is just a common person hiding behind a façade of paper mache and noise.

The Tin Man

**Symbolic of:** The northern factory worker.

**Characteristics:** Capitalists were treating workers like machines, pushing them to work long hours for little pay. The workers think they themselves are no longer capable of feeling love and are dehumanized.

Rainbow

**Symbolic of:** Hope

**Characteristics:** Rainbows appear after rainstorms, which are few and far between in the Plains.

L. Frank Baum's book The Wonderful Wizard of Oz was first published in 1900. It has been suggested that the book is full of symbolism reflecting the Populist Era of U.S. History.

**The Wonderful Wizard of Oz**

**An Allegory of the Populist Movement**

The Scarecrow

**Symbolic of:**

Midwestern farmers that thought they were weak, but they weren't.

**Characteristics:**

Mistakenly sees himself as inferior and believed by many to be ignorant, the scarecrow emerges as shrewd and capable-becomes leader of Oz when the wizard flies away.

The Populist Movement was a push from farmers and laborers that grew from the grassroots farmers' fraternity known as The Grange. The Populist Party was formed in 1892 and ran James Weaver for President. The Populists pushed for a graduated income tax, free coinage of silver, the direct election of senators, government ownership of railroads and telegraphs, and establishment of sub-treasuries.

The Cowardly Lion

**Symbolic of:**

William Jennings Bryan

**Characteristics:** A wonderful speaker, but an unsuccessful politician. Lost the vote of the laborers due to pressure by their employers

The Wicked Witch of the West

**Symbolic of:** Nature

**Characteristics:** Nature was not kind to the mid-western farmers. Dorothy kills the wicked witch of the west by throwing water on her. The water symbolizes irrigation in the West, which helped the farmers overcome the problems with nature (somewhat, drought and dust will still be an ongoing problem.)

The Winged Monkeys

**Symbolic of:** Plains Indians (1890s)

**Characteristics:** Unable to find a home in U.S. Frontier was dying out and govt. was unable to send them west again.

The Wicked Witch of the East

**Symbolic of:** Industrialist Capitalists.

**Characteristics:** Kept the workers in bondage working long hours.