The original written work, *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* by Frank L. Baum, can be considered an allegory for the political and economic events of the 1890’s in the United States. The rise of the Populist Party, the conflict over monetary standards (gold vs. silver), the inaction of political leaders and the upheaval that would be necessary to bring about change.

The movie version, released in 1939, is often seen as an allegory for the events of the Great Depression.

Answer the following questions concerning the symbolism found in the *Wizard of Oz*.

1. How do the colors used at the beginning of the movie represent life in the great Depression?
2. How is the snatching of Toto by Miss Gulch and Dorothy’s response (running away) symbolic of the actions seen during the Great Depression?
3. Explain how the Wizard of Oz can be seen as symbolic of President Hoover.
4. Which character could be seen as symbolic of President Roosevelt? Why?
5. Who do Dorothy and her three friends represent?
6. How are the characteristics of Dorothy and her three friends representative of the American Dream? What lessons could learned that may have helped people during the Great Depression?