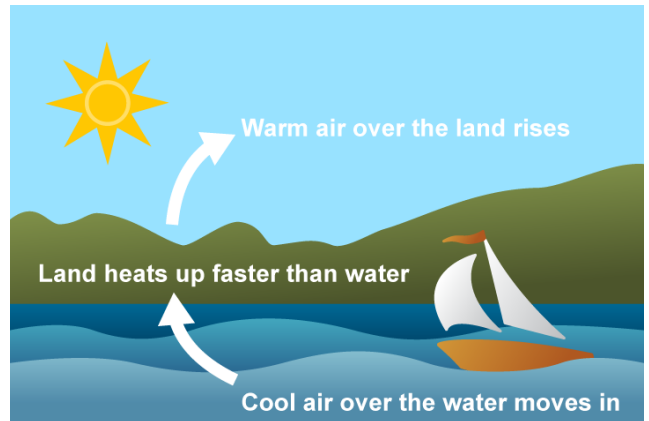


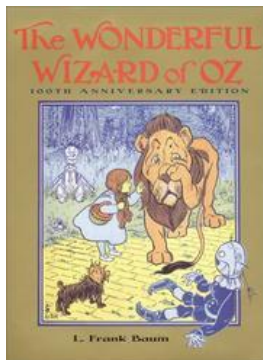
AIR CURRENTS (6-8)

KEY CONCEPTS:

- **Weather** refers to the state of the atmosphere from day to day (it is raining, etc.)
- **Climate** is the term for the average atmospheric conditions in a region over a long period of time.
- **Air currents** are concentrated areas of wind. They are created by temperature and pressure changes combined with the earth's rotation.



LITERACY CONNECTION:

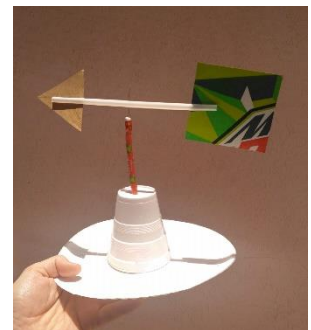


When we usually think of the classic story [*The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*](#) by L. Frank Baum, never forget that Dorothy's adventure began with a *very windy day*! Click the book title for access to a digital version of the book.

ACTIVITY: WEATHER VANE

Materials: thin cardboard (cereal box is great), straw, scissors, tape, paper plate, paper cup, markers, pencil with an eraser, pin, compass, ruler, rocks/pennies

1. Cut a square of cardboard about 3 ½ in x 3 ½ in AND a triangle shape about 2 ½ in tall.
2. Cut a slit in each end of the straw.
3. Slide the cardboard onto each end of the straw and tape it.
4. Write *North, South, East* and *West* on the plate (shown)
5. Glue the cup upside down in the center of the plate.
6. Push the pencil through the top of the cup
TIP: Don't push too tight –the straw should be able to spin
7. Mark the center of the straw and push the pin through the straw and into the pencil eraser
8. Use the compass to line up with north, and weigh the plate down with rocks, pennies, etc.



EXPLORE: When the wind blows, why does the arrow point to the direction the wind is coming from? Visit the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) [SciJinks page](#) to learn more about wind and how air moves all around our planet.

For step-by-step instructions, watch the video at: [Weather Vane STEM Activity](#)

This at-home educational activity is from the Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County's literacy-based Stories & STEM program. Stories & STEM is made possible with support from Prime Time Palm Beach County, Inc., which receives significant funding from the Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County, Inc.

Having fun? Send pictures or video links of you and your Stories & STEM projects to csharkey@literacypbc.org