

Tool:	Pot of Gold
Category:	Improving Spelling
Urban Specialist:	Angie Lamon
School Level:	K-5
Target Audience:	Special Education (can be used for K-5th in any subject)
References:	I have used this in the Urban School Special Education class for the last twelve years of teaching. I incorporated this into my lessons in spelling because my special ed. students had a hard time in spelling. They love it and really excel with this motivation!

**Rationale:** Students are the characters in the Wizard of Oz and follow the Yellow Brick Road to the Pot of Gold to earn lunch with the teacher. Students have to pass weekly spelling tests to participate.

**Description:** At the beginning of the school year, students may choose to be a character in the Wizard of Oz. They color and cut out the character and then it is waxed to stick to the wall. A yellow brick road with twelve bricks lead to the pot of gold. Each week the students are given a practice-spelling test on Wednesday. If they pass, they may move their character the appropriate spaces. They also are given free time on Friday while the others take their tests. Students choose if they want to move one or two bricks. If they make a 100+ on the test, they may move two bricks. If they make a 85-99, they may move one brick. That way the child decides on Wednesday if they passed the test with an 85, they can try again to make a 100 on Friday. The first person into the Pot of Gold at the end of the six weeks grading period has lunch with the teacher. This may be done with just cafeteria lunch or the teacher may choose to bring in a picnic lunch. Sometimes I bring in pizza or have someone make a quick run to McDonald's to bring back to the winner. This does take money out of the teacher's pocket, but the teacher can choose which option to do. The students love it and feel so important. They are also given a certificate to take home. The other students who do not earn the pot of gold get to choose out of the treasure chest for a small prize. (As the year progresses, there are usually more than one winner!)