The Lorax



0. The Lorax - Story Preface

1. MADAGASCAR and the TREE of LIFE

2. BRAZIL and the ATLANTIC FOREST

3. MOUNTAIN FORESTS of SOUTHWESTERN CHINA

4. RAIN FORESTS of INDONESIA

5. AMERICAN DEFORESTATION

6. WHAT CAN WE DO?

7. THE LORAX TAKES A TRIP

The Lorax is a story about what can happen when too-many trees are cut down. This image depicts a clear-cut area at Glennville, Georgia. Photo by Cameron Brooks, online via Archive for the Georgia Coast, at Verdant123.

The Lorax is worried
He feels really blue;
He's looking for helpers
Could one be you?

Once upon a time, in a made-up world, there were beautiful trees with brightly colored tops. People called them "Truffula" Trees.

No one, in our world, has ever seen such magical trees because they never existed here. Instead, we have different kinds of beautiful trees.

Then ... something happened in Truffula-Tree land. It no longer has those trees, or the birds, or the fish or the other animals which used to live nearby. Even The Lorax - who spoke for the trees - is no longer there.

People wanted the trees for other things, so they cut them down. That caused the animals, who needed the trees to live, to go somewhere else - or die.

We have magical trees in our world, too. Let's explore some of the places where they grow.

Credits:

The Lorax by Dr. Seuss

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:
http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/The-Lorax

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:
http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/The-Lorax

Questions 2 Ponder

What Is the Difference between Wants and Needs?

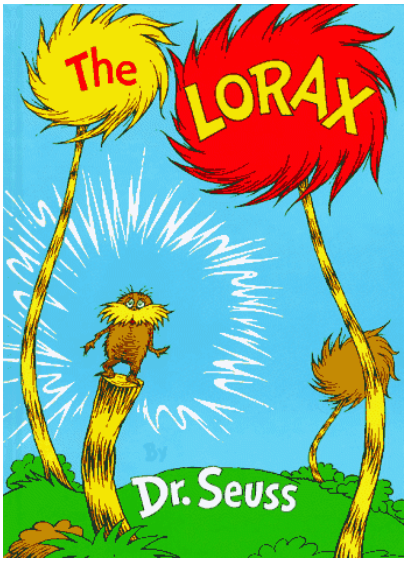
When people cut-down trees, to further human progress, they destroy environments needed by birds, insects and animals.

What is the difference between "want" and "need?" Is "wanting" something more important than "needing" it? Why, or why not?

Are the wants of human beings more important than the needs of animals, birds, insects and other creatures who live in wooded environments? Explain your answer.

How should we balance the "wants" and "needs" of people versus nature?

Media Stream



The Lorax by Dr. Seuss

The Lorax is a Dr. Seuss story with a message for both children and adults: Be really careful with our natural resources. Sometimes we can never get back what we use-up!

Amazon's website includes a review of *The Lorax*. Here is an excerpt from that critique:

When Dr. Seuss gets serious, you know it must be important. Published in 1971, and perhaps inspired by the "save our planet" mind set of the 1960s, The Lorax is an ecological warning that still rings true today amidst the dangers of clear-cutting, pollution, and disregard for the earth's environment.

In The Lorax, we find what we've come to expect from the illustrious doctor: brilliantly whimsical rhymes, delightfully original creatures, and weirdly undulating illustrations. But here there is also something more - a powerful message that Seuss implores both adults and children to heed.

The now remorseful Once-ler - our faceless, bodiless narrator - tells the story himself. Long ago this enterprising villain chances upon a place filled with wondrous Truffula Trees, Swomee-Swans, Brown Bar-ba- loots, and Humming-Fishes. Bewitched by the beauty of the Truffula Tree tufts, he greedily chops them down to produce and mass-market Thneeds. ("It's a shirt. It's a sock. It's a glove. It's a hat.")

As the trees swiftly disappear and the denizens leave for greener pastures, the fuzzy yellow Lorax (who speaks for the trees "for the trees have no tongues") repeatedly warns the Once-ler, but his words of wisdom are for naught.

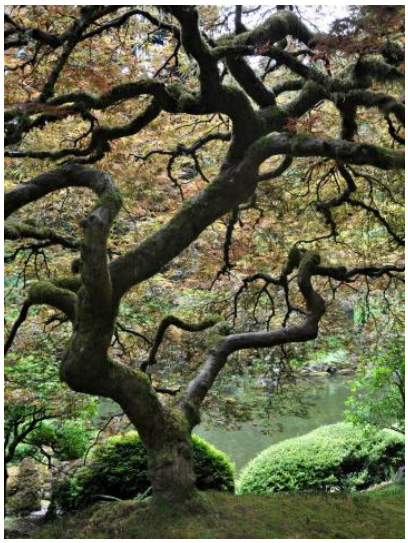
Finally the Lorax extricates himself from the scorched earth (by the seat of his own furry pants), leaving only a rock engraved "UNLESS." Thus, with his own colorful version of a compelling morality play, Dr. Seuss teaches readers not to fool with Mother Nature.

But as you might expect from Seuss, all hope is not lost - the Once-ler has saved a single Truffula Tree seed! Our fate now rests in the hands of a caring child, who becomes our last chance for a clean, green future.

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The Lorax - Magical Trees

Photo of the Ornatum tree at Japanese Garden - Portland, Oregon - by Martin Ystenes, online via Flickr. Copyright, Martin Ystenes, all rights reserved. Image provided here as fair use for educational purposes.
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The Lorax

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