



- Sometimes an author is able to highlight important issues through storytelling. In 1971 Dr Seuss wrote a story entitled *The Lorax*. To this day the story teaches and reminds each generation about the importance of protecting the environment from those who wish to profit monetarily from it. Read the summary of *The Lorax* below, either individually or as a class.

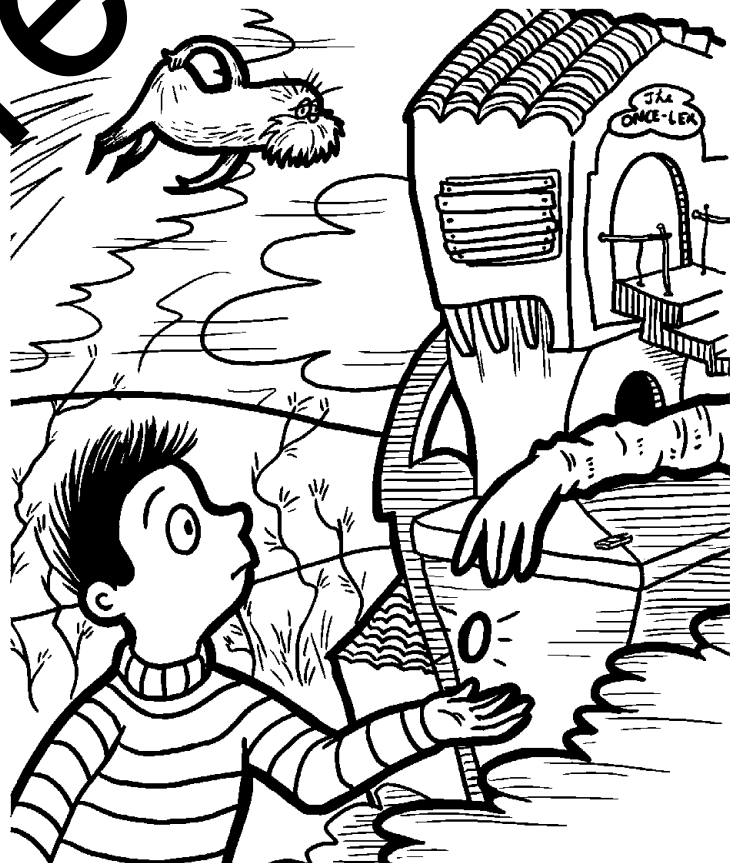
## The Lorax - A Summary

In *The Lorax*, a boy ventures off to the far end of town " ... where the Grickle-grass grows, and the wind smells slow-and-sour when it blows ..." He finds the old house of the evil Once-ler and hears the story of how his world came to be so grey and polluted.

The boy discovers a colourful place from long ago, teeming with Brown Bar-ba-loots, Humming-Fish and luscious, beautiful Truffula Trees. The trees were of particular interest, since they could be made into a garment called a Thneed. "A Thneed's A Fine-Something-That-All-People-Need! It's a shirt. It's a sock. It's a glove. It's a hat. But it has other uses. Yes, far beyond that." In this place is The Lorax, who speaks for the trees, and protests. But no one listens.

The Once-ler cranks up Thneed production, building a factory and expanding capacity to meet the needs of consumers. The Lorax pleads with him to keep the trees alive, but the Once-ler, driven by money, pays no attention. Soon the Bar-ba-loots and then the fish are driven away, because they can't survive in a habitat with so few trees. With the last Truffula Tree is chopped down, Thneed production stops, workers leave, the factory closes up and the Once-ler is left in a grim, desolate world of his own creation. Even The Lorax, whose persistent warnings went unheeded, takes off in search of someplace better. The book ends, back in the present, with the Once-ler giving the boy the last remaining Truffula Tree seed, in the hope that he can bring back the beautiful trees.

This story is a fable, it has a strong message about sustainability and the environment. It also points out that if people continue to purchase goods without thinking about how they are made and where they come from, then the world will end up as it did in *The Lorax*.



☐ After reading a summary of Dr. Seuss' book entitled *The Lorax* on the previous page, complete the questions below.

1. The Truffula Trees were scarce, natural resources. Explain why they were so valuable.

---

---

2. Explain why the Once-ler chopped down the first Truffula Tree.

---

---

3. What purpose did a Thneed have for consumers?

---

4. The Lorax did not think anyone would buy a Thneed. Was he correct? Quote from the text to support your answer.

---

---

5. What does the seed symbolise?

---

---

6. Who is the antagonist in the story? Why?

---

---

7. Explain what the environment was like before the company started making Thneeds. What was it like afterwards?

---

---

---

---

8. In your own words explain what Dr. Seuss was trying to teach us by writing this story.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

