

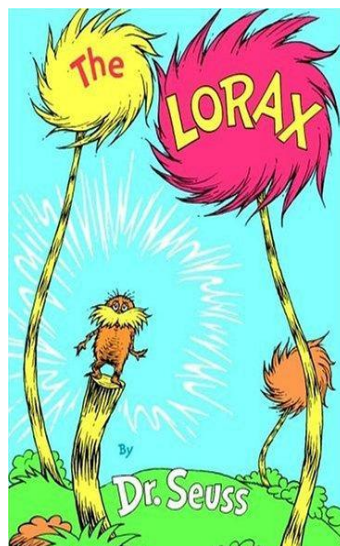
The Lorax, The Truax, and Sustainable Development

Please answer the following questions on a separate paper, and in complete sentences.

Part I – The Lorax

The Lorax is a story about a man whose activities abused the environment and about what he learned from the experience. The story contains many common components found in the environmental problems and issues facing humans around the world.

1. A "Thneed" is defined as a fine thing that everyone thinks they need (but probably really don't). What are some examples of thneeds - things that we think we need but could do quite well without?
2. What did the Lorax mean when he said "I speak for the trees?"
3. What was the Lorax's first warning? How did the Once-Ler respond?
4. How could the Once-ler have used the Truffula trees without cutting them down?
5. The Once-ler explains his actions by saying, "If I didn't do it, someone else would." Is this a good excuse for doing what he did? Explain.
6. Are any of the situations presented in the story similar to real situations in present-day society? if so, describe which resources and which groups of people are involved.
7. Often, technological production creates "by-products." Name 2 by-products that resulted from the making of thneeds, and explain their impact on the environment.
8. The Once-Ler's business failed. Why?
9. When the Once-Ler began expanding his business, a town grew up around the factory (urban sprawl). What happened to the workers and the town after the factory closed?
10. At the end of the story, the Once-Ler realized that he had made a serious mistake. What, in your opinion, was his mistake? Can you think of a real-life example where this might be taking place?
11. What do you think the Lorax's message "UNLESS" meant?
12. Why don't you ever see the face of the Once-ler?



Part 2 – The Truax

The Truax is a logger who teaches another character, Guardbark, about forestry and the importance of logging. As the story begins, the flying Guardbark sees Truax cutting down trees and is incensed. However, Truax explains the benefits of timber harvesting and forest management, such as providing diverse wildlife habitat, preventing catastrophic wildfires, and the use of renewable timber resources.

13. Read the attached story, “The Truax,” and compare and contrast the ideas expressed in each story.
14. Why did the Guardbark want people to leave trees alone? Give at least two reasons.
15. Why did Truax think it was reasonable to cut some trees? Give at least two reasons.
16. Name three ways that Native Americans depended on trees. How did early American settlers use trees? Do we still need trees today?
17. Make a list of a least six products we use that come from trees. If we could not cut trees, we would have to use something else to make the products you listed. Beside each product, write down what we could use to replace the product made from trees.
18. What does Truax and his friends do to make sure there are plenty of trees?
19. Which story, Lorax or Truax, do you think is the most like what is really happening in China? Explain your reasoning.

