



I am a high school librarian, in Georgia, who uses *AwesomeStories* on a daily basis. I believe all students and teachers need librarians to guide them in our 21st century world.

Only students that learn how to learn in our information and technology rich society will be successful in the 21st century. Teaching research skills on a daily basis I focus on skills such as locating appropriate resources, evaluation of sources, ethical and legal use of information, etc.

AwesomeStories makes teaching so much easier by providing high school appropriate information that has been vetted and linked to additional digital resources. *AwesomeStories* also includes citations and information on copyright, which makes it a one-stop resource for all my research lessons.

Any educator can tell you that the days of teachers standing in front of the room and lecturing for an hour while all the students enthusiastically take notes is long gone (as it probably should be). Today educators have to incorporate project based learning assignments and use students' interests to draw them into learning.

Incorporating *AwesomeStories* into lesson plans can increase students' motivation to learn by providing them an opportunity to learn using technology in an engaging way. An example of a recent lesson I worked on, with an environmental science teacher at my school, was using the Awesome Story based on *The Lorax* to incorporate research skills into a lesson on deforestation.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/How-a-High-School-Librarian-Uses-AwesomeStories-for-her-School>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/How-a-High-School-Librarian-Uses-AwesomeStories-for-her-School>

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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