



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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