

# Book Project Oral Presentation

## Introduction

Man's use of the environment to meet our needs is nothing new. Since the beginning of time man has taken what he needed from Mother Nature and she has generously provided for him. She has provided animals for clothing and food, plants for food and shelter. However, the industrial use of the environment is relatively new. Within the last 150 years Mother Nature has suffered due to irresponsible misuse of her resources. One need only look to the devastation of South America's Rainforests and the pollution of Europe's Lakes and Rivers. Has humanities lust for profit made us blind to the importance of properly caring for our environment? Who will fix the damage that we've already done, and who will prevent further damage? "Unless" you do, there may be little hope for our future. Dr. Suess raises those questions and suggests a solution in his widely-told children's story, "The Lorax." "The Lorax" may be a children's story, but it addresses a very adult issue: Who will save our planet from out of control, irresponsible industrial abuse? The main character in "The Lorax" is the Once-ler. He is an entrepreneur and inventor who searches the country for an opportunity and finds it in the land of the truffula tree. The Once-ler is motivated by one thing, money. And he's motivated by his drive for personal success. Unfortunately, that goal blinds him to the damage he does until finally he destroys even his own means of support, the beautiful truffula tree.

## Plot Summary

The story begins with a boy trying to find out why he lives in such a dismal place. He has heard that Once-ler may have the answers and he seeks him out and pays to hear his story. Once-ler tells how he originally came to the beautiful land of the truffula and built a wonderful business cutting the trees and manufacturing Thneeds. He tells of how a little wining creature that called himself Lorax repeatedly warned him to stop the cutting of the trees because he was damaging the environment for all the animals, and he tells of how his drive to make money caused him to turn a deaf ear to the Lorax's warnings. Eventually, all the animals are sent away, his business fails after he chops the last of the trees, and finally even the Lorax abandons the area, leaving nothing but a cryptic message in a pile of stones.

## Review

I liked this story because Dr. Suess brilliantly makes a rather complex message understandable to even the youngest of children...the very same audience that he might argue is the ultimate solution to the damage that we Once-lers have already done to our environment. If we fail to protect our environment and fail to fix the damage that we've already done to it, then we are the ones who will ultimately suffer.

## Project

My project focuses on that message. I used PowerPoint to construct an image reflecting the message of the Lorax. In the picture, The Lorax is letting the viewer know that we don't have to sacrifice the environment to achieve economic prosperity. The road to our future is a two-lane highway. If we travel the right path, protect our environment, and use it responsibly, we can achieve success that is mutually beneficial to all. But, if we take the wrong lane and fail to properly manage the use our natural resources, we will ultimately be consumed by that decision.

## Conclusion

"The Lorax" points out that it is a choice. Unfortunately, generations before us have made some poor choices and created damage that needs to be resolved. The Lorax's message is aimed at the generation Dr. Suess felt was the ultimate solution to the environmental problems that currently exist. Our children will either be the ones who fix the damage that has already been done and prevent further damage or be the ones who do nothing and ultimately suffer because of it. Dr. Suess makes it clear to the reader what that choice should be. His message in the pile of rocks is for all of us. "Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better, it's not."