Trees, Thneeds, and The Lorax’s Pleas:

The Paradoxical Nature of *The Lorax*

For the entire paper, use Times New Roman, 12 point font with 1” margins.

For the title page, centre the title of your paper and right justify information like your name, student number, and course code at the bottom of the page.

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Course: HIST 3756

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Number pages in the top right corner. Page 1 is the title page, but numbering begins on page 2.

Indent new paragraphs by five spaces.

Dr. Seuss’s The Lorax is considered to be one of the greatest children’s books that takes an interest in human ecology and the environmental movement. There are more scholarly interpretations of this book than any other children’s text strictly dealing with the environmental crisis. It was published in 1971, one year after the first Earth Day, and mirrors many of the themes that revolved around that day, such as responsibilities of the crisis and solutions for it. The Lorax, though, is a paradox because it is both a positive and a negative tool for the environmental movement. This paper will explore its paradoxes by looking at how the text mirrors the environmental crisis as seen around the first Earth Day as well as how this text was received and used by others. It will become clear that the text is a problematic teaching tool because of its contradictory nature.

Book titles are italicized in the text of a paper.

On April 22, 1970, the first Earth Day took place and was marked with events and activities that occurred all across America. It started out with an idea for a teach-in by Gaylord Nelson, an American Democrat, and it evolved into various activities (rallies, marches, performances) and lectures across America that had close to 20 million participants.[[1]](#footnote-1) Some people used the day to protest corporations, for example, in Denver, antinuclear activists presented the Rapist of the Year award to the Atomic Energy Commission.[[2]](#footnote-2) There were also groups that used guerilla theatre techniques. One example of this was at the University of Illinois, where students went on stage and disrupted a Commonwealth Edison speaker by throwing soot at each other and coughing.[[3]](#footnote-3) . . .

You are required to provide a reference for material that is summarized or paraphrased from another source.

Your word processing program will help you with footnotes. Be sure your note numbers match the citation information listed at the bottom of the page.

Suess makes clear connections between capitalism, greed, and environmental degradation throughout *The Lorax*:

I biggered my factory. I biggered my roads.

I biggered my wagons.

I biggered the loads of the Theends I shipped out.

I was shipping them forth to the South! To the East!

To the West! To the North!

I went right on biggering...selling more Thneeds.

And I biggered my money, which everyone needs.

Then AGAIN he came back!

I was fixing some pipes

when that old-nuisance Lorax came back

with MORE gripes.[[4]](#footnote-4)

A block quotation should be indented one tab (1/2 inch) and single-spaced. This quotation maintains the line breaks from the original poem.

A footnote immediately follows the final punctuation in the block quotation. Because a block quotation is set off from the rest of the text, no quotation marks are necessary.

For the Once-ler, the protests of the Lorax try his patience. He suggests that the Lorax’s complaints are insignificant “gripes”. The Once-ler is irritated by the constant interruptions from the Lorax because his capitalist ambitions are not consistent with the health or well-being of the Truffala trees or any of the inhabitants of the Grickle Grass. His priority is profit, and although, at first, he feels some sadness over the loss of the Bar-ba-loots and their potential as customers, he believes, “business is business/ and business must grow.”[[5]](#footnote-5)

A shorter direct quotation is integrated into the text of your paper, set off by quotation marks and followed by a footnote.

Centre the title, Bibliography, on the first page of your bibliographic listing.

Sources are listed in alphabetical order by the author’s last name. Double space all entries.

The second line of a bibliographic entry is indented one tab (1/2 inch).

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List multiple works by the same author in alphabetical order by the title of the work.

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the** [**ASC Online Documentation Guide: Footnoting/Endnoting (Chicago Style)**](http://www.trentu.ca/academicskills/documentation/chicago.php)

1. Robert Gottlieb, *Forcing the Spring* (Washington: Island Press, 1993), 105. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Gottlieb, *Forcing the Spring*, 111. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Gottlieb, *Forcing the Spring,* 111. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Dr. Seuss, *The Lorax*, (New York: Random House Inc, 1971) 18. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Seuss, *The Lorax*, 12. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)