

Name _____



Fading Beauty

At the beginning of *The Lorax*, the setting is a lush and colorful paradise. The land is filled with bright Truffula Trees, whose soft tufts sway in the breeze. The air is clean, and the sky is clear blue. Bar-ba-loots happily munch on Truffula Fruits, while Swomee-Swans sing sweet melodies. The Humming-Fish swim freely in crystal-clear waters. The environment is in perfect balance, a place full of life, joy, and harmony.

Then, the Once-ler arrives. He sees the Truffula Trees not as part of a beautiful world but as a resource to be used for profit. He cuts down a tree to make a Thneed, a product he believes everyone needs. As people buy more Thneeds, his business grows. To keep up with demand, he builds a factory and hires workers. More trees are chopped down, and soon the once-thriving paradise begins to change.

As the story continues, the setting becomes darker and gloomier. Thick smoke rises from the factories, blocking the once-clear sky. The river turns dark and dirty from pollution, forcing the Humming-Fish to leave. The Swomee-Swans can no longer sing because the air is too thick with smog. The Bar-ba-loots, weak and hungry, have to leave in search of food. The land, once filled with bright colors and happy creatures, turns into a gray, lifeless wasteland.

By the end of the book, nothing remains of the beautiful Truffula Forest. The Once-ler, left alone in the ruined land, finally realizes what he has done. He tells the story of the Lorax, who tried to warn him, and passes the last Truffula seed to a young child, hoping they will rebuild what was lost.

The change in the setting symbolizes the effects of greed and carelessness. At first, the forest is a symbol of a balanced, healthy environment. As the Once-ler takes more and more, the land deteriorates, showing how unchecked greed can destroy nature. In the end, the barren landscape is a warning of what happens when people do not take care of the world around them. However, the last Truffula seed represents hope—hope that if people care enough, nature can recover.