

Name _____



A New Beginning

As the young boy stands outside the Once-ler's home, he holds the last Truffula seed tightly in his hands. The Once-ler's words echo in his mind: "Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not." The boy knows that the future of the Truffula Trees—and the entire land—depends on what he does next.

Determined, the boy sets off on his journey. He searches for the perfect spot to plant the seed, away from the polluted factories and the lifeless land. He finally finds a small patch of dirt that still looks healthy. With great care, he digs a small hole and gently places the seed inside. He covers it with soil and whispers, "Grow strong."

But planting the seed is just the beginning. The boy knows that for the Truffula Tree to survive, he must protect it. He carries buckets of water from a nearby stream, making sure it gets enough to drink every day. He shields it from strong winds and keeps animals from eating its tiny leaves. Some people laugh at him, saying, "It's just one tree. What difference will it make?" But the boy does not listen. He remembers the Once-ler's story and knows that every big change starts with something small.

Weeks pass, and the first green sprout appears. Then, tiny leaves begin to grow. Soon, the little tree stands taller than the boy himself. People in the town start to notice. "Could the Truffula Trees return?" they wonder. Inspired by the boy's dedication, others begin to help. They clean the dirty river so the Humming-Fish can return. They clear the air so the Swomee-Swans can sing again. They plant more seeds, one by one, until the once-barren land starts to bloom.

Years later, the land is no longer empty and gray. It is filled with colorful Truffula Trees, just as it once was. The Bar-ba-loots return, happily munching on Truffula Fruit. The sky is clear, the river sparkles, and the Lorax's message has been heard. The young boy, now grown, smiles as he looks at the thriving forest. He remembers the Once-ler's story, knowing that one small act of care and determination saved an entire world.