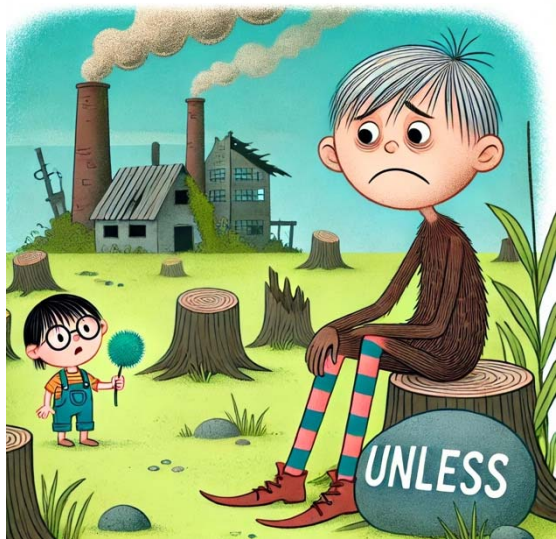


Name _____



Once-ler's Regret

At the start of *The Lorax*, the Once-ler is full of ambition and excitement. He arrives in a beautiful land filled with Truffula Trees, Swomee-Swans, Bar-ba-loots, and Humming-Fish. Instead of appreciating the natural beauty around him, he sees an opportunity to make money. The soft, silky tufts of the Truffula Trees are perfect for making Thneeds—a product he believes everyone needs. Without hesitation, he chops down a tree to begin his business.

When the Lorax appears, he warns the Once-ler about the dangers of destroying the environment. "These trees take years to grow, and the animals depend on them to survive," the Lorax pleads. But the Once-ler ignores him, focused only on growing his business. He builds a factory, hires workers, and cuts down trees even faster. As the land becomes polluted and empty, the animals are forced to leave. The Bar-ba-loots have no fruit to eat, the Swomee-Swans can't breathe the smoky air, and the Humming-Fish must leave their poisoned pond. The Lorax desperately tries to stop him, but the Once-ler refuses to listen.

Eventually, the Once-ler's greed leads to disaster. He cuts down the very last Truffula Tree, and suddenly, his booming business collapses. Without trees, he can no longer make Thneeds. The workers leave, the factory shuts down, and the land is left barren. The Lorax, heartbroken, gives the Once-ler one last look before floating away. He leaves behind a small pile of rocks with one word carved into them: UNLESS.

For years, the Once-ler sits alone in his empty home, thinking about what he has done. He finally understands the Lorax's message. Unless someone cares, nothing will get better. Feeling regretful, he takes the last Truffula seed and passes it to a child, hoping they will plant it and restore what was lost.

The Once-ler changes from a greedy businessman who only cares about profit into a remorseful man who understands the importance of nature. His story teaches an important lesson: greed can lead to destruction, but it's never too late to change and make things right.