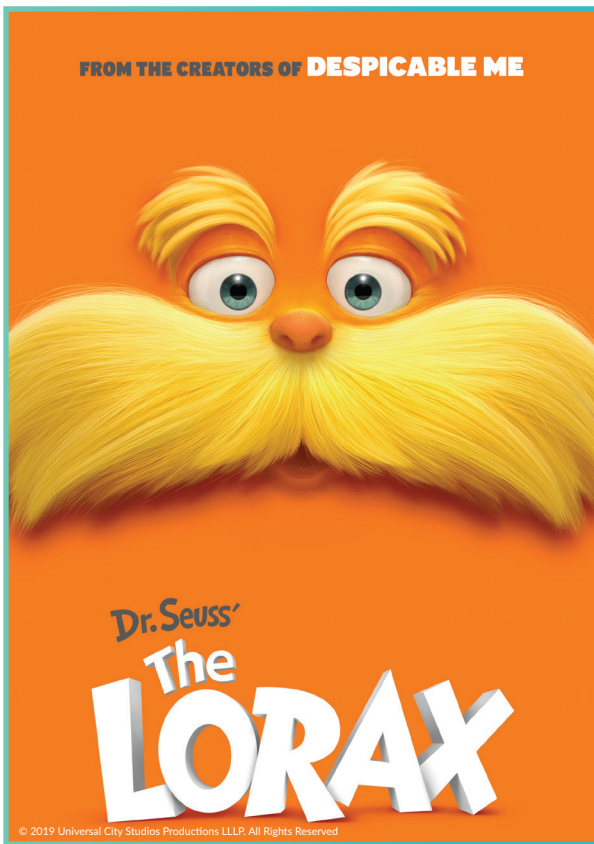




MOVIE DISCUSSION GUIDE



The Lorax

The film adaptation of Dr. Seuss' classic children's book, "The Lorax" tells the story of Ted, a young boy who attempts to find a real live tree for the girl of his dreams, Audrey. What he finds is that his town of Thneedville, which is completely artificial and requires you to purchase your own air, is not what it appears to be. Instead it is a result of the loss of the natural environment due to one family's greed many years ago. Ted meets the Once-ler who tells him the tale of himself and his Thneed which caused the environmental ruin. Ted also learns of the Lorax, a creature that "speaks for the trees." "The Lorax" is a cautionary tale of how our own selfish desires can have a great and long term impact for all.

Programming Suggestions

This discussion guide is designed to assist educational programming after viewing the film "The Lorax." Its purpose is to generate discussion based on social issues found within the movie and for program participants to reflect on themes that might be pertinent to them. Therefore, there are no "right" or "wrong" answers to questions in this guide.

The discussion facilitator may choose to utilize one of the following activities as a means of developing discussion:

- Create a bulletin board focusing on environmental issues in your community. Include a space where individuals can list how they can positively impact their community.
- As a group, read Dr. Seuss' book "The Lorax." Discuss the differences and the similarities between the book and the film.
- Invite an author or local accredited English teacher to come and discuss children's literature and the underlying themes that are universal in these books.
- Meet with members of your environmental committee, physical plant or recycling group to discuss ways your community can limit its negative environmental impact.

Issues

Business Ethics

Family

Friendship

Environmental

Discussion Questions

1. What issues does “The Lorax” focus on? Do you think that it oversimplifies the issue or allows for a complex issue to be shown in a very understandable manner? Discuss.
2. Do you think that we ever could get to the point that we live in a community like Thneedville?
3. In the story, residents must buy their own air. Do you think that access to clean air and water is a right or a privilege?
4. The Once-ler creates an item called a Thneed. What does the Thneed represent?
5. How do companies create a need for their products? How does marketing and advertising use images, emotions and desires to create a market for a company’s products?
6. Discuss the Once-ler and how he changes over the course of the film. Do you think he is responsible for what happened why or why not?
7. The Lorax attempts to stop the Once-ler. Do you think he failed or succeeded? Discuss.
8. The Once-ler agrees to not cut down any more Truffula trees, but his family changes his mind. Did he break his promise? Why or why not?
9. Ted’s grandmother supports him and his quest for a tree. Discuss how she does this. How does your family support you?
10. Discuss the differences between Ted’s and the Once-ler’s families. How does each impact their decisions?
11. How does money and the economy impact decisions made by individuals? Companies? Discuss.
12. The Lorax tells the Once-ler, “a tree falls the way it leans.” What do you think he means by this? Can you think of examples of this statement?
13. Ultimately, the Once-ler cuts down the last Truffula tree. What happens at this point?
14. As Ted attempts to get a Truffula tree, he is threatened by the mayor who also owns the O’Hare Air Company. Why was the company threatened by what Ted was doing?
15. Do you think that companies and corporations use intimidation to eliminate competition or complaints against their products or projects? How could a company intimidate someone they believe to be a threat?
16. When Ted visits the Once-ler, there is a stone sign that says “Unless.” What does this mean in the story? Do you agree or disagree with the sentiment behind the word? Explain.
17. In the film, the townspeople are skeptical of Ted and the Truffula tree seed. Why?
18. Ted and his family knock down the wall to the city and expose the citizens to the reality of what is around them. How does this change their perspective?
19. Why do you think no one ever looked beyond the wall? Is this true in our society? Do people prefer to not look beyond the wall to see what is truly happening around them?
20. How do you think society should balance environmental issues and economic conditions?
21. Do you think it is an either-or situation, or can both be supported without negatively impacting the other?
22. What is our obligation to future generations when it comes to economic and environmental stability?
23. “Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better, it’s not.” Discuss this statement as it relates to the film and to our society. Do you agree with it or not?
24. Do you think one person can have a true and lasting impact on society? Why or why not? Who are some examples of people that had a long lasting impact on our society?
25. What are you willing to do to have a lasting impact on our environment? Our society? How could you accomplish making a difference?
26. “You reap what you sow” is a common phrase. In the movie it was changed to “you can’t reap what you don’t sow.” What does this mean in the context of the movie? In your life?