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Analytical Paper Rough Draft

Year after year we would like to believe that the world is constantly changing for the best. However just like a roller coaster, life has its ups and downs. That is where the saying by George Santayana comes from, “Those who don’t know history are destined to repeat it.” If that is so, then it is the adults who have already experienced the downs who are entrusted with the responsibility to teach the younger generations better so we do not repeat the negatives in history. This may be difficult as children do not always understand the concepts of morality and using their better judgment. This is where Theodor Seuss Geisel decided to make his mark. Theodor, better known to the world as Dr. Seuss, produced a number of children stories that not only address but deliver moral solutions so the next generation can tell right from wrong at an early age. Along with books such as the Cat in the Hat and Green Eggs and Ham, Dr. Seuss produces a children's story that would tackle recurring issues in society. This story was titled, The Lorax. The Lorax is a short story, written by Dr. Seuss, which speaks volumes on conflicts such as climate change, money, and greed. This was rare as these topics were usually not discussed amongst adults and here was Dr Seuss, an author who not only openly discussed these issues but also put them in a children's story. “Published just more than a year after Earth Day was first celebrated in the United States on April 22, 1970” (Witter 2020) The Lorax was meant to teach children that in nature, selfish acts never go without consequence.

Dr. Seuss knew exactly to whom he was writing to. He targeted those who were currently in the age of mental development. He knew that if he was able to reach children at an early age he would be able to improve the world. This is demonstrated by the style he used. Dr. Seuss used rhymes as a way to connect with the children. He was able to take serious issues and lighten them to the point where children are able to comprehend, analyze, and make decisions of their own as to what is right and wrong.

The Lorax is a symbolic character of mother nature who is a guardian of the forest. “ I speak for the trees.” (Seuss 1971) Throughout the book, the Lorax says this time and time again to emphasize

that he is an advocate of mother nature. Climate change is usually something that a child is unaware that is going on. This story expresses the main idea that nature is a source which is essential for survival. Just as in the story, the characters are dependent on nature and so are we. We live off of the Earth for food and shelter. Although we live off of the land climate issues have really taken a toll on many people. These climate issues are partly a result of our doing. In the Lorax, The Once-ler stated " I meant no harm. I most truly did not. But I had to grow bigger. So bigger I got. I biggered my factory. I biggered my roads. I biggered my wagons. I biggered the loads." (Seuss 1971) Even though the words from the Lorax were compelling, the Once-ler chose to ignore the rules of mother nature and continued to be blinded by the money that was being manufactured as a result of this catastrophe. The word "biggered" was used multiple times to emphasize the extent of greed that has taken place.

The Once-ler valued materialistic items and money over life itself and ultimately paid the consequences for it. This is a common theme that takes place in our world. Money and greed has become the root of all evil to the point where it is valued above the Earth itself. The Lorax stated, "Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better it's not." (Seuss 1971) As a result of the destruction of the home of the forest animals, the Lorax gave the Once-ler a shimmer of hope with the one word "unless". No matter how bad things have gotten around us, we are always able to do something and be the change that is needed in nature. Dr. Seuss wants the children to always have hope of a brighter tomorrow.

The Once-ler is an entrepreneur who traveled away from home to create his business around the product the Thneed. He found himself in a land full of truffula trees where he determined that that was the product he needed. He began chopping down trees without remorse to the nature that lived there. As his company grew he had his family finally take interest in him and join him to produce more money. However due to the growth of the company all the profiting slowly destroyed the environment around him, which over time left the animals in the forest homeless. The creature, the Lorax, talks to the Once-ler explaining how damaging the chopping of trees is, "Now.. thanks to your hacking my

trees to the ground, there's not enough Truffula Fruit to go 'round. And my poor Bar-ba-loots are all getting the crummies because they have gas, and no food, in their tummies!"(Seuss 1971) The Lorax continues to emphasize the harm that the Once-ler is causing. The Truffula trees that are being chopped down is the main source of habitat and food for these creatures. The animals will no longer have a source for food if this continues to happen. It will eventually lead to many illnesses and possibly death. The Once-ler however did not care as he was at the height of his business. When chops down the last tree the Once-ler then realizes money is temporary because he is left with nothing. His company dies and his family leaves him. Now all alone the Once-ler is left telling his story to any who is willing to pay him the price. But thanks to him learning his lesson the Once-ler has hope that there will be a day that someone will come around and care for mother nature. And by restoring the forest they will eventually also restore the wild life that was there before he arrived.

Dr. Seuss uses a hopeful mood in this story. Although things get as bad as they possibly can, there is still hope for a brighter tomorrow. " Plant a new Truffle. Treat it with care. Give it clean water. And feed it fresh air. Grow a first. Protect it from the aces that hack. Then the Lorax and all of his friends may come back" (Seuss 1971) There is hope behind these words, as well as a lesson. Even though this is a tough lesson to learn, Dr. Seuss does a great job by using rhymes to make it easy for a child to read. This is the style that has made Dr. Seuss a generational writer. He is able to connect with his intended audience due to his style of writing.

In nature, selfish acts never go without consequence. In the story the Once-ler learned once his actions became consequences he was left alone to deal with them. This was due to his selfish acts. It is one's responsibility to resist the temptations of selfish acts that lead to the misfortune of others. No matter how much others plead we must make the decision ourselves to care for others. Just because we can we need to ask ourselves the question of if we should. When it comes to mother Earth Dr. Seuss stresses on the fact that just as we can dictate the environmental nature around us mother nature can

dictate the conditions we live in, so we must take care of her.

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