The Lorax: Emma Marris reflects on a classic children's fable that still has lessons for environmental policy 40 years on

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Author: Emma Marris
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Main content

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DR SEUSS


Theodor Seuss Geisel, better known as Dr Seuss, wrote more than 40 children's books, beloved for their zany rhymes and sinuous illustrations. In August 1971--the year after the creation of the US Environmental Protection Agency and celebration of the first Earth Day--Seuss published a book that became a kind of Silent Spring for the playground set.

Thousands of children have learned about environmental destruction from the The Lorax, Seuss's tale of ecological ruin brought on by greed. The book still resonates: Universal Studios is due to release a feature-length animation of it next year. It packs in a lot of sophisticated concepts for a picture book, from the interconnectedness of ecosystems to the effects of industrial pollutants on freshwater systems. There is even a trophic cascade--a shift in top predators that triggers changes through a food chain.

And what initially seems like a simplistic take on environmental policy--industry bad, activists good--turns out to be more subtle. The hero does not save the day; that task falls to the next generation. This downbeat, if realistic, plot arc makes me hesitant about introducing the book to my young daughter.

An ecologist might classify the book's lost paradise as a 'Truffula savannah'. The keystone species are the Truffula trees, which...

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While some older children inferred the presence of the hidden connection, most succeeded by identifying which outer tube was the ‘correct’ tube to drop stones into. Thus, the primary method children used to solve the task was an associative rule. At all ages, the children’s success rate on the U-tube task was similar to the other tasks, which followed intuitive causal rules. In contrast, Eurasian jays selectively failed the U-tube, suggesting that they struggled to learn a rule that contradicted their understanding of how the world should work. Thus, the difficult U-tube task can be used probably, it was the children’s rag for Kenneth Speed. The system of the characters is following: the protagonist is the young teacher Kenneth Speed. He is dynamic and round character because in the text there is poor description of appearance, but author put teacher and pupils in the real situation and described the atmosphere. From this information we can judge about the personality of main hero through his actions in the story. Antagonists, in my opinion, are the pupils in the class. There are also foil characters – they are Worsley, Naylor and Clanwell. It is obvious that it was the The Lorax. Emma Marris reflects on a classic children’s fable that still has lessons for environmental policy 40 years on. Theodor Seuss Geisel, better known as Dr Seuss, wrote more than 40 children’s books, beloved for their zany rhymes and sinuous illustrations. In August 1971 — the year after the creation of the US Environmental Protection Agency and celebration of the first Earth Day — Seuss published a book that became a kind of Silent Spring for the playground set. Thousands of children have learned about environmental destruction from The Lorax, Seuss’s tale of ecological ruin. A 17-year-old boy drifts into sleep, his head drooping into the textbook open in front of him. It is 9pm and Yang Dong-myung has two more hours of study to complete before going home. Around him sit other teenage South Koreans struggling to stay awake as a tutor scribbles English vocabulary on a blackboard. Mr. Yang and his classmates are among the roughly 80 per cent of South Koreans who attend private evening schools, known as hagwon, to improve their chances of reaching university. An almost cult-like devotion to learning has been among the driving forces behind South Korea’s rapid economic growth. English News Lesson on Having Children: Parents happier after their children leave home - FREE worksheets, online activities, listening in 7 Levels... Many of us believe that having children is the key to happiness and a perfect family life. Naturally, this idealistic image is true for some, but researchers say that in reality, children make us happiest when they fly the nest - when they have grown up and left home. Researchers in Germany looked at data from a survey of 55,000 over 50-year-olds living in Europe. The survey respondents were quizzed about their emotional wellbeing.