

Options for Teaching Conflict Resolution with Children's Literature  
*The Lorax* by Dr. Seuss

1. **Name of Conflict**

- a. Once-Lers' kept cutting down trees and destroying the environment in which creatures lived in. Once the trees were cut down Lorax had to confront Oce-Ler about making the animals move.

2. **Who is involved? What is their conflict resolution style?**

- a. Lorax—accommodating (Lorax tried to work with Oce-Ler by suggesting ideas that would not make the creatures in the story have to move away. Once-Ler—avoidance (He did not care about the problem so he just kept working in his factory.)

**What are the consequences of handling it that way? Why do you think they chose that way?**

- a. The Lorax chose his style to help protect his friends and their environment peacefully by talking with Once-Ler. Once-Ler chooses his style because he did not care about anyone but himself because he wanted to keep making problems.

3. **How did the conflict start?**

- a. The Once-Ler noticed these special trees called Truffula Trees that he could use to make "Thneeds" for people.

**Did it escalate? How? (Could you use a graph or timeline to show the escalation?) What made it escalate?**

- a. Yes—Once-Ler kept selling "Thneeds" and expanding his factory which started to destroy the environment.

4. **How did the characters feel?**

- a. Lorax—He felt sad and mad because his environment was being destroyed when the trees were being cut down and smog was making it difficult to breathe. Once-Ler—He was happy because he was making a lot of money off of the "Thneeds" he created.

**Can you identify time when you have felt that way?**

- a. I could relate with the Lorax because when I lived in a residence hall people who moved or messed with my belongings made me mad. The Lorax and I both do not enjoy people messing with our living environment.

**Would you have felt differently?**

- a. No, I would have felt the same.

5. **What does each character want? Need?**

- a. Lorax—Lorax needs his home not to be destroyed. He wants Once-Ler to stop destroying his environment. Once-Ler—Once-Ler needs trees and his factory to create "Thneeds." He wants to make money so he keeps creating "Thneeds."

6. **What question would like to ask \_\_\_\_\_ character?**

- a. Once-Ler: Why would you want to destroy someone else's environment?

7. **How are the characters the same and different?**

- a. They both talk and they both have concerns. The Lorax cares about saving the environment and Once-Ler does not.

**How do the differences and similarities make the situation easier or more difficult?**

- a. Lorax wants to protect the environment and Once-Ler does not care about the environment which makes the situation more difficult since they opposing believes on the environment.

**Pick one character. List 5 adjectives that describe both that character and yourself.**

- a. Lorax: caring, passionate (about his beliefs), protective, helpful, and compassionate

**List two problems that you and that character have in common.**

- a. Just like the Lorax was taken advantage of, I have been several times throughout my young adult life because I often do not know how to tell people no when they ask me for help.
- b. Another problem we have in common is that the Lorax was constantly worried about where he was going to live since the trees were being cut down and when I was looking for a place to live off campus this school year, I was worried I wouldn't find a place.

**Higher-Level Question**

- 8. How might the Once-Ler help maintain the Lorax's environment so animals and creatures did not have to move away?

Comment [MC1]: Excellent question

**Communication Skills**

The skill that my trade book would demonstrate the best would be skill #5 How to make decisions.

Many times throughout the book the Lorax makes the decision to move his animal friends out of the harmful environment so that they can survive. He talks with Once-Ler before having the animals move away to see if he can stop destroying the environment. Since the Once-Ler never wants to listen and try to solve the conflict the Lorax makes his own decision to have the animals move to safety. Teachers could have students practice making decisions while working together with others. They could find a decision that they think both the Once-Ler and Lorax would agree upon.