

# The LORAX's

Earth Day



## COMMUNITY GUIDE

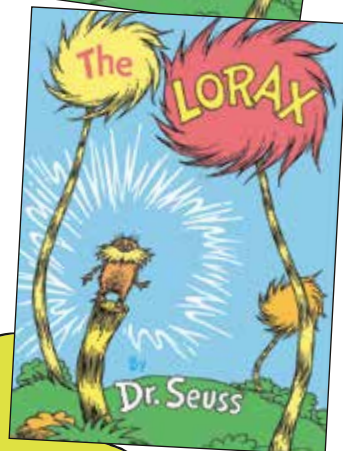
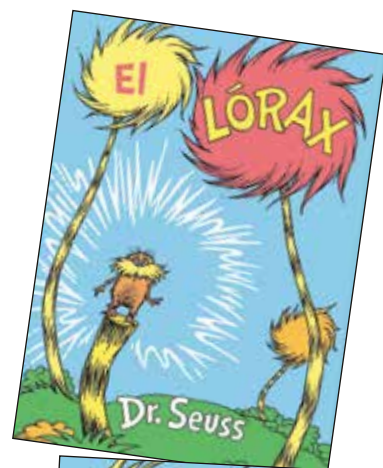
Young readers like Dr. Seuss books for their silly rhymes and whimsical creatures. But reading with Dr. Seuss also gets kids to think, ask questions, and activate their imaginations!

Dr. Seuss challenges young readers to be knowledgeable, curious, and thoughtful about the world around them. Sharing *The Lorax* with kids is an excellent and easy way to start a conversation about protecting the environment and caring for their surroundings.

Share these powerful words from *The Lorax* with your young readers: "UNLESS someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not." Ask them to take a stand and support the well-being of the planet.

Some great places for kids to start are their school, library, and community! *The Lorax* inspires loads of ideas, so make a list with your young readers and encourage them to take action to make their community cleaner and greener.

**LOOK INSIDE FOR IDEAS TO CREATE  
CLEAN, GREEN SCHOOLS, LIBRARIES, STORES,  
AND COMMUNITIES WITH THE LORAX!**



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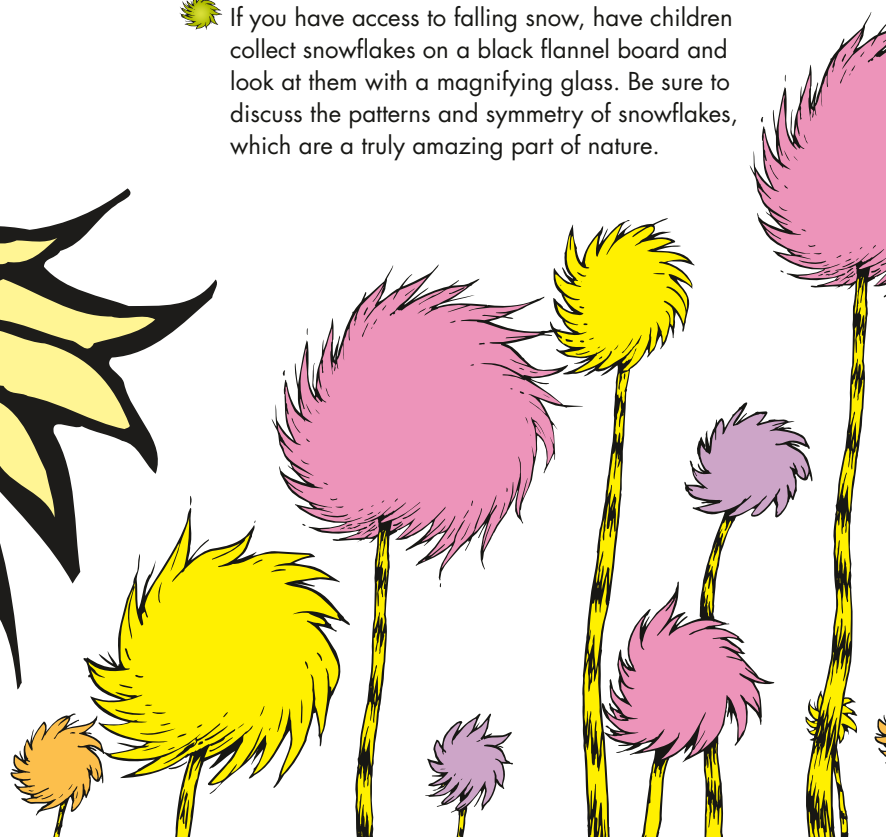
## LORAX-FRIENDLY IDEAS FOR YOUR COMMUNITY

- ☀️ Set up a Reading Garden in a quiet corner on the playground or in the park with plants and benches for reading.
- ☀️ Turn asphalt into a lovely learning landscape! Use a stencil to paint your blacktop with a map of the United States or the continents with various points of interest and landforms.
- ☀️ Keep nature close by with terrariums in the classroom or library. Kids can also make their own terrariums and bring nature home!
- ☀️ Add art! Have kids work together to paint canvas banners featuring native flowers, plants, and animals and hang them in the school halls or library.
- ☀️ Build a bridge between gardening, nutrition, science, and summer learning by planting a school vegetable garden and hosting a summer garden club for students.
- ☀️ Focus on the environment and invite kids to submit nature photography as part of a community competition. Display all the entries, then enlarge and frame winning photos for permanent display in the hallways, cafeteria, local bookstores, or library.
- ☀️ Turn a mown grass area or a swampy or weedy spot into a meadow of native wildflowers.
- ☀️ Teach kids to collaborate with nature by turning nature into art through activities such as leaf printing, pressing flowers, or sculpture with found objects from nature. Create a display that rotates new works as the seasons change.

## EXPLORE THE NATURE AROUND YOUR COMMUNITY

Your community will be empowered by the Lorax and inspired to take action. Be sure to take some time to slow things down so they have a chance to simply appreciate the beauty of your surroundings.

- ☀️ Schedule a stroll outside with your kids and encourage them to identify plants, listen for birds, and notice the bark on a beautiful tree. Have them collect leaves and flowers, which they can then analyze under a microscope or press in a book to save as a memory of the day.
- ☀️ Discover, observe, and investigate animal tracks in the snow, sand, or dirt, depending on your location. The kids in your group can record the animal tracks by taking photographs or drawing in their journals.
- ☀️ If weather permits, allow kids to lie on blankets outside and read, tell stories, or simply relax and look at the shapes of the clouds.
- ☀️ If you have access to falling snow, have children collect snowflakes on a black flannel board and look at them with a magnifying glass. Be sure to discuss the patterns and symmetry of snowflakes, which are a truly amazing part of nature.



# CLEAN COMMUNITIES

When reading *The Lorax*, kids see the negative effects the Once-ler and his business have on the Truffula forest and the creatures that live there. But what traces do kids leave? Is litter a problem in their community? Encourage kids to become stewards of their community and help them plan regular cleanup efforts.

## TRASH TALK

The Gluppity-Glupp and the Schloppity-Schlopp produced by the Once-ler's Thneed factory would definitely be classified as hazardous waste. The trash typically found in your schools, library, and town—also known as municipal solid waste—is made up of everyday items we use and then throw away.

Ask kids to think and talk about trash. Where does it come from? Where does it go after it's put in the garbage can? What if it doesn't get put in a garbage can? Who is responsible for keeping the community clean and trash-free? How can they be more responsible? Would things have been different in *The Lorax* if the Once-ler had been more responsible? Have kids brainstorm ideas for what the Once-ler should have done with his hazardous waste and how they can help make their communities clean and beautiful.

It's best if kids come up with their own cleanup ideas so that they become invested in the project. Many activities related to cleaning up one's immediate environment will also help create a sense of community and responsibility for the larger world. Help them with practical tips and suggestions that build on their ideas, such as:

- When beautifying the schoolyard or park by picking up trash, have plenty of plastic gloves and trash bags on hand. Brooms and rakes are also useful.
- Invite parents and other volunteers to help clean up. These adults should closely supervise kids to prevent interaction with harmful materials.
- Ask the school, library, or local custodians for advice on how to help keep things clean. Make arrangements with the local authorities about the proper disposal of the trash or recycling collected.
- Consider doing a litter study so kids can observe the types of litter and the most heavily or frequently littered locations. See if additional garbage cans or recycling receptacles can be added or more conveniently located.
- Clean up school grounds, parks, and around town by doing more than picking up trash. Weeding, trimming, raking, and spreading mulch help maintain beautiful school grounds.

Make sure you give kids ongoing opportunities to renew their commitment to keeping their community clean, to share what they have done, and to talk about how it feels to have made a difference. Also make sure they get plenty of time to enjoy the clean outdoor spaces they've created!

## KEEP IT CLEAN

Challenge all children to keep their environment clean and litter-free. Encourage kid-led campaigns that include making posters, presentations, and videos or announcements about littering, recycling, and keeping things clean. Have different age groups serve as stewards of different areas of the community. Ask the school principal or local librarians, booksellers to hold periodic surprise "clean" inspections that result in rewards—like Truffula fruits—to students who go above and beyond in caring for their school. At the end of the year, the team(s) with the most Truffula fruits gets a "Screen on the Green" outdoor movie party with a viewing of *The Lorax*!

### EL LÓRAX

HC: 978-0-525-70731-8

GLB: 978-0-525-70732-5



### THE LORAX

HC: 978-0-394-82337-9

GLB: 978-0-394-92337-6



# GREEN COMMUNITIES

Creating a community garden or native habitat can be a big project, but there's lots of excellent information available online to help you plan, design, raise funds for, and build a great outdoor learning space. There are also many small steps you and your kids can take to beautify your schoolyard or park with trees, plants, flowers, and landscaping. *The Lorax* will have kids ready to explore the outdoors and find their places in the natural world.



## SPRUCE UP

Like the Once-ler, kids often don't realize that our natural resources are limited. Before you read and discuss *The Lorax*, talk about the value of trees and what trees add to our lives. Why is it important to people, wildlife, and the environment that we care for and manage our forests and trees?

*The Lorax* will reinforce kids' conclusions that we all need trees and that they are especially important in providing food, animal habitats, clean air, and even many products we use. But trees also make places beautiful! Have kids show their appreciation for all of a tree's uses and natural beauty by planting a tree on school grounds or in the local park (with permission, of course!).

Carefully choose where to plant a tree. Kids can be involved in scouting a site that is away from buildings and power lines; isn't too close to driveways, parking lots, or sidewalks; and has plenty of space for tree roots to grow wide and deep. Since kids can't plant an actual *Truffula* tree, they should research what type of tree is best suited to the local soil and your local climate. Whether you decide to plant a seedling or sapling, make sure there is a commitment to taking care of the tree before, during, and after planting.

If your school grounds or parks already include trees that need love and attention, suggest your groups adopt a tree and care for it. This might involve cleaning weeds and debris from around the tree, learning all about the tree and creating informational signage, or building or arranging to have a bench placed near the tree so kids can enjoy its shade.

## CONTAIN THE ENTHUSIASM

Available space and soil quality are often barriers to green transformations. Fortunately, practically anything will grow in a container! And a container can be almost any shape or size. Kids will need to plan, research, and choose appropriate plants for your climate, as well as arrange for frequent watering. But creating a container garden is as exciting and rewarding an endeavor as a traditional garden.

Investigate what spaces are available that get plenty of light. Brainstorm what kinds of containers you can use and what students would like to grow. Consider:

- Vertical spaces (such as playground walls or chain-link fences) for hanging planters made of fabric
- Ledges that can hold large window boxes for growing vegetables and herbs
- Cement and asphalt surfaces for large containers like barrels or raised beds made from wood

Kids can get involved in repurposing a variety of items to add beauty and whimsy to a container garden. Have them brainstorm a garden theme for organizing efforts such as:

- A Dr. Seuss-themed container garden! Plant an old bathtub with beautiful pink blooms the Cat in the Hat has left a pink ring in the tub again! Secure two large red buckets, label them Thing 1 and Thing 2, and plant with cornflowers or other blue blossoms. Or turn an orange barrel into a Lorax planter by adding his distinctive bushy mustache with paint and planting pretty orange and yellow perennials.
- Containers with spirit—school spirit, that is! Have local students paint clay or wooden containers in school colors. Choose appropriate flowering plants in school colors and plant them to contrast with the container. Situate this garden outside to welcome students at entry doors or create a vertical garden on a bookcase near a sunny window in the school foyer.





# KEEN COMMUNITIES

**The Lorax leaves readers longing to be surrounded by the wonders of nature and inspired to make a commitment to the planet. Kids need opportunities to express their feelings about the natural world. Making art and beautifying public spaces are good places to start.**

## GREEN AT HEART

As the heart of the community, the library should be one of the loveliest spots in your town. It's the place for inquiry, imagination, discovery, and creativity—and it should look good and be comfortable. Plants bring the tranquility of the outdoors inside the library walls, improve indoor air quality, and help build student interest in the natural world. Make an oasis of greenery and more students will come to the library!

If there is sufficient lighting, large plants or hanging baskets can be used as room dividers, creating a green focal point for the library. A "wall" of plants can also be an excellent backdrop for read-aloud sessions or other special programs.

Avoid placing plants where water could potentially damage books or other items. Plants can also be used as screens to offer cozy areas for readers.

Paintings of Truffula trees, green grass, blue skies, or other scenes from nature can also brighten your school library. Get permission to paint directly on the wall or paint plywood or canvas panels to hang.

Add beauty to library shelves with new books! Introduce students to a bouquet of nonfiction offerings about green living, gardening, conservation, agriculture, and ecology, as well as inspirational and entertaining titles like *The Lorax*.

## HELPING HANDS

Helping your kids "speak for the trees" can be as simple as organizing a school beautification project that benefits the entire community. Don't hesitate to turn to the community for help!

- ☀ Your school principal, librarian, or local bookseller can rally community support and help secure appropriate permissions for projects from the school district or county.
- ☀ Maintenance and custodial staff know the community and grounds inside and out. Invite their input and feedback.
- ☀ Your librarian is a great resource for researching and planning beautification efforts.
- ☀ Teachers and specialists will want to use the beautified spaces as classrooms or learning laboratories. Ask for their ideas and their help in making spaces work for everyone.
- ☀ Parents and your school's parent organization can volunteer ideas, time, and possibly funding.
- ☀ Local service clubs and scouting groups are often willing to provide help and labor.
- ☀ Garden clubs, nurseries, and other local businesses may donate or discount plants or supplies.
- ☀ Your county or state government may have resources to share. Local employees of U.S. Department of the Interior agencies may also be able to offer advice, support, or resources.


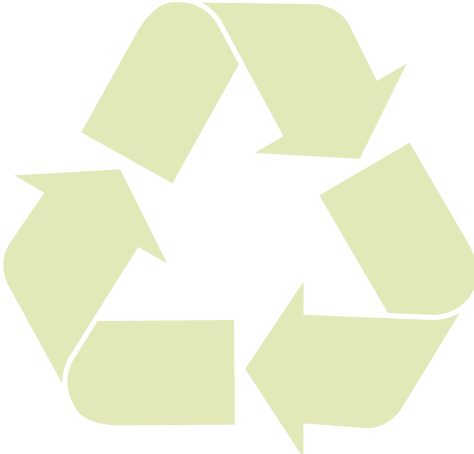





# SPEAK FOR THE TREES!

You can protect our environment by recycling materials, reusing supplies, and reducing use of resources. Use the examples in the box below to start the conversation with your group about what you can all do to help. Then write down other ways to go green in the appropriate columns!

**I CAN . . .**

REDUCE	REUSE	RECYCLE
<p>—Turn off the water while you're brushing your teeth</p> 	<p>—Donate old toys to those in need</p> 	<p>—Collect cans for recycling</p> 

**REMEMBER**—"UNLESS someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not!"

**To help my environment, I pledge to . . .**

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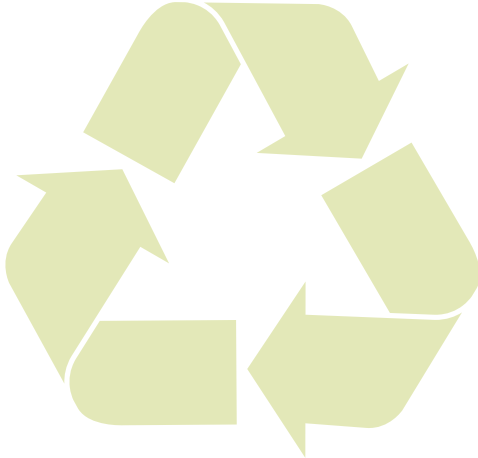

**GROUP  
ACTIVITY!**



# ¡HABLA EN NOMBRE DE LOS ÁRBOLES!

Tú puedes proteger nuestro medio ambiente reciclando materiales, reusando provisiones y reduciendo el uso de los recursos. Usa los ejemplos de los cuadros de abajo para iniciar la conversación con tu grupo sobre lo que todos Podemos hacer para prestar ayuda. ¡Luego escribe otras formas de ser ecológico en las columnas apropiadas!

## CÓMO YO PUEDO . . .

REDUCIR	REUSAR	RECICLAR
<p>—Cerrar el grifo mientras te cepillas los dientes</p> 	<p>—Donar juguetes viejos a los necesitados</p> 	<p>—Coleccionar latas para reciclar</p> 

**RECUERDA:** "A MENOS que alguien como tú se preocupe, nada va a mejorar. Nada."

**Para ayudar a mi medio ambiente, prometo . . .**

**¡ACTIVIDAD EN GRUPO!**



# PROTECT OUR PLANET!

The Lorax encourages us to work hard to care for our planet so that we can enjoy it for a long, long time! What is your favorite place on Earth? Draw it below, and write a description of that place and why you want to protect it.

**My favorite place is** \_\_\_\_\_.

**I want to protect it because** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.





# THE LORAX'S EARTH DAY WORD SEARCH

Look horizontally, vertically, and diagonally to help the Lorax find these words!

ANIMAL

EARTH

GREEN

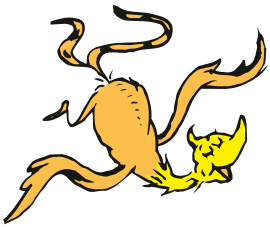
GROW

PLANT

PROTECT

RECYCLE

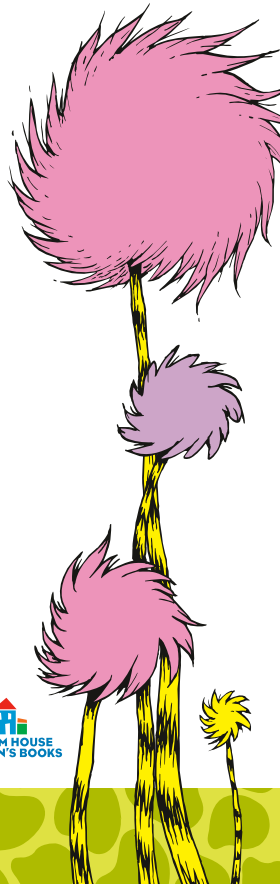
TREES

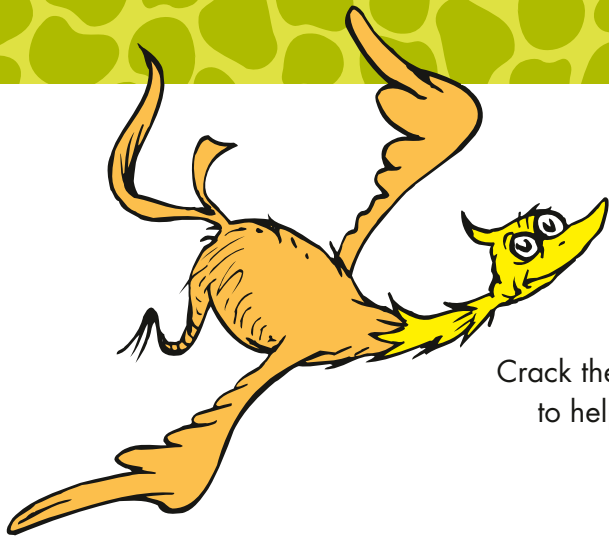


O	V	S	P	L	A	A	O	H	I
T	C	N	M	R	N	C	V	Z	P
R	W	W	G	I	O	P	H	H	D
E	L	X	M	R	L	T	N	F	E
E	F	A	C	A	O	C	E	A	A
S	L	A	N	E	G	W	Q	C	R
J	S	T	A	G	D	R	Y	S	T
J	Z	Z	C	V	E	F	E	L	H
U	V	R	E	C	Y	C	L	E	I
C	Q	V	K	D	G	E	F	D	N

## ANSWER

N	D	F	G	K	D	E	F	C	O
I	R	E	C	V	E	I	U	A	
H	1	3	E	F	E	J	Z		
T	S	A	D	R	A	J	S		
R	S	I	A	N	E	G	W	Q	C
A	F	A	C	A	O	C	E	A	A
E	X	M	R	L	T	N	F	E	
D	H	P	H	H	D				
T	C	N	M	R	N	C	V	Z	P
I	H	O	A						



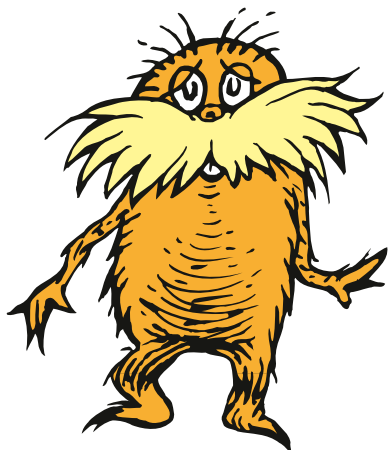


# BREAK THE LORAX'S CODE!

Crack the secret message from the Lorax to you! Use the special code below to help solve the message. What is the Lorax's message for everyone?

Un<sup>●</sup>ss s<sup>■</sup>m<sup>●</sup>n<sup>■</sup> l<sup>●</sup>k<sup>●</sup>  
y<sup>■</sup>u car<sup>●</sup>s, n<sup>■</sup>th<sup>●</sup>ng w<sup>●</sup>ll  
g<sup>●</sup>t b<sup>●</sup>tt<sup>●</sup>r.

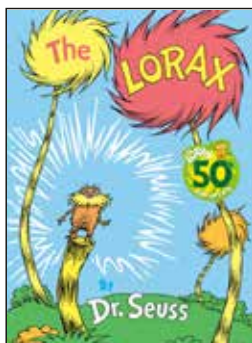
Un\_\_ss s\_\_m\_\_n\_\_ l\_\_k\_\_  
y\_\_u car\_\_s, n\_\_th\_\_ng w\_\_ll  
g\_\_t b\_\_tt\_\_r.



Code:

E= <sup>●</sup> O= <sup>■</sup> I= <sup>●</sup>

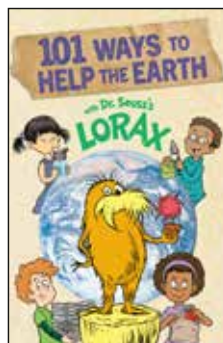
# More Lorax Books to Inspire Your Community!



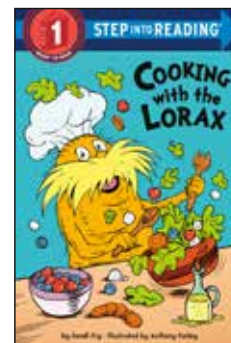
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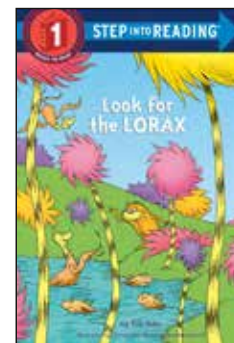
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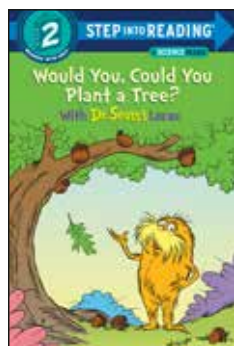
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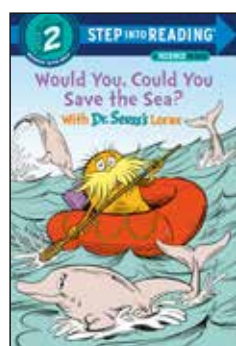
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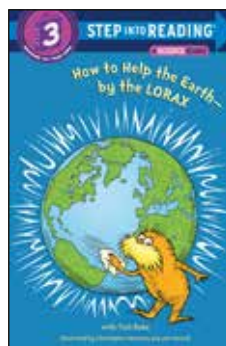
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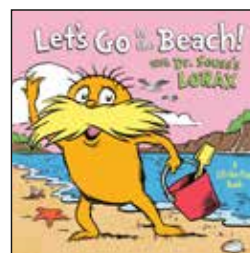
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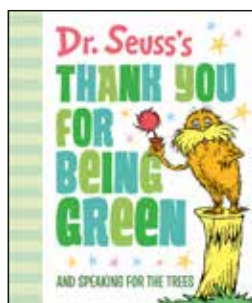
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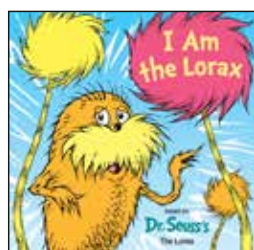
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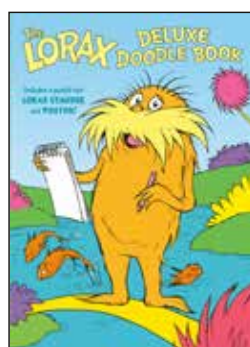
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HC: 978-0-593-12329-4



BR: 978-0-593-11914-3



TR: 978-0-593-30732-8



## More Resources for Your Community

**National Parks Conservation**  
NPCA.org

**National Marine Sanctuaries & Kids Club**  
Sanctuaries.noaa.gov

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**  
FWS.gov/cno/pdf/HabitatGuideColor.pdf

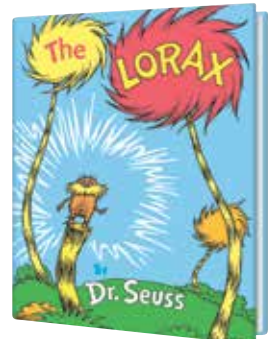
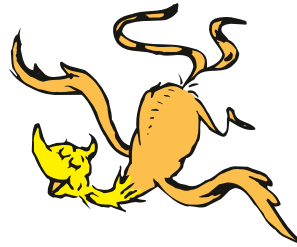
**National Gardening Association**  
KidsGardening.org

**Asphalt to Ecosystems**  
Asphalt2Ecosystems.org

**The National Audubon Society**  
Audubon.org

**Environmental Defense Fund**  
EDF.org

# TRASH Goes Here



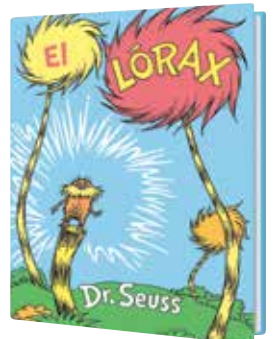
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 **Dr. Seuss™**

 **RANDOM HOUSE  
CHILDREN'S BOOKS**



# LA BASURA va aquí



Dr. Seuss™

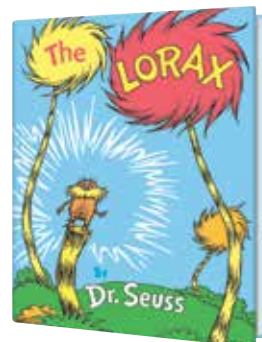
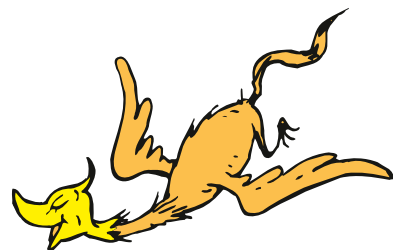
RANDOM HOUSE  
CHILDREN'S BOOKS

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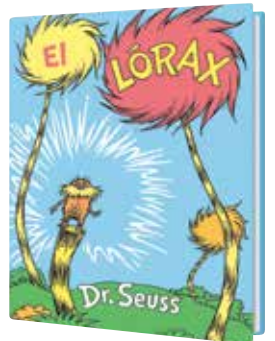
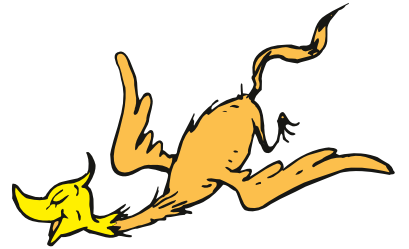
# RECYCLING Goes Here



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# EL RECICLAJE va aquí



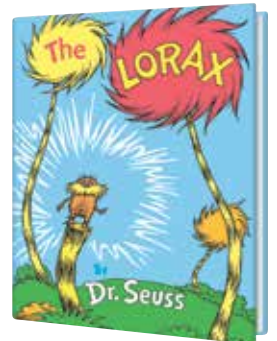
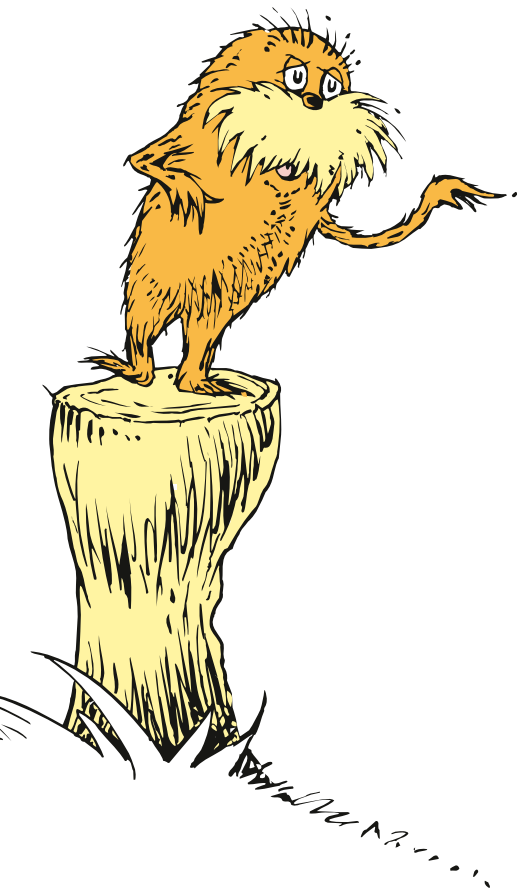
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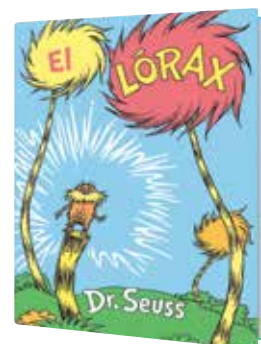
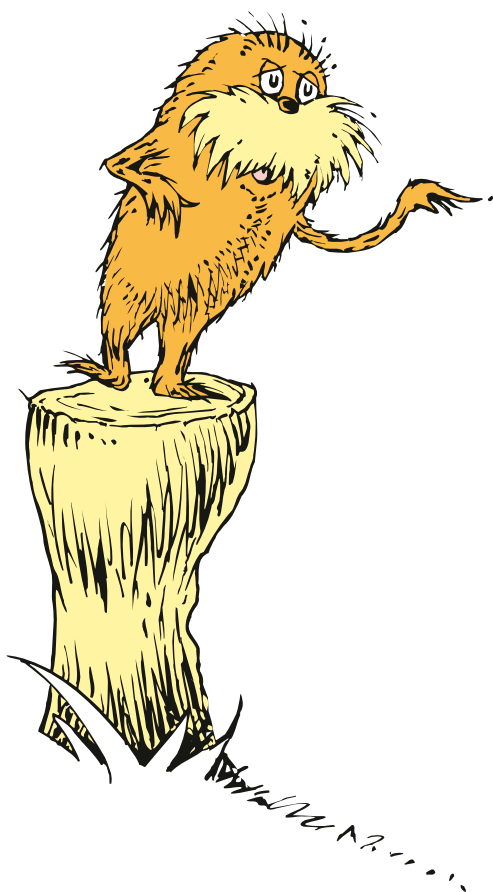
# TURN OFF the Lights



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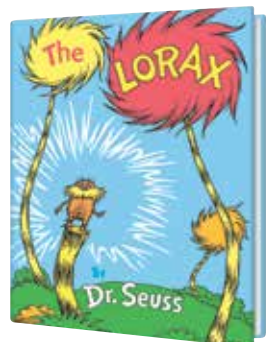
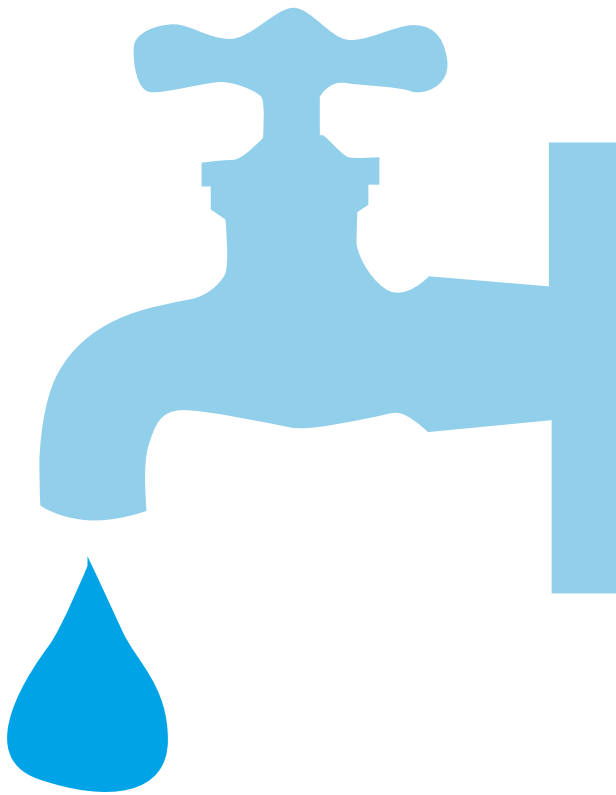
# APAGA las luces



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# TURN OFF the Faucet

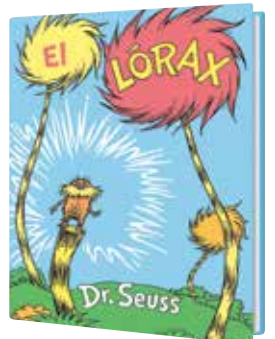
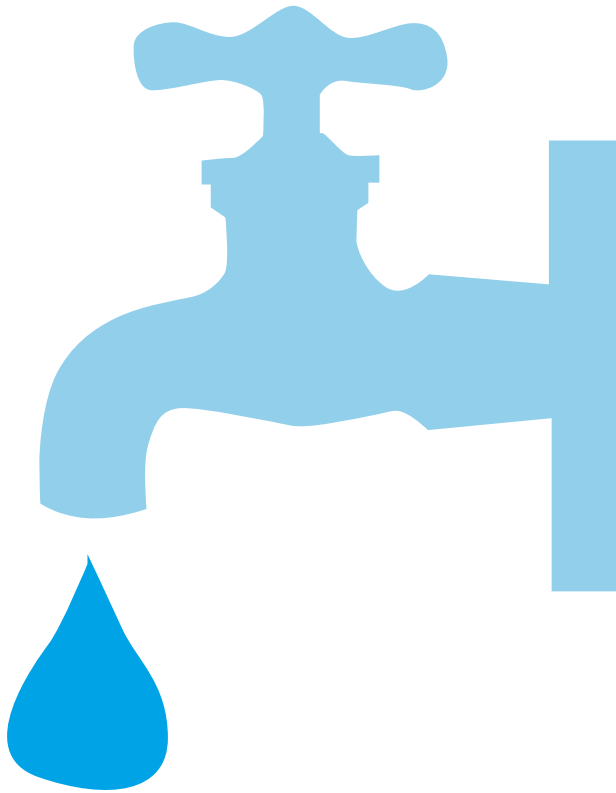


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# CIERRA el grifo



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