

Storytelling and Crafts

PAPERBAG DRAMATICS

The Lorax

The Lorax, by Dr. Seuss, is a powerful and engaging story of industrial abuse of the environment – for all ages. The Once-ler (as in “once upon a time”... we lived in lush surroundings...) tells of how industry and greed destroyed everything around him, chopping down Truffula Trees and clogging up the streams, choking the fish – all for the purpose of “biggering” their production. *The Lorax* is the spokesman for the trees and the natural surroundings, warning of impending doom.

Materials:

The Lorax by Dr. Seuss
feather dusters
mop heads
feathers
small packs of seeds
balls of yarn
money
random articles of clothes
gloves or socks (represent the Oncelers hands)
animal masks or hats or ear muffs for the bar ba loots...
stuffed animals or beanie babies
scarves to represent smoke or fog
knitting needles (depending upon the ages of the children, and whether it is on Shabbat – knitting is forbidden on Shabbat)
large rock (or something to be used as a rock)
character names (cut out from the following page and add to the paper bag)

Ahead of time, assemble the above items (or any others you want to add or substitute), put them all in a paper bag. Depending upon how many children you have, you might want to split the group into two, giving each group an identical bag filled with the items below.

Read the story of *The Lorax* aloud to the group. Try to read it through without interruption. Then, briefly recount the story – ask questions about the characters, the plot, etc.

Each group should assemble to plan its re-creation of the story of *The Lorax*, using every item in the bag. It is up to them to decide how to use the objects. For instance, feather dusters, mop heads and feathers can be used for Truffula trees. Groups re-assemble and put on their productions.

Characters

The Lorax

Child (boy or girl)

Brown Bar-baloots

Once-ler

Humming-Fish

Swomee-Swans

Thneed

Truffula Trees

Once-ler Family Members