

And you have to toss in 15 cents and a nail and the shell of a great-great-great-grandfather snail

(Children searches in their pockets)

Child 3:

I have 15 cents!!!

(Kids look on the ground for other items on the ground)

Child 3:

And here is a nail!

Child 1:

I found a shell of a great-great-great-grandfather snail!

Child 2:

We have the money, where is the pail?

(Storyteller points)

(OLD Once-ler pulls up the pail, only showing his hands)

OLD Once-ler:

I will call you by the Whisper-ma-Phone for the secrets I tell are for your ears alone

(Children grab Whisper-ma-Phone)

### Act I: Scene II

OLD Once-ler: Now I'll tell you how the Lorax got lifted and taken away...

It all started way back...

Such a long, long time back...

CURTAINS OPEN

*Warwick*

Way back in the days when the grass was still green

And the pong was still wet and the clouds were still clean,

And the song of the Swomee-Swans rang out in space...

One morning, I came to this glorious place.

(Swans fly across stage singing)

(Children put their hands to their ears and act as if it was the sweetest song they have ever heard)

(Young Once-ler walks onto stage, acting out what the Old Once-ler is saying)

And I first saw the trees! The Truffula Trees!

The bright-colored tufts of the Truffula Trees!

Mile after mile in the fresh morning breeze.

(Truffula Trees enter swaying and smiling)

(Children make note of the beautiful trees)

And, under the trees, I saw Brown Bar-ba-loots

Frisking about in the Bar-ba-loot suits

As they played in the shade and ate Truffula Fruits.

(Bar-ba-loots enter, jumping/leap frog)

From the ripplous pond came the comfortable sound  
Of the Humming-Fish humming while splashing around.

(Fish enter)

Fish: come on girls!

(Fish do little dance)

### SONG: "HAPPY DAPPY BARBALOOTS"

But those trees! Those trees! Those Truffula Trees!  
All my life I'd been searching for trees such as these.

The touch of their tufts was much softer than silk.  
And they had the sweet smell of fresh butterfly milk.

I felt a great leaping of job in my heart.  
I knew just what I'd do! I unloaded my cart.

In no time at all, I had build a small shop.  
Then I chopped down a Truffula Tree with one chop.

(Chop down tree: Lorax pops out)  
(Animals give a confusing look)  
(Storyteller 1 sits)

(Storyteller 2 enters)

Young Once-ler: What you doing in my tree stump buddy?

Lorax: Your tree stump! Your tree stump! Mr. I am the Lorax I speak for the...

Young Once-ler: Forget it I don't really need the stump...

(Once-ler runs back to his shop with the tree)

Storyteller 2:  
And with great skillful skill and with great speedy speed,  
The Once-ler took the soft tuft. And knitted a Thneed!

(Once-ler pretends to knew the Thneed)

Lorax: Mister! I am the Lorax. I speak for the trees.  
I speak for the trees, for the trees have no tongues.  
And I'm asking you, sir, at the top of my lungs

What's that THING you've made out of my Truffula tuft?

Young Once-ler: Look, Lorax, There's no cause for alarm.  
I chopped just one tree. I am doing no harm.  
I'm being quite useful. This thing is a Thneed.  
(Holds out Thneed)

### Act I: Scene III

Lorax

1

A Thneed's a Fine-Something-That-All-People-Need!  
It's a shirt. It's a sock. It's a glove. It's a hat.  
But it has other uses. Yes, far beyond that.

(Once-lets pop out of the shop)

Once-ler 1: You can use it for carpets.

Once-ler 2: For pillows!

Once-ler 1: For sheets!

Once-ler 3: Or curtains!

All: Or covers for bicycle seats!

(Once-lets leave the stage)

(Lorax getting very mad)

Lorax: Sir! You are crazy with greed.  
There is no one on earth who would buy that fool Thneed!

Young Once-ler: But the very next minute I proved he was wrong.  
For, just at that minute, a chap came along.

Buyer: Wow that the Thneed you have knitted is great.

I happily buy it for three ninety-eight!

Young Once-ler: (laughing pointing at the buyer)

You poor guy!

You never can tell what some people will buy.

Lorax: I repeat, I speak for the trees!

Young Once-ler: I'm busy, be quiet if you please

(Lorax leave, Once-ler rushes across the room, and picks up the phone)

Storyteller 2: He called all his brothers and uncles and aunts and said...

Young Once-ler: Listen here! Here's a wonderful chance

For the whole Once-ler Family to get mighty rich!

Get over here fast! Take the road to North Nitch.

Turn left at Weehawken. Sharp right at South Stitch.

### SONG: "DIRECTIONS"

(Bring Factory on, Once-ler family and Ben go in the windows of the factory and knit)

Storyteller 2: And, in no time at all, in the factory he built

The whole Once-ler Family was working full tilt.

They were all knitting Thneeds just as busy as bees,

To the sound of the chopping of Truffula Trees.

Young Once-ler: Oh! Baby! Oh! How a business can grow!  
Now, chopping one tree at a time is too slow.

(Designated students drive axe hacker)

Storyteller 2: Quickly he invented a Super-axe-hacker  
Which whacked off four Truffula Trees at one smacker.

Lorax 2

young Order ①

**SONG: "HAPPY DAPPY BARBALOOTS"**

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