

# Massachusetts Letters About Literature Honors, | 2011 Level I

---

Dear Dr. Seuss,

When I was just learning to read, my favorite books, like many kids my age, were yours. I'd go through them like I'd go through Halloween candy and I'd love reading or being read all of the rhyming and funny sounding words that you sprinkle in. They made all the other books seem as boring as black and white pictures. But looking back I guess I never really understood what they were about; until one day.

I had taken a field trip to an environmental camp where we'd stay for three days and two nights hiking, eating and overall having a good time together. On the last day when it was time for our lesson about being green and getting to know nature, I was shocked to hear that they were going to read and do a skit about your book, *The Lorax*. *Dr. Seuss ...*, I thought to myself, *aren't we too old for Dr. Seuss?* But I was having fun already so I didn't let it bug me too much. After the skit/story was over a teacher explained to us all of your clever play on words like how thneed was a mixture of think and need (they think they need) and Lorax was lower and ax (lower your ax). I felt like a spy who just cracked an enemy code. Although what I thought was most interesting was how you agreed to take the line about the filthy water in Lake Erie out of the story. You gave the kids a chance to prove you wrong and they did.

Your book has left a lasting impression on me like a footprint in the sand. I now realize that I have the power to control a lot of things. I can remember not to be like that "chap" that bought the thneed for three ninety-eight causing the onceler to chop down more truffula trees where the Bar-ba-loots played in the shade and keeping the smogulous smoke from his factory smogging the throats of the swomee-swans and the Gluppity-Glupp coming from his machines gumming the gills of Humming-Fish. All because of that one "chap" who didn't ask or didn't care what the Thneed was doing to the living things all around them. I also can remember to not be the once-ler who only used the tufts of the Truffula trees he chopped and then threw the rest including almost all of the seeds away without thinking twice. I also noticed a flaw in the character of the hero, the Lorax. The once-ler had a good point. He said to the Lorax, "All you do is yap-yap and say 'Bad! Bad! Bad!'" He is right; the Lorax never listened to the once-ler's side of the story. He only yelled at him so he would stop chopping the truffulas.

The last thing I learned was that you're never too old for a good picture book.

Especially yours, Dr. Seuss!

Sincerely,

Connor

**Connor Delaney, Grade 6  
Holten Richmond Middle School, Danvers**