The Lorax vs. The Truax

Part 1: Watch the original movie, The Lorax. As you watch the movie answer the following questions that are related to topics we have covered during class discussions.

1. What characteristics of the Truffula Trees make them a good example of a renewable natural resource that could easily become a nonrenewable resource?

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2. Explain how affluence and population growth affected the natural capital of the environment. Has this or could this happen here in Englewood?

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3. The Once-ler said, “If I don’t use them, then someone else would.” Give an example of how this viewpoint applies to a real life situation.

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4. Explain how this is an example of tragedy of the commons.

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5. What was the tipping point for this ecosystem? Was there a time delay before the threshold level was reached that made the situation worse?

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6. The Thneed is a made up item. What do you think the Thneed represents?

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7. Who does the Once-ler represent in our society?

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Part 2: Go to the following website: [http://woodfloors.org/truax.pdf](http://woodfloors.org/truax.pdf) and read the children’s story titled Truax. Truax was commissioned by the Hardwood Forest Foundation and written by Terri Birkett. Complete the comparison activity below.

Think About It: The key points of the two stories are listed below. Read each statement below, and highlight any sentences with which you agree.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Truax—Key Points</th>
<th>The Lorax—Key Points</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>o No one needs to speak out for the environment—people who do are overreacting. The environment is not in trouble. People are managing the environment responsibly.</td>
<td>o Someone needs to speak out for the environment—people who do are concerned about it. The environment is in trouble, but you have the power to help it.</td>
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<tr>
<td>o People who turn trees into products are replanting new trees and are concerned about the environment.</td>
<td>o People who turn trees into products are deforesting the land and are not concerned about the environment.</td>
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<tr>
<td>o Trees are a valuable human resource that everyone uses to make homes, furniture, paper, and other wood products.</td>
<td>o Trees should not be cut down. People who profit from trees are greedy and out to make a profit at nature’s expense.</td>
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<tr>
<td>o Trees provide homes for animals—when trees are cut down, some animals leave, and some new animals come into an area.</td>
<td>o Trees provide homes for animals—these animals are forced out of an area and/or die if we deforest their environment.</td>
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<tr>
<td>o Once the trees are removed from an area, they can be easily replanted.</td>
<td>o Once the trees are removed from an area, the ecosystem is permanently damaged.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Truax the logger is wise; Guardbark, protector of the trees, is uneducated.</td>
<td>o Lorax, protector of the trees is wise; Once-ler, the businessman, is uneducated.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Discussion: So who’s right? Lorax? Truax? A little of both? Neither? Discuss the differing viewpoints of the authors. What companies published the two books? Is there bias in either story? Explain your thoughts/viewpoints in the space below.

Use examples from this activity and class discussions.