Assignment #5
“The Lorax”– 25 pts

I. Instructions:

1. Read and/or view “The Lorax” by Dr. Seuss.
2. Answer the below comprehension questions (10 points)
3. Answer 5 of the below reflection questions (10 points)
4. Submit via “Assignments” on Canvas and on your ePortfolio (5 pts).

II. Comprehension Questions: Write a 1 sentence answer to the below questions.

1. The Truffula Trees were scarce, valuable natural resources. What made the valuable and scarce?
   *The Truffula Trees were valuable for many reasons, but the one reason that was mentioned in the film was that they provided food for the Barbaloot’s.*

2. Why did the Once-ler chop down the first Truffula Tree?
   *The Once-ler chopped down the first Truffula Tree because he needed the tuffs to create his Thneed’s.*

3. What benefit did the Thneed have for consumers?
   *A Thneed was basically anything that the consumer wanted it to be. It could fill any need imaginable.*

4. The Lorax did not think anyone would want to purchase a Thneed. Was he correct?
   *Unfortunately for the Lorax he was wrong and the Thneed proved to be something that everyone wanted.*

5. What new capital resource did the Once-ler invent? How did this help his business?
   *The Once-ler invented the Super Axe-Hacker, which ultimately helped to make Thneed’s four times faster.*

6. Who was harmed as more and more Truffula Trees were chopped down and they became more scarce?
   *The Barbaloot’s, the Swanny Swans, and the Humming Fish were all harmed as the Once-ler’s business continued to deplete the Truffula Trees.*

7. Was it wise of the Once-ler to chop down all the trees?
   *The Once-ler was so caught up in the success of his business that he was blinded by the harm that he was causing to that ecosystem. He later realized the damaging effects that he caused and felt regret.*

8. In the story, all the trees were chopped down. In the modern U.S. economy, why would this not happen?
   *This situation is most likely not to occur because of all the protected forests and national parks. It is also my understanding that the lumber industry is required to replant trees in areas where...*
they were removed.
9. What situation or condition would promote the cutting down of all trees or the overuse of natural resources?

*Demand from consumers and greed from business people lead to these type of situations.*
10. When a good, service, or natural resource becomes more and more scarce, what happens to the price?

*Typically when something becomes rare the price of that product increases.*
11. Compare the Once-ler’s attitude toward the environment at the beginning of the story with his attitude at the end.

*The Once-ler’s attitude was much different in the end. His success was no long able to stand in the way of the disasters that he had created, and he began to feel remorse.*

**III. Reflection Questions:** Using 2-3 sentences, answer **FIVE** of the following.

1. Both the Onceler and the Lorax were passionate about their goals. Discuss several reasons to explain why the Onceler succeeded while the Lorax failed.

*There is strength in numbers and the Once-ler had that on his side. It was much easier for him to convince his family and others to join in his cause as it brought them worldly wealth. The Lorax was essentially by himself fighting for his cause. What he preached was not as exciting as becoming rich. Most of the people involved most likely never knew or appreciated what once existed and where blinded by their own greed.*

2. Can aesthetic appreciation and value be taught? Why or why not? Is it possible to persuade someone that a mountain vista or seashore is beautiful if they did not already appreciate it? Why or why not?

*Depending on the situation I do believe that it is possible to teach someone aesthetic appreciation and value. As people become more and more educated they can begin to analyze more effectively and base their opinions more on facts rather than just first impressions. Though it may be difficult to persuade someone that they are wrong, it is possible to shed new insight and to point out things that they might not have recognized before.*

3. The Lorax says that the Once-ler is greedy. Greed is defined as a selfish desire for food, money, or possessions over and above what one needs. What are some of the ways that the Once-ler proved his greed? He says, "I biggered my money which every needs." Is it true that everyone needs money? How much money do people need? Is it right to make a ton of money while destroying the environment?

*Several times throughout the story the Once-ler began to feel remorse for the damage which he had created. That remorse was quick lived though as he justified his actions to the wealth that he was creating for himself. Even though he felt badly for the Barbaloot’s, the Swanny Swans, and the Humming Fish, he continued to bask in his money. In this day and age, everyone needs to have money in order to survive. The problem lies with just how much money we all need to have in order to survive. Money can be a drug which sucks you in. Those who don't have it want it, and those who have it can’t get enough of it. It blinds us from seeing the harmful*
effects that it can create.

4. What did the once-ler mean by "UN-LESS"? What responsibility does he seem to think "someone like you" needs to take? What kinds of things can we do today to ensure that natural resources will be available for purposes in the future?

The Lorax leaves the message “UN-LESS” as a reminder that the devastation that was caused by the Once-ler will remain unless someone chooses to do something about it. This means caring for the land, finding ways to conserve and even ways to replenish. In order to do these things, we need to be willing to reduce, recycle and reuse.

5. The Once-ler explains his actions by saying, "If I didn't do it, someone else would." Is this a good excuse for doing what he did?

The Once-ler was merely trying to find a way to justify what he was doing. Regardless of whether or not this may be true, it didn’t make it right and he learned this at the end of the story. It is this type of thinking that is destroying the earth that we live in now. Why should we care if we are doomed anyways? If we don’t act, there will never be a chance of salvaging what we can.