



Save the Lofty Trees

An Environmental Play by Leslie Mills



Save the Lofty Trees

An Environmental Play

Whole class on stage, sitting. First three children step up.

Child 1: Here is a story about the Lofty Tree,
and how one day it ceased to be.

Child 2: The second grade would like all to know,
that we should let things live and grow.

Child 3: So listen to how once upon a day,
we could let our land fall into disarray.

Whole group sings to the tune "Mary Had a Little Lamb"

Save the lovely Lofty trees.
Lofty trees, Lofty trees.
Save the lovely Lofty trees.
Save them if you please.

Two more children step up

Child 4: The Lofty trees are a sight to see,
they give shade and beauty to you and me.
Birds and squirrels make their homes
and hide,
bunnies and deer live together side by side.

Child 5: The Lofty tree has flowers so sweet,
for the bees they are quite a treat.
To rest beneath the Lofty tree,
Oh what a joy that is to me!

Enter Factory Owner and Woodcutters

Factory Owner: Ha! Ha! Ha! I found you, Lofty trees,
Now I'll build my factories.
I'll make my money in great big piles,
cut down Lofties for miles and miles.

Woodcutters: Come on, let's chop those Lofties down.
Build a store, build a town.
Chop, Chop, Chop,
T I M B E R !

Enter Conservationist

Conservationist: STOP! STOP! Don't you care or understand
what will happen to the animals and
to our land?
I'll speak for our planet 'til my face turns blue.
Don't you realize what all this chopping
is leading to?
STOP! STOP! STOP!...STOP!
(stamps foot)

Factory Owner: No! I won't. I want *my* fame.
I want everyone to know my name.
I'll make my money in great big piles.
Cut down Lofties for miles and miles.

Woodcutters: Chop, Chop, Chop, T I M B E R ! (all sit)

Enter animals—bees, birds, bunnies, squirrels, deer

Animal group: Oh dear! Oh dear! What can we do?
Oh dear! Oh dear! Our lives are through.

Squirrel: As a squirrel I live to climb from limb to limb.
(can be more I eat Lofty nuts to keep myself trim.
than one) If the Lofty tree is gone,
What will I do from now on?

Animal group: Oh dear! Oh dear! What can we do?
(repeat) Oh dear! Oh dear! Our lives are through.

Birds: We fly from branch to branch and play.
We build our nest for a place to stay.
We give our babies worms to eat.
Our Lofty home is such a treat.

Animal group: Oh dear! Oh dear!

Bees: We buzz around from flower to flower,
And sample honey hour by hour.
Lofty nectar is the best to be found.
Oh Lofty, I'm so glad you're around.

Animal group: Oh dear! Oh dear!

Bunnies: Scampering by the Lofty tree,
There's no better place to be.
Nibbling grasses from the forest floor,
That's a meal that I adore.

Animal group: Oh dear! Oh dear!

Deer: As a deer I need to have a place
where I can rest and I can race.
The Lofty forest is so good to me.
The Lofty forest is the place to be.

Animal group: Oh dear! Oh dear!

*Enter Factory Owner, Conservationist, Woodcutters,
and children*

Factory Owner: Lofties are what I want to use,
Lofties are what the people will choose.

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I'll use the Lofties in every way.
Bring them to me every day.

Conservationist: Stop! Stop! Doesn't anyone care?
Stop! Soon there'll be no more Lofties
anywhere.
This destruction has to end.
Won't anyone join me and be my friend?

1 or 2 supporters: Recycle paper, write on both sides, too.
(they can carry signs)
This is something we all can do.

Factory Owner: Go away. Get lost.
I have to have you, Lofty trees.
Bring them to my factories.
I'll make my money in great big piles.
Cut down Lofties for miles and miles.

Woodcutters: Chop, Chop, Chop, T I M B E R !

Conservationist: STOP! STOP! Don't you care or understand
what will happen to the animals and
to our land?
I'll speak for the planet 'til my face turns blue.
Don't you realize what all this chopping
is leading to?
STOP! STOP! STOP!...STOP!

Whole group: Recycle, and don't waste paper
at home, at work, or at school.
Let re-using bags and writing on both sides
(of the paper) be a *special* rule.
Save the lovely Lofty trees.
Save them, if you please.

Child 1: The animals and plants are in big trouble.
They have to leave on the double.
By chopping the Lofties to the ground
There isn't enough food to go around.

Child 2: And the factories, they have too much smoke.
The factories blacken the sky and make
everyone choke. (*all cough*)

Factory Owner: Go away! Go away you guys.
Go away, say your goodbyes.
I have to have you, Lofty trees.
Bring them to my factories.
I'll make my money in great big piles.
Cut down Lofties for miles and miles.

Woodcutters: Chop, Chop, Chop, T I M B E R !

Enter 4 children

All children: We are the children who love you so.
Oh Lofty trees, please don't go!

Child 1: I want to play hide and seek.
I'll hide my eyes and I won't peek.
(*hides and peeks*)

Child 2: In your shade I'll read a book
on how to play ball or how to cook.

Child 3: I'll lean against you and take a snooze.
In the fall your leaves I'll use.

Child 4: A treehouse I do love to make.
And climb up in it for fun's sake.

All children: We are the children who love you so.
Oh Lofty trees, please don't go!
(*the children sit down*)

Enter Woodcutters, Factory Owner and Conservationist

Factory Owner: Oh Children, I hate your story.
My Lofties will bring me fame and glory.
Search for Lofties far and wide.
Search and scour the countryside.
I'll make my money in great big piles.
Cut down Lofties for miles and miles.

Woodcutters: T I M B E R ! !

Conservationist: STOP! STOP! STOP! Doesn't anyone care?
STOP! or soon there'll be no more Lofties
anywhere.
This destruction has to end.
Won't anyone join me and be my friend?

Whole group sings to the tune "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star"

How we'll miss our Lofty trees.
How we'll miss the gentle breeze.
Trees help us, as we all know.
Lofty trees, we love you so.
How we'll miss our Lofty trees.
How we'll miss the gentle breeze.

Enter 2 children

Child 1: Not a Lofty in sight; how grim, how sad.
Not a Lofty flower or nut to be had.

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Animals have fled; they've gone away.
And children have lost a place to play.

Enter happy kid

Child 2: There's not a Lofty to be found.
Pollution and destruction are all around.

Happy kid: I have some lovely Lofty trees to plant.
We'll start a new forest, don't say you can't.
It's not too late to help and share.
It's not too late to show you care.

Whole group: Mr. Factory Owner, what did you do?
Mr. Factory Owner, how mean of you!

Whole group: The Earth is our home. Be very kind.
Protect things in nature. Keep that in
your mind.
Let's not be careless and make our
land look bad.
Our home, the Earth, is a place for *us*
to feel glad.

Factory Owner: I'm sorry for my acts of greed.
I didn't think of our earth's need.
Now there's ugliness mile after mile.
And it's all because of my meanie style.
Oh dear! Oh dear! What can I do?
Oh dear! Oh dear! My life is through.
I'm sorry for the nasty things I did.

Whole group: Oh, don't be sad. Look! We see a happy kid.

THE END

Mary had a lit-tle lamb, lit-tle lamb, lit-tle lamb,
Mary had a lit-tle lamb, its fleecce was white as snow.

Mary Had a Little Lamb
Old English melody
Sarah J. Hale

Use this tune for the opening
chorus of the play.

Twin-kle, twin-kle, lit-tle star, How I won-der
what you are; Up a-bove the world so high
Like a dia-mond in the sky, Twin-kle, twin-kle,
lit-tle star, How I won-der what you are.

**Twinkle, Twinkle,
Little Star**
Old French melody
Jane Taylor

Use this tune for the song on
the previous page.

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