

## Second Place Prize: Grade 7-9

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Grade 9

*Introduction: Habitat destruction is a major cause of biodiversity loss. Habitat loss is caused by deforestation (logging), pollution and global warming. Species which are physically large and those living in forests or oceans are more affected by habitat reduction. The primary cause of the decay of organic diversity is not direct to human exploitation, but the habitat destruction that inevitably results from the expansion of human populations and human activities. Biodiversity boosts ecosystem productivity. Where each species, no matter how small, all have an important role to play. Great species diversity ensures natural sustainability for all life forms.*

One person in particular loved everything about mother nature, her name was Liz. Liz was nine years old, oh, and did she fail to tell you that she is a frog? A frog from Frog Lake of course! It's really lovely living in Frog Lake with her friends, eagle and fox. Yeah, I know, what a couple of weirdos, you'd think the eagle would eat me.

Sadly, eagle left just a few months ago due to habitat loss, due to no food sources and a broken heart. Eagle loved watching the sun go down and the moon come up. Liz was heartbroken when her friend left. Liz decided she wasn't losing any more friends. Fox and Liz worked together and got a group of animal friends to help clean Frog Lake and save the animals from habitat loss.

Big giants (known as humans) would come and tear down the beautiful trees, ponds, rivers, lakes and big fields. Of course, we couldn't stop them, they had giant trucks and crazy machines. We then realized eagle left because the trees were getting cut down,

that is where eagle and his family lived. How could they stay if there are no trees? Everyone needs trees, whether it's me, my friends, fox or even humans and other crazy species. We need a tree to sleep, live, hide from scary animals (predators) and many other great things.

Like for humans they use trees for paper to write on, send mail, for money, and even use the bathroom with it. I mean I can't figure out why they use toilet paper, Liz just makes sure no one is watching. Liz was a frog so why not right?

It took us a long time to figure out how to solve this situation, so Liz and her many, many animal friends went running, hopping and walking to the best magic woman in Frog Lake. Their mission was to get the humans attention. They finally got there, where she had shelves of magic of course. Her first spell was to turn Liz into a human. For one whole day and at midnight she'd turn back into a frog. Liz drank the potion. She started to grow big and beautiful, she had long legs, hair, a beautiful face. What else could she be missing? Liz glanced at everyone and smiled.

She spoke and said, "Okay fellas here's the plan."

She went on for hours, which felt like forever.

She spoke her last few words "We shall live in peace and harmony, we shouldn't have to worry about leaving home, this is our home!"

Every animal jumped for joy, and the women smiled greatly. Moments later Liz marched into the band office with signs declaring Frog Lake must stay clean.

She went on saying "It's not fair to the community, fracking is how we're losing our animal friends."

She went on to talk to the head of Frog Lake. Speechless they stood there thinking about what was going on.

“Continue” he spoke.

Liza said “Fracking is taking our animal friends’ homes and it’s wrecking our beautiful community, we’re taking advantage of what we have. What will we do when it’s all gone? Pollution is killing our air, changing the climate. We shouldn’t have to worry about how clean the water is, but we have to, the pollution is killing trees, the list goes on. The construction is decreasing habitats for animals. We need the trees to survive. It is impossible to live in a world with no trees, that’s our air!”

He spoke in sadness, feeling bad for how Frog Lake was being treated. The chief made changes, everything was healthy again, every week there was four teams. One group to clean garbage, one to clean plastic, to clean bottles, and etc. After the construction was over the little hometown was starting to shape up. It was beautiful, everyone took their part in taking care of the community, no garbage anywhere.

So many other bird friends came back with eagle! Eagle brought back new friends, there was plenty of bees for all the flowers to grow, so many different flowers fields, and a lot of other things. The world is better when you work together, because not just one person can do it all by their self. Mother earth doesn’t need us to survive but we need her more than anything.

*Conclusion: If you don’t care about the environment chances are it will become polluted. It’ll be polluted with contaminants and toxins, which may harm your health. Outdoor air pollution is associated with heart and asthma attacks, bronchitis and premature mortality. Our indoor environment is two - five times more toxic than our outdoor environment. Also, according to the*

*CDC, water pollution can lead to gastrointestinal illness and neurological disorders.*

*Small changes in the average temperature can lead to the frequent occurrence of dangerous weather patterns and devastating storms. As humans, we are largely responsible because our activities have caused a continual increase in greenhouse gases. We have many of the basic necessities that we need to survive because of the biodiversity. Food, water, shelter and air. There are natural processes that have been formed by various species to provide or affect these necessities. If something happens to a certain organism an unwanted chain reaction may occur. That may lead to a loss of biodiversity, which could negatively affect our necessities. The greater the diversity of life the great opportunity for discoveries that could make our world a much better place.*