

## **The Monkey's Paw by W.W. Jacobs**

1. Describe the small parlor in Lakesnam Villa and the people in it.
2. What does Mr. White complain about so violently, and what does his wife think he's really angry about?
3. How does the White family treat Sergeant-Major Morris? Explain.
4. How do Mr. White and Sergeant-Major Morris know one another?
5. Why did the Indian fakir put the spell on the monkey's paw?
6. What does Morris more than once urge White to do with the monkey's paw?
7. What does Mr. White wish for, and who suggests that he wish for it?
8. Why does the old man give "a shuddering cry" just as he finishes the wish?
9. Although Mr. White makes the first wish, and neither his wife nor Herbert will admit that the paw moved, who becomes most interested in the outcome of their experiment?
10. Why does Mr. White faint when he learns the amount Maw and Meggins plan to give them as compensation?
11. Choose one sentence from the first two paragraphs of this last section of the story that shows how the Whites have adjusted to their son's death.
12. What does Mr. White decide they must wish for the second time?
13. What is Mr. White's reaction to her plan?
14. Why does the paw fall to the floor and Mr. White regard it "shudderingly"?
15. What did Mrs. White forget "was two miles away"?
16. What do you assume is Mr. White's last wish?
17. Why do you think he makes that wish?
18. Has Mr. White's last wish put an end to the curse? Why or why not?

### **Discussion Small Group Questions**

19. How does Mr. White acquire the monkeys' paw?
20. What happens to Herbert White, the son?
21. When does Mr. White make his final wish?
22. Contrast the scene outside the White's home with the scene in the living room as the Whites await the sergeant-major's arrival. What does the author intend the reader's attitude toward the family to be?
23. Explain the White's conflicting attitudes toward the monkey's paw.
24. How do Herbert's words, "Well, I don't see the money, and I bet I never shall," come to have a significance that he did not intend?
25. What is Mr. White's third wish? Why do you think he makes it?
26. Do you think the author should have described who or what was outside the door? Would such a description increase or reduce the effectiveness of the story for the readers?
27. Are the White's partly responsible for the tragedy that occurs, or are they innocent victims of an evil curse? Explain.

**Vocabulary:** Write the definition of each word and use each word in a sentence.

Parlor	radical	placidly	fatal	grimly
Poised	torrent	dubiously	talisman	inaudible

*Think about how the story would be different if any of the characters had made another choice. Create a story board that changes the ending of the story.*

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|--|-----------------------|
| ___1. Speaking in a way that is calming          | a. <b>parlor</b>      |
| ___2. A room for entertaining                    | b. <b>radical</b>     |
| ___3. Causing death                              | c. <b>fatal</b>       |
| ___4. Self confidence, the ability to stay calm  | d. <b>hospitality</b> |
| ___5. A quick look                               | e. <b>grimly</b>      |
| ___6. Drastic, making extreme changes            | f. <b>poised</b>      |
| ___7. Throw, toss                                | g. <b>torrent</b>     |
| ___8. Gloomy, dismal, forbidding                 | h. <b>soothingly</b>  |
| ___9. Treating guests with warmth and generosity | i. <b>glance</b>      |
| ___10. Swift, violent stream                     | j. <b>pitch</b>       |

11. The old man was very \_\_\_\_\_ with the sergeant major, his guest.
12. Chess is a game with many \_\_\_\_\_ changes.
13. The sergeant told Mr. White to \_\_\_\_\_ the paw in the fire.
14. They received their guest in the \_\_\_\_\_.
15. Mr. White's wish on the paw proved to be \_\_\_\_\_ to Herbert.

1. How does Mr. White acquire the monkey's paw?
2. What happens to Herbert White, the son?
3. When does Mr. White make his final wish?
4. Contrast opening scene of the White's home with the scene at the end of the story. What has happened to the White family? In what ways has the family changed?
5. How do Herbert's words, "Well, I don't see the money, and I bet I never shall," come to have significance that he did not intend?
6. What is Mr. White's third wish? Who do you think he makes it?
7. Describe who or what you think was outside the door at the end of the story.

# Monkey's Paw

Name \_\_\_\_\_

per \_\_\_\_\_

1. **Highlight the nouns one color.**
2. **Highlight the adjectives another color and circle the verbs.**
3. **Choose the words that are most descriptive.**
4. **Discuss what these words make you think of (connotations).**
5. **Discuss how these words make you feel (effect).**

Imagery	Connotations	Effect
She watched the mysterious movements of the man outside, who, peering in an undecided fashion at the house, appeared to be trying to make up his mind to enter.		
The visitor bowed in assent. "Badly hurt," he said quietly, "but he is not in any pain."		
She broke off suddenly as the sinister meaning of the assurance dawned upon her and she saw the awful confirmation of her fears in the other's averted face.		
In the huge cemetery, some two miles distant, the old people buried their dead, and came back to a house steeped in shadow and silence.		
The man sat up in bed and flung the bedclothes from his quaking limbs. "Good God, you are mad!" he cried aghast.		
The talisman fell to the floor, and he regarded it fearfully. Then he sank trembling into a chair as the old woman, with burning eyes, walked to the window and raised the blind.		

## Monkey's Paw Ending

Write a new ending to the story. Mrs. White begs Mr. White to wish for their son to come back to life. Mr. White does. There is a knock on the door. Mrs. White runs to answer it and Mr. White looks for the paw. He can't find it! It's disappeared. Mrs. White opens the door.

Write as descriptively as you can. Include as many details as you can. Use precise adjectives and verbs. Include dialogue. What would Herbert smell like, look like, sound like, etc.

Monkey's Paw  
Test

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_

1. The third wish is made in a moment of
  - a. anger over son's death
  - b. grief over tragedy of son's death

Tell whether each of the following events was coincidence or unnatural due to monkey's paw. Also state the effect each event had on the White family.

Event	Coincidence-events happening together by chance	Unnatural causes- including fantastical or magical forces	Effect on the White family.
1. Movement of the paw during each wish			
2. The wish for 200 pounds and the son's death			
3. The knocking on the door after the second wish			
4. The third wish and nobody being at the door			

Come to a general conclusion about the cause of the events in "The Monkey's Paw."

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### Monkey's Paw New Ending

In groups of three or four, you are going to rewrite the ending to "The Monkey's Paw." Begin after Mr. White has made his second wish and there is a knocking at the door. Mr. White does not find the paw and Mrs. White opens the door and lets who/what is behind the door enter the house.

Use sensory images to describe

The night was ...

Outside the door was...

The inhabitants of the house...

Other descriptive adjectives to include in your story...

Write your new ending below. Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

