



The Monkey's Paw by W.W. Jacobs
Activity Packet



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"The Monkey's Paw" by W.W. Jacobs Lesson Plan



1) Everybody wishes for something. My name is Jean, the Genie. I am going to grant you one wish that will be granted and it WILL come true. Think carefully because you can only wish once. Now you can wish for

- Something for yourself
- Something for someone else
- Something that will make the World a better place
- An ability to do something, i.e. to fly, to disappear, to cure an illness, to invent something, etc.

You cannot wish for money more wishes, or wish for a very general emotion or feeling like happiness or becoming rich. You must wish for something concrete or real. You can, however, wish for a person to return or come into your life or something good to happen.

2) What is your wish? _____

Write at least a paragraph explaining why you would like this wish. _____

3) Put this wish on a piece of paper with your name on it and put it in the wish box which we will use later. As you put your wish in the box, you must reveal to the class what the wish is.

Pre-Reading Activity: Literature Circles (See handout)

4) You will be divided into groups of 3-4 people. Each group must assign a group leader (facilitator) and a recorder. You will first answer each question individually and then discuss it with a group.

5) Read the story- Do scavenger hunts and vocabulary detective activities

6) Do post reading questions



"The Monkey's Paw" Pre-Reading Worksheet

1. What is the title of the story? Who is the Author? _____

2. What do you think this story will be about/ why? (Think of the images that come to your mind when you read the title of the story) Write at least a three sentence possible summary of this story.

3. Name 3 objects that are considered good luck in your culture. _____

4. Name 3 objects that are considered bad luck in your culture. _____

5. Do the members of your group believe in good and bad luck? (Write the number of yes and no)

Yes _____ No _____ not sure _____

6. Does anyone carry anything for good luck? If so show it to the group.

List of Items

7. Do you think this story (The Monkey's Paw) is about good or bad luck? Why?

8. Do you believe that wishes can be granted or come true? Why or why not? _____

9. What are the three most common things that people would wish for? _____



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10. If you could make three wishes, what would they be? Describe the wishes, and what you think would happen if they were granted. _____

Name _____ Date _____

"The Monkey's Paw" Post-Reading Worksheet

1. What game are the father and son playing? Who is wins the game? Explain why this family member wins?

2. (For experts) What is ironic about the difference in playing styles of father and son? Now watch and observe if the father's behavior is consistent throughout the story.

3. What is the first hint that the monkey's paw is not a good thing? _____

4. What is the second clue that something is not right about the paw? _____

5. What is the family's first wish? Why does it turn out ironically? _____

6. What is the second wish? Why does Herbert's dad think that this is a bad idea? _____

7. What do you think the third wish was? Why do you think this? _____

8. Do you agree or disagree with Mr. White's final wish? Why or why not? What would you have wished for/done differently? Explain.

Name _____ Date _____

"The Monkey's Paw" Post-Reading Worksheet

1. What game are the father and son playing? Who is wins the game? Explain why this family member wins? **They are playing chess. The son wins. The father takes extreme chances while the son uses more strategy and seems to have a plan. The father acts impulsively and puts his king in peril/danger. He will later put his son in peril with his rash behavior and decisions made with the monkey's paw.**

"Father and son were at chess; the former, who possessed ideas about the game involving radical chances, putting his king into such sharp and unnecessary perils that it even provoked comment from the white-haired old lady knitting placidly by the fire."

2. (For experts) What is ironic about the difference in playing styles of father and son? Now watch and observe if the father's behavior is consistent throughout the story.

It is the opposite of what you would expect. You would expect a young person like Herbert to employ this rash, impatient playing strategy and not the father.

By the end of the story the father has learned his lesson and he is the one who is the most cautious and chooses not to see his son. Was this the right choice or was this an overly rash decision? Should he have chosen to see his son?

3. What is the first hint that the monkey's paw might be dangerous? **Morris said, "It had a spell put on it by an old fakir," said the sergeant- major, "a very holy man. He wanted to show that fate ruled people's lives, and that those who interfered with it did so to their sorrow**

4. What is the second clue the monkey's paw might be dangerous? **It also moved when wished upon, Sergeant Morris told them to throw it into the fire and let it burn, it was a monkey's paw. Also Sergeant Major Morris told a story about the last man to own the monkey's paw. The man's third and final wish was death.**

5. What is the family's first wish? Why does it turn out ironically? **In most other stories, wishes are good things and turn out being beneficial and helpful. In this story, the parent's first wish takes their son away. Ironically two hundred pounds is about the size of a brawny person. (Be careful, no one has ever noticed this, but me) Ironically again, it was the son who made the first wish which actually led to his own death; in other words he pronounced his own death sentence.**

6. What is the second wish? Why does Herbert's dad think that this was a bad idea? **His mom wants to bring Herbert back to life.**

"Wish!" repeated his wife."

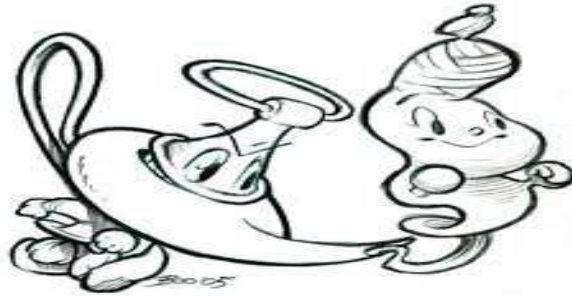
He raised his hand. "I wish my son alive again."

The older Herbert thinks that Herbert Jr. will come back mutilated and in pain.

7. What do you think the third wish was? Why do you think this? **We can never be sure, but we can infer that the father wishes for Herbert to die again so he will not suffer and be mutilated from his injuries.**

8. Do you agree or disagree with Mr. White's final wish? Why or why not? Explain why and give alternatives. What would you have wished for? Explain. **Answers will vary? Some may agree with Mr. White and say that it would have been hideous to bring the son back because he would have suffered and been in a great deal of pain. Others will disagree and say that Mr. White's behavior is consistent throughout the story. Again he may have made a rash decision. Maybe he should have seen the condition of his son first. Maybe he could have wished to have his son's injuries healed. We never will know if this was possible.**

GENIE IS A LAMP



If a genie in a lamp granted you three wishes, what would they be? Explain why you would wish for each thing and what you would do with it. (You cannot choose money or more wishes).

1st Wish _____

2nd Wish _____

3rd Wish _____

The Monkey's Paw Story Map

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

Title:

Author:

Characters:

Setting:

Somebody (The protagonist)

Wanted (What the protagonist wanted to do and why (Motivation))

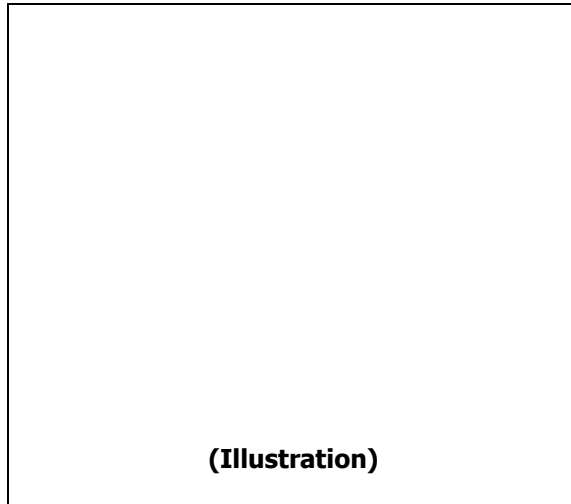
But (the conflict/the problem the protagonist had)

So (How the main character solved the problem)

Then (How the story ended/the resolution)

WANTED

Dead or Alive



Give culprit's name and description, describe the crime, list any warnings (considered dangerous/carrying a weapon, etc.), and list suggestions or advice on what to do if people see this person.

The Monkey's Paw Post reading follow-up activities

- 1) The Wish Bag-All the students' wishes are put in a wish bag or box. Students are divided into groups of three people and each group member chooses one name from the bag. If anyone chooses themselves or a group member they put that name back into the bag.
- 2) Genie in a Lamp- My Three Wishes-Write a five paragraph essay-(See Graphic Organizer)
- 3) Who is to Blame for the Death of Herbert?
 - Write a journal entry/essay
 - Make a Wanted Poster (see graphic Organizer)
- 4) Role-play your favorite scene of the story (4 people)
 - Have a narrator who tells the story
 - Other students are the characters
 - Bring props, guns, clothes, swords, knives, bottles for poison, etc
 - You can change the ending
 - Make it Island-style
- 5) Do a picture story about the Monkey's Paw
 - Write story/ Explain what is happening
 - Insert a dialogue when needed
 - Draw pictures (any artists here?)
 - It can be designed like a comic book
 - Use your digital camera's do make this picture story
- 6) Write/Role-play a Sequel to Animal Farm.
- 7) Make a power point presentation about the story
 - Your favorite 2 scenes in the story
 - Write the story/ Explain what is happening
 - Insert a dialogue when needed
 - Download pictures
 - Sounds/Animation/Music
- 8) Research ideas
 - Superstitions- Good luck and bad luck charms and customs around the World
 - Superstitions-Good luck and bad luck charms and customs in your culture
 - Research on the India or the Raj-the British colonial presence in India
- 9) Do a diorama

- This is a diorama of the setting of the story
- The story in a box
- One paragraph summary of a scene
- Why is it important
- Two quotations that are important
- Present the diorama