

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



*"The Monkey's Paw"* by W.W. Jacobs  
**Organizing Your Thoughts**  
Before You Read

1. Give the title and author of the story. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What image comes to mind when you read the title of the story? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Name several objects that are generally considered to bring good luck. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Name several objects that are generally considered to bring bad luck. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Do you believe that wishes can be granted? Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What do you think is the most common wish people make? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. 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 \_\_\_\_\_



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**Organizing Your Thoughts**  
As You Read

1. What is the first clue that the monkey's paw is not a good thing? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What is the second clue that something is not right about the paw? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What is *ironic* about the wish? (*Something is ironic when the thing that happens is the exact opposite from what you had expected.*) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Why does the mother think the second wish will make everything alright?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Why is the father afraid to make the second wish? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. What do you think the third wish was? Why do you think this? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. The story begins with the anonymous quote, "Be careful what you wish for...". How does this story illustrate the need for caution in wishing? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



*"The Monkey's Paw"* by W.W. Jacobs  
**Chain Reaction**

*The Monkey's Paw* is the story of a problem the characters face after making a fateful decision. Instead of solving the problem, the solutions they find only make it worse. Use complete sentences to fill out the diagram below, and create a map of the story.

<b>Fateful decision</b>
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<b>Problem Caused</b>
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<b>Solution</b>
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<b>Problem(s) Caused by Solution</b>
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<b>Final Result</b>
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**Comprehension**

**Use complete sentences to answer the following questions.**

Knowledge:	1. How would you describe the monkey's paw?
Comprehension:	1. Which facts or incidents indicate that the monkey's paw was a "bad" thing or should have been thrown away?  2. What were the warning signs that something bad was going to happen?
Application:	1. What techniques does the author use to create suspense? Describe each incident.
Analysis:	1. Why do you think that the colonel, knowing what he does, still offers or shows the paw to the family?
Synthesis:	1. What would have happened if the father had not made a wish?
Evaluation:	1. What would you recommend the Whites do with the paw?



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

## After You Read

*"Be careful what you wish for; you just might get it!"*

In *The Monkey's Paw*, the characters found their wishes coming true in unexpected and unpleasant ways. Look over the following list of common wishes. Complete the chart, showing the possible positive and negative outcomes of each wish. Then, in the final column, see if you can phrase your wish so that all the negative effects are ruled out.

Wish	Positive Effects	Negative Effects	"Ideal" Wish
Money			
World Peace			
Live Forever			
No Pollution			
Intelligence			
Beauty			
Athletic Abilities			



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**Creative Interpretation**

**Choose one of the activities below. Work with a partner to complete the task. If you like, you may continue your work on a larger piece of paper.**

1. Create a "WANTED" poster for the monkey's paw. Include an illustration of the suspect, and a description of its crimes. List any warnings, and advice on what to do for people who come across it.

2. Design an object that can be used to grant wishes. Include a detailed illustration of the wish-granting object, labeling any important elements. State the rules of the wishing process, and any rules for the wishes themselves. Include warning labels.



## “The Monkey’s Paw” by W.W. Jacobs

### Reading Between the Lines

**I. Complete the chart by organizing the elements from the story into the appropriate categories.**

- A. *The Monkey’s Paw* being a story about a man who wished on the paw
- B. The content of Mr. White’s third wish
- C. The content of Sergeant Morris’s warning
- D. Movement of the paw when wished upon
- E. The content of Mr. White’s first wish
- F. The content of Mr. White’s second wish
- G. The reasons that Mr. White didn’t want his son to appear from the grave
- H. The idea that nothing bad would have happened if the Whites had not made a wish

Stated	Inferred
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.
4.	4.
5.	5.
6.	6.

**II. Decide whether each sentence is an example of foreshadowing in the story or whether it is irrelevant to the situation at hand. Write “F” or “I” on the line next to the statement.**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. The Whites liked to play chess during the evening.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. The monkey paw’s previous owner wished for death as his third wish.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. The son Herbert worked at a machine factory.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Wished could be made on a monkey’s paw.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. The paw moved when Mr. White made his wish.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. The story took place during the 1800s.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Herbert was an only child.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Herbert jokes that he didn’t see the money and probably never would.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. The sergeant panics when the father tells the mother to wish for four pairs of hands.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. The sergeant tells the family to throw it into the fire and let it burn.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. Mr. White doesn’t realize his mistake in chess until it is too late.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. The sergeant and Mr. White have not seen each other in a while.



## “The Monkey’s Paw” by W.W. Jacobs

### Suspense in Literature

The author, W.W. Jacobs, uses many different suspense techniques in *The Monkey’s Paw*. Match the element of the story with the literary technique used.

<i>unusual characters</i>	<i>foreshadowing</i>	<i>dilemma</i>
<i>unusual setting</i>	<i>unusual situation</i>	<i>ironic devices</i>
<i>withholding information (keeps you wondering)</i>		<i>dramatic actions</i>
<i>cliffhanger (leaves you guessing at the end)</i>		

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. The story begins with the line, “Without, the night was cold and wet.”
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Herbert says that he doesn’t see the money and he bets he never will.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. The story does not show who is knocking at the door or give the reason the father does not want his son to come back.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. The son comes back from the dead.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. The story deals with a monkey’s paw that can be used to make wishes.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. The father is forced to decide between pleasing his wife or sending his son back to his grave.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. The wish comes true but in a very tragic way
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. When the mother hears the knocking, she rushes to the door. The father tries to find the paw, the mother can’t get the door open, the wish is made, and then there is silence.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. The story ends with nothing at the door and an eerie quietness all around.





*"The Monkey's Paw"* by W.W. Jacobs  
**Answer Guide:**

• **Organizing Your Thoughts: As You Read (p. 2)**

Answers will vary—accept all reasonable answers.

1. It moved when wished upon, Sergeant Morris told them to throw it in the fire and let it burn, it was a monkey's paw
2. Morris told of a curse, or he told a story of a man who had wished on the paw and wished for death for the final wish.
3. Wishes coming true are supposed to be a good thing, not with something tragic attached to it.
4. The mother believes having her son back, regardless of the circumstances, is the only "must".
5. The father fears the second wish because of what the son may come back as.
6. One can infer that the third wish was for the son or "it" to go back to the grave.
7. The story teaches a lesson that you must think really hard about what you wish for because it might happen, but not in a way you expect.

• **Chain Reaction (p. 3)**

Fateful Decision:	Wishing on the paw
Problem Caused	The son dies for the 200 pounds as compensation
Solution	They wish for the son to come back from the grave
Problems Caused	The son may come back appearing as he died, or possibly come back evil
Final Result	The father wishes for the son to return; the mother is left heartbroken.

• **Reading Between the Lines (p. 7)**

A.	stated	E.	stated
B.	inferred	F.	stated
C.	stated	G.	inferred
D.	stated	H.	inferred

- |      |      |       |
|------|------|-------|
| 1. I | 5. F | 9. I  |
| 2. F | 6. I | 10. F |
| 3. I | 7. I | 11. F |
| 4. F | 8. I | 12. I |

• **Suspense in Literature (p.8)**

- |                            |                       |                     |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. unusual setting         | 4. unusual characters | 7. ironic devices   |
| 2. foreshadowing           | 5. unusual situation  | 8. dramatic devices |
| 3. withholding information | 6. dilemma            | 9. cliffhanger      |