

“The Monkey’s Paw” Study Questions

1. What type of mood is established in the beginning of the story? What helps determine that sense of feeling?
2. What magical ability does the monkey’s paw have?
3. Why did the fakir place a spell on the paw?
4. Sergeant Major Morris’ face whitens when he reveals that he has had three wishes. What can you infer about the paw?
5. What is probably upsetting the sergeant-major about the White family's lightheartedness toward the paw?
6. What was the first man’s third wish? How might this be an example of foreshadowing?
7. Why doesn't Mr. White know what to wish for? What is Mr. White’s first wish?
8. What does the paw immediately do after the first wish? What can you infer from this?
9. What does Mr. White see in the fire the night of his first wish? How is this an example of foreshadowing?
10. What are the family's feelings about the wish in the morning?
11. How do the Whites come to receive the \$200?
12. Why does Mrs. White want the monkey's paw? What is the second wish?
13. What do you suppose was the final wish?
14. What do you think happened at the end of the story? What does he mean when Mr. White beg his wife not to let "it" into the house? What is he afraid of? Who or what was outside of the house?
15. At what time of day does the story begin? Compare the weather outside with the atmosphere inside the parlor.
16. What does Morris do with the paw after telling about its background? What does Mr. White immediately do?
17. What is Mr. Whites first wish? What happens after he makes it? What is his second wish?
18. Summarize what happens after Mr. White makes the second wish.
19. How does Morris feel about the paw? How do you know?
20. A situation is said to be ironic when what happens is the opposite of what is expected. What is ironic about Mr. Whites first wish?
21. Why doesnt Mr. White want his wife to open the door? What do you think Mr. Whites third wish is?
22. Before making his first wish, Mr. White says It seems to me I’ve got all I want. In your opinion, what point is the author making?
23. In your opinion, what is the most unsettling aspect of the story? Explain your answer.

24-30. Complete the following chart by filling in each character's action and the conclusion you draw from that action:

Character	Action	Conclusion
Mr. White	Yells about the foul weather and the poor condition of the road they live on	He's frustrated because he has lost at chess and he is getting rid of his emotions
Mr. White		
Mrs. White		
Mrs. White		
Herbert White		
Herbert White		
Major Morris		