“The Monkey’s Paw” by W. W. Jacobs
Before You Read

Name: _______________________________ Date: ________

Directions: BEFORE YOU READ THE STORY, read and answer each of the following questions.

1. Preview the text. Look at the title of the story. What do you think this short story is going to be about?

2. What images come to mind when you read the title of this story? Draw a sketch in the space below.

3. Based upon your prior knowledge, list several objects that are considered to bring good luck.

4. Based upon your prior knowledge, list several objects that are considered to bring bad luck.

5. Explain why you believe wishes should or should not be granted.

6. What do you think is the most common wish people make?

7. If you could make 3 wishes, what would they be? Describe the wishes and what you think would happen if they were granted.
“The Monkey’s Paw” by W.W. Jacobs

Comprehension Questions

Directions: During or after reading, thoroughly answer each of the following questions.

1. How would you describe the monkey’s paw?

2. Which facts or incidents indicate that the monkey’s paw was a “bad” thing or should have been thrown away?

3. What were the warning signs that something bad was going to happen?

4. What techniques does the author use to create suspense? Describe EACH incident that occurs in the story.

5. Why do you think that the colonel, knowing what he does, still offers or shows the paw to the family?

6. What would have happened if the father had not made a wish?

7. What would you recommend the Whites do with the paw?
TEI question Practice

“The Monkey’s Paw is the story of a problem the characters face after a fateful decision. Instead of solving the problem, the solution(s) they find only make matters worse.

Directions: Complete the flow chart below.

Fateful decision

Problem Caused

Solution

Problem(s) caused by solution

Final result

(A) The father wishes for the son to return to the grave; the mother is left heartbroken
(B) The son may come back appearing as he died, or possibly come back evil
(C) Wishing on the paw
(D) They wish for the son to come back from the grave
(E) The son dies for the 200 pounds as compensation
After You Read
“The Monkey’s Paw” by W.W. Jacobs

In the text, the characters found their wishes coming true in unexpected and unpleasant ways. Look back over your answer to #7 on your “Before You Read” sheet; think about how those wishes might come true with an unexpected twist.

**Directions:** Review the list of wishes in the first column of the chart below. Complete the remaining columns.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wish</th>
<th>Positive Effects</th>
<th>Negative Effects</th>
<th>“Ideal” Wish</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Money</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Peace</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Live Forever</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Pollution</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intelligence</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beauty</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Athletic Abilities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>