

the monkeys paw commonlit answer key quizlet

The Monkeys Paw CommonLit Answer Key Quizlet is an essential resource for students and educators exploring W.W. Jacobs' classic short story. The tale of "The Monkey's Paw" serves as a chilling reminder of the consequences of tampering with fate and the unforeseen repercussions that often accompany our desires. This article delves into the themes, characters, and critical analysis of the story, while also providing insights into the CommonLit resources and how they can enhance comprehension and discussion in the classroom.

Overview of "The Monkey's Paw"

"The Monkey's Paw" was published in 1902 and has since become a staple in literature classes. The story focuses on the White family—Mr. and Mrs. White and their son, Herbert—who come into possession of a mystical monkey's paw that grants them three wishes. However, the wishes come with dire consequences, leading to tragedy and despair.

Plot Summary

1. Introduction of the Monkey's Paw: The story begins with the Whites receiving a visit from Sergeant-Major Morris, who introduces them to the monkey's paw and shares its dark history.
2. First Wish: Mr. White makes the first wish for two hundred pounds to pay off their mortgage. The wish is granted, but at the cost of Herbert's life in a work accident.
3. Second Wish: Grief-stricken, Mrs. White urges her husband to use the second wish to bring Herbert back to life. This wish is granted, but Herbert returns in a grotesque state, leading to fear and horror.
4. Final Wish: In a panic, Mr. White uses the final wish to undo the previous ones, leaving the story with an ambiguous ending as the couple faces the consequences of their choices.

Major Themes

Understanding the major themes of "The Monkey's Paw" is crucial for analyzing the story. Here are some of the prominent themes:

Fate and Free Will

- Interference with Fate: The story suggests that attempting to alter one's fate can lead to disastrous results.

The Whites' desire for wealth and their son's return ultimately lead to their misfortune.

- Consequences of Choices: Each wish made by the Whites serves as a pivotal choice, emphasizing the notion that every action has consequences, often unforeseen and tragic.

Greed and Desire

- The Danger of Greed: The initial wish for money highlights the dangers of greed. The Whites believe that money will solve their problems, but the outcome proves otherwise.

- Desire for Control: The story reflects humanity's desire to control their destiny, illustrating the folly of such aspirations when they go against the natural order.

Tragedy and Loss

- Impact of Loss: The emotional weight of loss is a central element of the story. The Whites' grief is palpable and serves as a driving force for their subsequent actions.

- Irreversible Consequences: The tragic events following each wish underscore the theme that some losses cannot be reversed, leaving characters and readers to grapple with the permanence of death.

Character Analysis

The characters in "The Monkey's Paw" are instrumental to the development of the plot and themes. Here are key insights into each character:

The White Family

1. Mr. White: The father figure who is both curious and cautious. His initial willingness to make a wish showcases his desire for control, while his later actions demonstrate his regret and fear.

2. Mrs. White: Driven by grief, she represents the emotional core of the story. Her desperation to see Herbert again leads to the most terrifying consequences.

3. Herbert White: The son whose tragic fate serves as the catalyst for the story's events. His character embodies youthful optimism, which is shattered by tragedy.

Sergeant-Major Morris

- The Harbinger of Doom: Morris introduces the monkey's paw, serving as a warning against its use. His

character represents the voice of reason, as he understands the danger but also the allure of the paw's power.

CommonLit and Educational Resources

CommonLit is an online platform that provides educators and students with access to a wide range of literary resources. Here's how CommonLit supports the study of "The Monkey's Paw":

Comprehension Questions

CommonLit offers comprehension questions designed to test students' understanding of the text. These questions often focus on:

- Plot details: Key events and character actions.
- Theme analysis: Understanding the underlying messages.
- Character motivations: Exploring why characters make certain choices.

Discussion Prompts

In addition to comprehension questions, CommonLit provides discussion prompts that encourage critical thinking and deeper analysis. These prompts may ask students to:

- Reflect on their own desires and the potential consequences of getting what they wish for.
- Discuss the moral implications of the characters' decisions.
- Connect the story's themes to contemporary issues.

Quizlet Integration

Quizlet is a popular study tool that can be used alongside CommonLit resources. Here's how students can benefit from Quizlet in studying "The Monkey's Paw":

1. Vocabulary Building: Using Quizlet, students can create flashcards for challenging words from the story, enhancing their vocabulary comprehension.
2. Interactive Quizzes: Teachers can design quizzes based on the story's content, allowing for immediate feedback and assessment.
3. Collaborative Learning: Students can create shared study sets, fostering collaboration and discussion

among peers.

Critical Analysis of "The Monkey's Paw"

In analyzing "The Monkey's Paw," it is crucial to consider its literary devices and stylistic elements:

Symbolism

- The Monkey's Paw: It symbolizes the dangers of greed and the consequences of tampering with fate. Its physical presence serves as a constant reminder of the choices made by the characters.
- The Fire: The fire in the Whites' home represents warmth and safety but also serves as a backdrop to the unfolding horror and loss.

Foreshadowing

Jacobs employs foreshadowing effectively, hinting at the tragic events to come through:

- Morris's warnings: His reluctance to discuss the paw's capabilities sets a foreboding tone.
- The initial wish's consequences: The immediate aftermath of the first wish indicates that wishes come at a cost.

Conclusion

In conclusion, "The Monkey's Paw" is a timeless tale that offers rich material for analysis and discussion in educational settings. Utilizing resources like CommonLit and Quizlet can enhance students' understanding and engagement with the text. By exploring its themes, characters, and literary devices, readers can better appreciate the complexities of human desire and the often harsh realities of life. Ultimately, the story serves as a cautionary tale, reminding us that some wishes are best left unmade.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the primary theme of 'The Monkey's Paw'?

The primary theme is the dangers of interfering with fate and the consequences of desire.

How does the author create suspense in 'The Monkey's Paw'?

The author uses foreshadowing, eerie descriptions, and the gradual revelation of the paw's powers to build suspense.

What happens to the White family after they make wishes on the paw?

Each wish leads to tragic and unintended consequences, ultimately resulting in the loss of their son, Herbert.

What is the significance of the number three in the story?

The number three is significant as the family is granted three wishes, symbolizing the idea of temptation and the potential for ruin.

How does Mr. White's attitude toward the paw change throughout the story?

Initially, Mr. White is skeptical but becomes increasingly obsessed with the paw's power, leading to regret and despair.

What lesson can be learned from 'The Monkey's Paw'?

The lesson is that one should be careful what they wish for, as desires can lead to unforeseen and often tragic outcomes.

How does the setting contribute to the mood of the story?

The setting, especially the isolated and dark environment of the White family's home, enhances the mood of suspense and foreboding.

What role does the character of Sergeant-Major Morris play in the story?

Sergeant-Major Morris serves as a catalyst for the events, introducing the paw and warning the Whites about its dangers.

What is the final wish made by Mrs. White, and what does it signify?

Mrs. White's final wish is for her son Herbert to return; it signifies her desperation and the depth of her grief.

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