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

**Directions:** Read each of the questions and complete your answers in complete sentence format (restating the question in each of your answers) on a separate sheet of notebook paper.

1. Why does the story start with the father and son playing chess? Does the father's strategy at the chessgame tell you anything about his personality?If so, what?

2. Note any of the characters' actions you feel are significant on the chart below. What conclusions can youdraw about each of the characters from analyzing their actions?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **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 |  |  |
| Major Morris |  |  |

3. Sergeant Major Morris describes the monkey's paw in this way: "It had a spell put on it by an oldfakir,...a very holy man.He wanted to show that fate ruled people's lives, and that those who interferedwith it did so to their sorrow."What does Morris' statement mean when you first read it?What does itmean after you have read the entire story?Is his comment significant?If so, why?

4. Why does Major Morris throw the monkey's paw onto the fire and why do the Whites react so strongly?

5. What happens to Herbert White? Why?

6. What do you think happened at the end of the story? Why does Mr. White beg his wife not to let "it" intothe house? What does he mean? What is he afraid of? Who or what was outside of the house?

7. What makes Jacobs' style of writing unique?Read the following passage (below) and think about how he putshis words together to create a mood. Underline words that seem important to you.

"...and a horrible fear that his wish would bring his mangled son before him ere he could escape from theroom seized upon him , and he caught his breath as he found he had lost the direction of the door.Hisbrow cold with sweat, he felt his way around the table, and groped along the wall until he found himselfin the small passage with the unwholesome thing in his hand."

8. How does Jacobs set the mood and/or tone of the story? How does he build suspense? Think about theway he uses silence as a way to create a mood. What does he describe (near the end) as the husband andwife lie in bed waiting for their wish to come true? Why?