“The Monkey’s Paw”
Short Story by W.W. Jacobs

Introducing the Short Story
Literary Analysis: Mood
Vocabulary in Context
Are you SUPERSTITIOUS?

Many people say they aren’t superstitious.

But those same people might own a lucky charm or get nervous on Friday the 13th.
INTRODUCING THE SHORT STORY

Are you SUPERSTITIOUS?

Usually these superstitions are harmless, but sometimes they can interfere with a person’s life.

In the selection you are about to read, curiosity about the power of an unusual object brings unexpected consequences.
Are you SUPERSTITIOUS?

DISCUSS

What kind of superstitious behavior do you or people you know believe in?

In a small group, brainstorm a list of common superstitions.

Then discuss which you think are harmless, and which might cause problems or interfere with someone’s life. Share your findings with the class.
Mood is the feeling or atmosphere the writer creates for the reader. There are as many moods as there are emotions—cheerful, gloomy, anxious.
The Monkey’s Paw

**Literary Analysis**

**Mood**

Writers create mood through:

- the choice of **setting**, including time and place

- **imagery**—descriptions that appeal to the reader’s senses

- conversations between characters

As you read “The Monkey’s Paw,” notice how the story makes you feel and which words or passages make you feel that way.
The Monkey’s Paw

Setting

- England, 1901
- British ruled India
- British military men traveled to the exotic land of India.
The Monkey's Paw  Symbolism of the Monkey

**Literary Analysis**

Most people from India are Hindus. Monkeys are sacred animals in Hindu faith. Monkeys are free to travel anywhere in India.
**Literary Analysis**

**Outlandish**

Adjective

Denotation: looking or sounding bizarre or unfamiliar

“He wore an outlandish moustache for Halloween.”
Tailsman

POS: Noun

Denotation: A good luck charm

“Before the test, Herbert took out his talisman and wished for an A.”
**Vocabulary**

**Literary Analysis**

Enthralled

POS: Verb

Denotation: to capture the fascination of

“She was enthralled with her favorite song.”
The Monkey’s Paw

Vocabulary

Literary Analysis

Fakir

POS: Noun

Denotation: a magical man, street performer in India

“The fakir sold lucky charms and performed incredible feats, such as laying on a bed of nails and appearing to float.”
Simian

POS: Adjective

Denotation: monkey-like

“The fire had a simian look in the flames, like a howler monkey staring back.”
The Monkey’s Paw

Vocabulary

Relic

POS: Noun

Denotation: an object surviving from an earlier time
The Monkey’s Paw

Vocabulary

**Grimace**

**POS:** Noun

**Denotation:** Unpleasant, disgusted look

Sarah bit into the octopus and grimaced at the taste.

_______

.
The Monkey’s Paw

Vocabulary

Literary Analysis

Two hundred pounds
British currency
Pence, schilling, crown, pound

Symbol

£200

Equivalent to $233. in U.S. money
A lot of money in 1901
The Monkey’s Paw

Vocabulary

Peril

POS: Noun

Denotation: Danger

“The weather had placed the family into unnecessary peril.”
Surveying

POS: Adjective

Denotation: to look across the land

“Mr. Hager was surveying the land before they could start their project.”
Fate

POS: Noun (abstract)

Denotation: Destiny

“Fate has played an important role in the play of Romeo and Juliet.”
Credulity

POS: Noun (abstract)

Denotation: easily fooled
Affix: cred: believe

“The girl thought she heard the dog talk to the cat; the mother laughed at her daughter’s credulity.”
Amiable

POS: Adjective

Denotation: Friendly

“The amiable conversation lasted all day.”
Intercept

POS: Verb

Denotation: to cross or get between

“The boy looked up just in time to intercept a knowing glance from the teacher.”
The Monkey's Paw

Vocabulary

**Prosaic**

POS: Adjective

Denotation: Dull, boring

“There was an air of prosaic wholesomeness in the room, just like every other day.”
The Monkey’s Paw

Vocabulary

**Frivolous**

**POS:** Adjective

**Denotation:** over the top, unnecessary

“It seemed frivolous to ask for more, as she already had more than enough new clothes.”
Avaricious

POS: Adjective

Denotation: Greedy

“He came across as an avaricious person driven by money.”
Maligned

POS: Verb

Denotation: offended

“The woman was quite maligned when the man asked her age. Didn’t he know you never ask a woman her age?”
Antimacassar

POS: Noun

Denotation: A decorative cloth or covering along the top of a chair or couch.

“My grandmother had a knitted antimacassar on top of her favorite chair on which the cat would sit.”
The Monkey's Paw  Compare and Contrast

**Literary Analysis**

How is the written text **SIMILAR** to the video?

Tell about ONE aspect of the written text that was SIMILAR to the video.

*Type your text here:*
Tell why you think the video producers didn’t change this part of the story.

*Type your text here:*
Tell about a part that was similar that you would have liked to see changed, and why.

*Type your text here:*

How is the written text **DIFFERENT** from the video?

Tell about ONE aspect of the written text that was DIFFERENT from the video.

*Type your text here:*
Tell why you think the video producers made this change to the story.

*Type your text here:*
Tell about a part that was different that you would have liked to see changed, and why.

*Type your text here:*

Explain why this change added to the story’s development for the viewer or not.

*Type your text here:*

**END OF SECTION**