



The Monkey's Paw by W.W. Jacobs

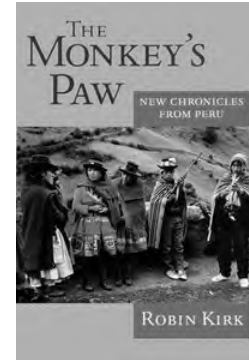
Public Performances: October 8-23, 2005
927 Liberty Avenue

Student Matinees: November 9-11, 2005
Charity Randall Theatre

Grade Level: 6-10th grades

AIMS:

1. Motivate students to determine meaning of words and phrases through context, structure, and connotations
2. Read and understand the selection
3. Engage students in summarizing story using newly defined vocabulary
4. Understand the elements of plot in literature and analyze characters and plot for this story
5. Organize details to elaborate the central idea
6. Understand how an author's use of symbolism and foreshadowing influence the plot
7. Prepare students to see a stage adaptation of the story



SELECTED STATE STANDARDS AND ASSESSMENT ANCHORS

- *PA Standard 1.7.8.* Students shall describe the origins and meanings of common, learned and foreign words used frequently in English language. (A)
- *R8A. 1.1* Identify the meaning of vocabulary--synonyms, antonyms, compound words, and possessives.
- *PA Standard 1.1.8.* Students shall expand a reading vocabulary by identifying and correctly using idioms and words with literal and figurative meanings. (E)
- *R8B.2* Identify and describe how the author uses literary devices to convey meaning.
- *R8B.2.1* Figurative language—simile, metaphor, hyperbole and imagery.
- *PA Standard 1.3.8.* Students shall read and understand works of literature; analyze the use of literary elements by an author, including characterization, setting, plot, theme, point of view, tone and style; analyze the effect of various literary devices. (A-C)
- *R8A. 1.4* Identify main idea, relevant details and generalizations.
- *R8B. 1* Analyze literary elements within and among texts.
- *R8B. 1.1* Analyze characters, settings, plots, themes, tone and style.

Summary of Story

This scary story is about a monkey's paw that has magical powers. It gives three wishes to its owner. The monkey's paw is given to a family of three: a father, mother, and son. They wish for some money, and the next day an employee of the son's company arrives at



the family's home and tells the parents that their son has died in an accident and they will receive some money - the exact amount they wished for. About a week later, the mother wishes that their dead son would return home alive. When knocking is heard at the door, the father realizes what has happened, and before the mother can open the door, the father uses the last wish. The knocking stops, and when the door is opened; no one is there.

Author Information

W.W. Jacobs- (aka William Wymark Jacobs)- was born in London, England in 1863. As a small child, he lived in a house on a Thames River dock where he heard tales of foreign lands told by the passing seafarers. As an adult, Jacobs used this experience while writing his own tales. He was actually a humorist, who earned wealth and fame for his short stories and books. His work attracted positive comments from authors as diverse as G.K. Chesterton, J.B. Priestly, and Henry James. Many of his stories combine the supernatural with elements of daily life, such as in *The Monkey's Paw*. He is most remembered as author of this story, published in 1902, and made into a play a year later. He died in London in 1943.



Other Works by W.W. Jacobs include:

Many Cargoes – (1896)

All – (1905)

The Skipper's Wooing – (1897)

Sea Urchins – (1898)

A Master of Craft – (1900)

Light Freights – (1901)

At Sunwich Port – (1902)

Odd Craft – (1903)

Dialstone Lane – (1904)

Captains

Short Cruises – (1907)

Salthaven – (1908)

Sailor's Knots – (1909)

Ship's Company – (1911)

Night Watches – (1914)

The Castaways – (1916)

Deep Waters – (1919)

Sea Whispers – (1926)

Short Story Activities

1. Instruct the students to write in their journals and respond to the quote: "If you keep it, don't blame me for what happens." Discuss the different responses.
2. Students learn the rules of chess, try a few games, and apply knowledge to create an extended metaphor chart comparing characters and plot events to the game of chess. <http://www.chessvariants.com/d.chess/chess.html>
3. Have students research India under British rule and determine why Sergeant-Major Morris might have been in India for 21 years. <http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/southasia/History/British/EAc0.html>
4. Have students research the term fakir and share why the Whites may have been fascinated by a fakir's involvement with the monkey's paw. Pronunciation - fE kir -- Definition - a wandering beggar of the Muslim or Hindu religion, esp. one who performs remarkable feats such as lying on a bed of nails. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fakir>

Curriculum Support – for class or small group discussion: essay questions:

1. What passages show what the parents want?

Question Level: Level 2 - Comprehension

Possible response: Passages that show them deciding what to wish for and passages that allude to their wishes having been granted, i.e., mystery knocks at the door and door opening to no one there.

2. What passages indicate what happened before the story begins?

Question Level: Level 2 – Comprehension

Possible response: Conversation leading up to Morris' arrival and early conversation with Morris.

3. Does Fate rule our lives or do we have some control over what happens to us? Explain.

Question Level: Level 4 - Analysis

Possible response: varied

4. If you had the monkey's paw, what would your three wishes be? List the consequences that may have occurred due to each wish-good and bad.

Question Level: Level 1 - Knowledge

Possible response: varied

5. Explain how Mr. White's feelings about the monkey's paw change throughout the story?

Question Level: Level 6 – Evaluation

Possible response: Curiosity, Persistent Interest, Disinterest, Fear, Horror

6. Cite at least one instance of foreshadowing in the story.

Question Level: Level 3 – Application

Possible response: Herbert's saying he will never see the £200.

*Please share your thought, ideas, and suggestions
with us. We'd love to hear from you.*

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~ Vocabulary List ~
The Monkey's Paw by W.W. Jacobs



Bog – Any of certain wetland areas

Condoling - To express sympathy or sorrow

Rubicund - Inclined to a healthy rosiness; ruddy

Visage - The face or facial expression of a person; countenance

Proffered - To offer for acceptance; tender

Doughty - Marked by stouthearted courage; brave

Fakir - A Hindu ascetic or religious mendicant, especially one who performs feats of magic or endurance.

Wont - Accustomed or used

Presumptuous - Going beyond what is right or proper; excessively forward

Talisman - An object marked with magic signs and believed to confer on its bearer supernatural powers or protection

Maligned - To make evil, harmful, and often untrue statements about; speak evil of

Dubiously - Fraught with uncertainty or doubt; undecided

Credulity - A disposition to believe too readily

Prosaic - Lacking in imagination and spirit; dull

Betokened - To be or give a sign or portent of

Frivolous - Unworthy of serious attention; trivial

Bibulous - Given to or marked by the consumption of alcoholic drink

Furtively - Characterized by stealth; surreptitious

Broach - To bring up (a subject) for discussion or debate

Interposed - To insert or introduce between parts

Averted - To turn away

Apathy - Lack of interest or concern, especially regarding matters of general importance or appeal; indifference

Ere - Previous to; before. Rather than; before.

Audible - That is heard or that can be heard

Fusillade - A rapid outburst or barrage

