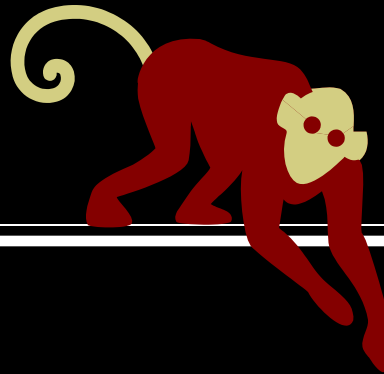


“The Monkey’s Paw”

by W. W. Jacobs

Unit: Mood and Tone

Concept: The Mood of Suspense





Essential Question



How does the story's mood of suspense contribute to the plot?

Writers create suspense as the rising action builds toward the climax of the story. The mood of suspense contributes to the plot because it encourages the reader to become involved in the story. You want to know what is going to happen next.

Let's Think About "Control"

We are going to examine the word "Control."

What does it mean to have control?

How much control do you have over your own life?

Does anyone have complete control over what happens to them?



Build Background



Many folk tales and horror stories involve magic or magical objects that give unusual powers to anyone who owns it.

Think of objects in our culture that some people believe to bring good luck

- Horseshoes
- Rabbit's foot



How is this story an example of horror story genre?

- Built around gradually increasing suspense
- Violence often occurs out of the reader's view
- Leaving out the violence allows the reader to imagine the worst which increases the suspense

What is fate?



Your fate (or destiny) is something that is meant to happen to you.

Do you think fate rules people's lives?

What can happen if people try to change their fate or interfere with it?

Guided Reading Activity

In this short story, Mr. White has the opportunity to make three wishes. In your notes, draw the following chart and complete it as you read.

	Wish #1	Wish #2	Wish #3
Description			
Result			

Post Reading Activity #1

Examining Mood and Suspense

What is the predominant mood of this story?

List three details from the text that illustrate the use of suspense.

Post Reading Activity #2

A moral is a lesson that a reader learns through the actions of the characters.

What is a moral for this story that centers around the concept of greed?

Cite two examples of textual evidence to support this moral.