


# The Monkeys Paw Foreshadowing Worksheet Answers

Name:

Date:

The Monkey's Paw—Foreshadowing



**Directions:** Analyze the passages below for foreshadowing techniques. Then find two more passages where the author uses foreshadowing to give the reader clues as to what will happen in the story. In your analysis, highlight or underline specifics from the passages that show the author is using foreshadowing then explain what those things could mean.

Passage	Foreshadow Analysis
Without, <b>the night was cold and wet</b> , but in the small parlour of Laburnam Villa the <b>blinds were drawn</b> and the fire burned brightly.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Weather hints at something bad coming</li><li>• Drawing blinds = hiding something?</li></ul>
"The first man had his three wishes, yes," was the reply. "I don't know what the first two were, but the third was for death."	

**The Monkeys Paw Foreshadowing Worksheet Answers** serves as a vital tool for understanding the intricate themes and narrative techniques within W.W. Jacobs' short story, "The Monkey's Paw." This classic tale of supernatural events and moral lessons profoundly illustrates how foreshadowing plays a crucial role in developing the plot and enhancing the overall impact of the story. By examining the elements of foreshadowing present in the narrative, readers can gain deeper insights into the characters' motivations, the consequences of their actions, and the overarching themes of desire, fate, and the unknown.

## Understanding Foreshadowing in Literature

Foreshadowing is a literary device used by authors to provide hints or clues about events that will occur later in the narrative. This technique builds anticipation and suspense, often leading readers to speculate about the outcome of the story. In "The Monkey's Paw," foreshadowing is employed effectively to create an atmosphere of foreboding and to signal the impending consequences of the characters' choices.

## Types of Foreshadowing

There are several types of foreshadowing that authors may use:

1. Direct Foreshadowing: Explicitly stating what is to come. For example, a character might make a prediction or a statement that hints at future events.
2. Symbolic Foreshadowing: Utilizing symbols to suggest future events. Objects or settings may hold deeper meanings that allude to what is to come.
3. Atmospheric Foreshadowing: Creating a mood that indicates trouble ahead. This could involve descriptions of the setting, weather, or emotional tone that suggests a change.

4. Character Behavior: Actions or decisions made by characters can serve as foreshadowing for future conflicts or outcomes.

## **Foreshadowing in "The Monkey's Paw"**

In "The Monkey's Paw," Jacobs carefully weaves foreshadowing throughout the narrative. The story revolves around the White family, who come into possession of a magical monkey's paw that grants three wishes. However, each wish comes with unintended and dire consequences. The foreshadowing present in the story can be divided into several key elements:

### **1. The Sergeant-Major's Warning**

At the beginning of the story, Sergeant-Major Morris, who introduces the monkey's paw to the White family, provides a significant warning about its powers. He states:

- "It had a spell put on it by an old fakir... it was the last thing that he wanted to do."
- He emphasizes that the wishes granted by the paw come with a heavy cost.

This direct foreshadowing serves as a crucial moment; it hints at the dangers and consequences associated with the use of the paw, establishing a sense of foreboding early in the narrative.

### **2. The First Wish**

When Mr. White makes the first wish for two hundred pounds, there is a palpable sense of tension in the air. The foreshadowing comes into play as the family is blissful and excited about their newfound wealth. However, shortly after the wish is granted, they receive news of their son Herbert's death in a workplace accident, which results in a compensation payout of two hundred pounds. This tragic outcome serves as a stark reminder of the consequences tied to their desires.

### **3. The Second Wish**

The second wish, made by Mrs. White to bring Herbert back to life, is laden with foreshadowing. The family experiences a mix of grief and hope, but the story subtly hints that their wish may not yield the desired outcome. As they await Herbert's return, the atmosphere grows increasingly ominous:

- The description of the setting becomes more eerie.
- There are hints that Herbert may not return in the same form they remember.

This atmospheric foreshadowing builds suspense, preparing readers for the inevitable horror that follows.

## **4. The Consequences of the Wishes**

The ultimate consequence of the second wish is a crucial moment of foreshadowing. When Herbert's return is implied, the story suggests that he may not be the same as before. The noise at the door, which Mrs. White eagerly anticipates, becomes a focal point of dread rather than joy. The tension culminates when Mr. White, understanding the terrible implications, uses the third wish in desperation.

## **Thematic Implications of Foreshadowing**

The foreshadowing present in "The Monkey's Paw" not only serves to build suspense but also reinforces the story's critical themes. By analyzing these themes through the lens of foreshadowing, readers can better appreciate the depth of Jacobs' storytelling.

### **1. The Dangers of Desire**

One of the central themes is the danger of unchecked desire. The White family's initial greed leads them to make wishes that result in devastating consequences. The foreshadowing throughout the story highlights how their desires, while seemingly innocent, ultimately lead to tragedy. Each wish amplifies their longing for more, illustrating how desire can cloud judgment.

### **2. Fate and Free Will**

Another prominent theme is the tension between fate and free will. The foreshadowing serves to suggest that the characters' choices will lead to predetermined consequences. Despite being granted the ability to make wishes, the White family cannot escape the repercussions of their decisions. The story emphasizes that some forces are beyond human control, and meddling with fate can lead to disastrous outcomes.

### **3. The Supernatural and the Unknown**

The presence of the supernatural in "The Monkey's Paw" is underscored by foreshadowing elements that hint at the unknown. The mysterious origins of the paw and the warnings from Sergeant-Major Morris contribute to an atmosphere of unease. Readers are left questioning the morality of using such a powerful object and the unknown forces at play. This theme of the supernatural is an essential part of the foreshadowing, as it hints at the chaos that ensues when human beings attempt to manipulate fate.

# Conclusion

In conclusion, the Monkeys Paw Foreshadowing Worksheet Answers offer valuable insights into the use of foreshadowing in W.W. Jacobs' "The Monkey's Paw." By examining the various elements of foreshadowing, readers can understand how Jacobs crafts an intricate narrative filled with tension and moral lessons. The warnings, tragic outcomes, and eerie atmosphere all contribute to the story's enduring impact, making it a poignant exploration of desire, fate, and the consequences of human actions. Ultimately, foreshadowing serves as a powerful tool that enriches the reading experience, allowing audiences to engage deeply with the themes and messages woven throughout this classic tale.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What is the significance of foreshadowing in 'The Monkey's Paw'?**

Foreshadowing in 'The Monkey's Paw' creates suspense and hints at the tragic consequences of interfering with fate, setting the tone for the story.

### **How does the use of the monkey's paw itself serve as a foreshadowing element?**

The monkey's paw is introduced as a cursed object, foreshadowing that wishes made with it will lead to unforeseen and negative outcomes.

### **What role do the characters' reactions to the paw play in foreshadowing events?**

The characters' initial skepticism and subsequent eagerness to use the paw foreshadow their eventual regret and the tragic events that unfold.

### **Can you identify a specific moment in the story where foreshadowing is evident?**

Yes, when Mr. White hesitates before making his first wish, it foreshadows the dire consequences that will follow his decision to use the paw.

### **How can a worksheet on 'The Monkey's Paw' help students understand foreshadowing?**

A worksheet can guide students to identify examples of foreshadowing throughout the text, encouraging critical thinking about how these elements enhance the overall narrative.

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