

Name: _____ Date: _____

Close-Reading Questions

The Monkey's Paw

1. In Scene 1, how does the author create contrasting atmospheres inside and outside the Whites' home? (author's craft, mood)

2. In Scenes 1 and 2, do the Whites believe that the monkey's paw really has the power to grant wishes? How can you tell? (character, inference)

3. Scene 3 ends with Messenger 1 saying, "Two hundred pounds." Why do you think the author chose to end the scene with this line? (author's craft, text structure)

4. In Scene 1, Morris says a holy man put a spell on the monkey's paw "to show that fate rules our lives, and that those who interfere with fate do so to their sorrow." How is this idea supported by what happens later? (theme)

5. There is a saying "Be careful what you wish for; you may just get it." What do you think this saying means, and how does it apply to the play? (theme)

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Critical-Thinking Questions

The Monkey's Paw and "What Do You Wish For?"

1. In the play, is Mr. White right to make his final wish? Why or why not?
2. Would the authors of the informational text agree with the play's theme, "be careful what you wish for"? Explain.
3. What benefits might you get from working to make a wish come true rather than having it come true through magic?