

Name: _____ Date: _____

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Vocabulary:

The Monkey's Paw

1. convey (kuhn-VEY) *verb*; To convey something is to communicate it or make it known. You might convey a message from your mom to your sister. A painting's dark colors might convey a feeling of sadness.

2. fate (feyt) *noun*; Some people believe in fate: a supernatural power that controls what happens in the future. Those who believe in fate believe that the future is going to turn out a certain way no matter what—that nothing can be done to change or prevent what is going to happen. Lisa might believe that it's her fate to be a doctor. Two friends might say that fate brought them together.

Fate can also mean just "what happens to someone or something," as in, "This decision will determine Sofia's fate."

3. ill-gotten gain (il GAHT-n geyn) *phrase*; An ill-gotten gain is anything that was gotten in a dishonest, improper, or illegal way. If someone robs a bank, the money that they take is ill-gotten gains.

4. liability (lahy-uh-BIL-ih-tee) *noun*; One meaning of the adjective *liable* (LAHY-uh-buhl) is "legally responsible." If you accidentally hit a baseball through the window of a grocery store, you might be liable for the damage—that is, it might be your duty to pay for the damage you caused.

Liability is the state of being liable. If the grocery store clears you of liability, it is not going to hold you responsible for repairing the window.

5. tedious (TEE-dee-uhs) *adjective*; *Tedious* means "long, boring, and tiresome."

“What Do You Wish For?”

- 1. expertise (ek-spur-TEEZ)** *noun*; Expertise is the skill or knowledge that an expert has. If you are having trouble perfecting your chocolate-chip recipe, you might want to get help from someone with baking expertise.

- 2. inherently (in-HAIR-uhnt-lee)** *adverb*; *Inherently* is the adverb form of the adjective *inherent* (in-HAIR-uhnt), which means “built-in, permanent, or a key part of something’s nature.” Being a manager at a bank might be dangerous if a robber were to come in, but it’s not an inherently dangerous job. Being a firefighter, on the other hand, *is* an inherently dangerous job; firefighters put themselves in harm’s way all the time.

- 3. productive (pruh-DUHK-tiv)** *adjective*; If someone or something is productive, it has the ability to do a lot of work and get good results. If your group was productive during the time your teacher gave you to work on your science project, your group got a lot of the project done. A productive apple orchard produces a plentiful amount of apples.

- 4. strive (strahyv)** *verb*; To strive is to try very hard or make great efforts toward a goal. Someone who strives to be a ballet dancer practices every day and is serious about improving.

Directions: In the space below and on the back of this page (if necessary), list any other words from the play or informational text whose definitions you are not sure about. For each word, use context clues to try to figure out the meaning. Then look up the word in a few different dictionaries. Discuss the meaning of the word with your teacher or another adult. Then write a definition for the word and one example sentence.

Vocabulary Practice

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

Directions: Answer each question below. Briefly explain your answer.

1. Which would more likely be **tedious**: riding a roller coaster or putting stamps on 100 letters?

Answer: _____

Why: _____

3. Which facial expression **conveys** happiness: a smile or a frown?

Answer: _____

Why: _____

2. Which could be called **ill-gotten gains**: money Carl earned by washing cars or candy Ryan stole from his brother?

Answer: _____

Why: _____

4. Who has **expertise**: a dog trainer, a heart surgeon, or both?

Answer: _____

Why: _____

Directions: Rewrite each sentence below using one of the following words.

strive
inherently

productive
fate

liability
tedious

5. Drew works hard to keep himself fit.

6. Sarah is a cautious person by nature.

7. The skate park admits no responsibility for injuries that occur on its property.

8. Jordan wondered what the future had in store for her.

9. I got a lot done this afternoon—I exercised, did laundry, and wrote an essay!
