

“The Lottery” by Shirley Jackson

1. At what point did you know what was going to happen?
2. How does Jackson start to foreshadow the ending in paragraphs 2 and 3?
3. Where does this story take place?
4. How does the setting affect the story?
5. What are some examples of irony in this story? How is the title of the story ironic?
6. Who controls the town? Explain.
7. Is the structure of the town and the lottery democratic? Explain.
8. Which characters are static and which are dynamic?
9. What is one of the themes of “The Lottery”?
10. How were the women viewed in the village? What roles did they serve? Give examples.
11. What do you think Jackson’s purpose is for this fiction story?
12. Jackson uses the third person to narrate the story, and she does not enter the minds of her characters. Why do you think she keeps this distant point of view?
13. Find the description of the black box. Why is the black box “battered”? Are there any other symbols in the story?

Write a one paragraph response:

What does the story mean?

What does it say about social customs, conformity, guilt, reluctance of people to reject outdated traditions, and good and evil? Look up satire in the dictionary. Is this story an example of satire? Explain.

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