Tier 1.0 Reading Questions 1
The Lottery
Shirley Jackson

1. What are readers led to believe happens/will happen at the end of the story?

2. Name two details/quotes from the last five paragraphs of the story and explain how they help the reader come to this conclusion.
   a. Detail/quote 1:

      i. Why does this help suggest the ending?

   b. Detail/quote 2:

      i. Why does this help suggest the ending?

3. Why does this happen to Tessie and no one else?

4. Name the setting, and then list specifically how it is described. How does the description of the setting shape the mood of the story?
   a. Where:

   b. When:

   c. List individual descriptions of the setting in paragraph one:

   d. How those descriptions affect mood:

5. Explain why the last names of the two men running this year's lottery are very fitting to the story.
   a. Summers:

   b. Graves:

   c. Why put those two names together?

6. What character seems to be most angry at what the lottery has become over the years? (Note: This is **not** Tessie.) What seems to be his/her purpose to the story (in other words, what does he represent)?
   a. Who:

   b. What idea he/she represents:

   c. Why/how:

7. The black box is a symbol in the story. It is generally thought to represent the idea of tradition. With this in mind, look at where the author describes the black box. Explain what each of the following three things that that author tells us about the box seems to say about the symbol of the black box?

    a. The condition of the box:

        -how is it described?

        -what does it suggest/how does it tie to the symbol?

    b. Where the box got stored:

        -how is it described?

        -what does it suggest/how does it tie to the symbol?

    c. Changes in how the lottery is done:

        -how is it described?

        -what does it suggest/how does it tie to the symbol?

8. What two characters at the *end* of the story most contribute to the real horror of the story? Explain how what each of the two characters does adds a truly chilling sense of horror.

    a. Character 1:
        i. Who:
        ii. Why:

    b. Character 2:
        i. Who:
        ii. Why:

9. At what point in the story did you begin to suspect that the lottery was not a good thing? **Be specific about what detail made you see it this way and why/how it did so.**