

The Monkey's Paw (play)

Guilt Analysis

Directions: Consider all the facts of the story below and determine in what order you hold the following people most responsible for the tragedy(ies) that took place in the story. (1=most responsible/most guilty, 5=least responsible/least guilty). No two characters can have the same number ranking. As you read the two paragraphs below, highlight details for each character that show their role in all of the bad things that come as a result of the monkey's paw. Notice that colors have been assigned to each character just below the paragraphs. Use the appropriate color for each character. After determining each number ranking, write a brief reason for each character of why you ranked him/her in the order you did.

The story

The monkey's paw was, according to legend, created by an old holy man to grant three wishes to three separate people who were not satisfied with the lives that fate had dealt them. It was designed to create such negative consequences for each wish that the one making the wish would eventually be sorry that they ever made the wish in the first place.

In "The Monkey's Paw," Sergeant Major Morris brings over the monkey's paw that he no longer has any use for and that he began to tell Mr. White about previously on another occasion. Mr. White asks Morris to tell the family about the paw, and as he does so, he takes it out of his pocket and shows it to them. The family ask many questions about it, and Morris answers their questions but then throws the paw in the fire to destroy it. Mr. White grabs the paw out of the fire to rescue it and asks Morris how to use it. Morris tells him how to use it but cautions him not to use it anyway. Later, Mr. White admits he tried to give the paw back to Morris, who wouldn't take it back but did tell them again to get rid of it. Mr. White admits to his family he doesn't even know what to wish for, so his son Herbert encourages Mr. White to make the first wish—for 200 pounds to pay off the mortgage. Mr. White uses Herbert's suggestion and makes the wish. The next day Herbert dies at work, giving the Whites 200 pounds as compensation from the factory. Mrs. White then goes into a state of deep despair and demands that Mr. White use the paw to wish for their dead son back alive again. Mr. White says it's a terrible idea, but his wife forcefully insists, and Mr. White then makes the second wish on the paw. When knocking occurs on the door in the middle of the night, and with Mrs. White rushing to let her once-again living son into the house, Mr. White uses the final wish on the paw to make Herbert go away again. The door flies open that instant, revealing an empty street, which causes Mrs. White to wail loudly.

<u>Person</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Reason</u>
Old holy man	_____	
Sergeant Morris	_____	
Mr. White	_____	
Mrs. White	_____	
Herbert	_____	

The Monkey's Paw (prose)

Guilt Analysis

Directions: Consider all the facts of the story below and determine in what order you hold the following people most responsible for the tragedy(ies) that took place in the story. (1=most responsible/most guilty, 5=least responsible/least guilty). No two characters can have the same number ranking. As you read the two paragraphs below, highlight details for each character that show their role in all of the bad things that come as a result of the monkey's paw. Notice that colors have been assigned to each character just below the paragraphs. Use the appropriate color for each character. After determining each number ranking, write a brief reason for each character of why you ranked him/her in the order you did.

The story

The monkey's paw was, according to legend, created by a fakir to grant three wishes to three separate people who were not satisfied with the lives that fate had dealt them. It was designed to create such negative consequences for each wish that the one making the wish would eventually be sorry that they ever made the wish in the first place.

In "The Monkey's Paw," Sergeant Major Morris brings over the monkey's paw that he no longer has any use for and that he began to tell Mr. White about previously on another occasion. The Whites bring out whiskey, and after Morris has three glasses, Mr. White asks Morris to tell the family about the paw, and as he does so, he takes it out of his pocket and shows it to them. The family ask many questions about it, and Morris answers their questions, but then throws the paw in the fire to destroy it. Mr. White grabs the paw out of the fire to rescue it and asks Morris how to use it. Morris tells him how to use it but cautions him not to use it anyway. After Morris leaves, Mrs. White asks if Mr. White gave Morris any money for the paw, which Morris didn't initially want, but he did eventually take the money but told them again to get rid of the paw. Mr. White says he doesn't even know what to wish for, so his son Herbert encourages Mr. White to make the first wish—for 200 pounds to pay off the mortgage. Mr. White uses Herbert's suggestion and makes the wish. The next day Herbert dies at work, giving the Whites 200 pounds as compensation from the factory. Mrs. White then goes into a state of deep despair and demands that Mr. White use the paw to wish for their dead son back alive again. Mr. White says it's a terrible idea, but his wife forcefully insists, frightening Mr. White, and Mr. White then makes the second wish on the paw. When knocking occurs on the door in the middle of the night, and with Mrs. White rushing to let her once-again living son into the house, Mr. White uses the final wish on the paw to make Herbert go away again. The door flies open that instant, revealing an empty street, which causes Mrs. White to wail loudly in "disappointment and misery."

<u>Person</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Reason</u>
Fakir	_____	
Sergeant Morris	_____	
Mr. White	_____	
Mrs. White	_____	
Herbert	_____	

Finally, look back and rewrite the rankings you gave each character for each version below. Then write whether the character was MORE responsible (lower number), LESS responsible (higher number), or stayed the SAME (same number) *in the **second** ranking*. Then explain why you believe the ranking went up, down, or stayed the same for each character.

<u>Person</u>	<u>Play</u>	<u>Prose</u>	<u>More/Less/Same</u>	<u>Reason for change/staying in rank</u>
Holy Man/Fakir	_____	_____	_____	
Sergeant Morris	_____	_____	_____	
Mr. White	_____	_____	_____	
Mrs. White	_____	_____	_____	
Herbert	_____	_____	_____	