

The Monkey's Paw (play)

Magic vs. Reality

The story is not set in a fantasy world filled with mythical creatures, etc., yet the paw in question is supposedly magical, something we would generally say is not really possible in “the real world.” According to Mr. White, Morris supposedly said that the results of the wishes appear so natural as to be coincidence.

You must now determine if the paw actually is magic or if everything that happened in the story that was supposedly a result of the monkey's paw was merely coincidence. Be careful—this is not really an opinion; **one answer is more correct and can be proven such**. However, what this means for you is that your level of support is critical. You might choose the “wrong” answer and still score perfectly well due to thorough support and explanations. You might also choose the “correct” answer and still not score well due to lack of support and explanations.

How should you try to prove your point? By either showing and explaining how each and every one of the three wishes and the paw's movement when wishing absolutely can be explained perfectly through coincidence, using textual evidence to show and explain the likelihood of these coincidences **or** by showing that *any* or all of the wishes and/or the paw's movement cannot in any way be explained by coincidence, again, using textual evidence to show and explain why it/they cannot be explained as such.

Write an argumentative paragraph that opens with a topic sentence that clearly states your claim, as well as the title of the story. The body of the paragraph must use textual evidence, correctly cited, and large amounts of explanation to prove adequately that your claim is factually correct. (You should keep in mind the genre of the story (that it is a play) and the implications of that on audience knowledge (that if we do not see something on stage and if no character tells us otherwise, we have no reason to believe it happened), and you may need to include those ideas in your argument to prove your claim fully.) Finally, end your paragraph with a restatement of your topic sentence, which again states the title and your claim.

Please be sure to indent your paragraph, use standard, sized 11 font, double space your writing, and use correct citations for all quotes.