

# monkey's paw commonlit answers

**monkey's paw commonlit answers** provide essential insights and explanations for understanding the classic short story "The Monkey's Paw" by W.W. Jacobs. This article delves into commonlit answers to help students and readers grasp the themes, characters, plot, and literary devices used in the story. Through detailed analysis, it aims to clarify the symbolic significance of the monkey's paw and how it reflects human desires and consequences. Additionally, this guide covers frequently asked questions and commonlit comprehension questions related to the story. By exploring these commonlit answers, readers can enhance their critical thinking and literary analysis skills. The following sections will outline key aspects such as plot summary, theme exploration, character analysis, and commonlit answer explanations.

- Understanding the Plot of "The Monkey's Paw"
- Exploring Major Themes
- Character Analysis in "The Monkey's Paw"
- Commonlit Questions and Answers
- Symbolism and Literary Devices

## Understanding the Plot of "The Monkey's Paw"

The plot of "The Monkey's Paw" centers around a mystical talisman that grants its owner three wishes, but with dire and unforeseen consequences. The story unfolds in a small English home where the White family comes into possession of the monkey's paw, which had been enchanted by a fakir to demonstrate the dangers of tampering with fate. Despite warnings, Mr. White makes a wish that sets off a tragic chain of events, illustrating the classic theme of "be careful what you wish for." Understanding the plot is crucial to answering commonlit questions, as it provides context for the characters' motivations and the story's moral lessons.

## Plot Summary

The story begins with Mr. White and his son Herbert playing chess in their home when Sergeant-Major Morris arrives with tales of his adventures in India. He introduces the monkey's paw, explaining its magical powers and the tragic outcomes of previous wishes. Despite initial skepticism, Mr. White makes a wish for 200 pounds, which leads to Herbert's accidental death at his workplace. The subsequent wishes

attempt to reverse this tragedy, but ultimately result in horror and regret. This sequence of events highlights the suspense and supernatural elements of the narrative.

## Key Plot Points to Remember

- Introduction of the monkey's paw and its magical properties.
- Mr. White's first wish for 200 pounds and its deadly aftermath.
- Second wish to bring Herbert back to life.
- The terrifying consequences of the second wish.
- The final wish to undo the horror caused by the previous wishes.

## Exploring Major Themes

The themes in "The Monkey's Paw" are central to understanding the story's meaning and answering commonlit questions effectively. The narrative explores the consequences of interfering with fate, the dangers of greed, and the unpredictability of wishes. These themes reflect timeless human concerns and contribute to the story's enduring popularity in literature studies.

### The Consequences of Tampering with Fate

The story warns against trying to alter destiny, suggesting that fate should be accepted rather than challenged. The monkey's paw symbolizes the temptation to control life's outcomes, but each wish leads to unintended suffering. This theme is prevalent throughout the story, emphasizing that human desires can have dangerous repercussions when meddling with natural order.

### Greed and Desire

Another major theme is the destructive nature of greed. The Whites' wishes stem from a desire for material wealth and happiness, but their greed blinds them to the potential costs. This theme cautions readers about the perils of excessive desire and the importance of contentment. In commonlit answers, recognizing this theme helps explain character motivations and the moral undertones of the story.

## Supernatural and Horror Elements

The inclusion of supernatural forces highlights the eerie atmosphere and heightens the story's suspense. The horror elements serve to underscore the serious consequences of the wishes and create a chilling mood. These aspects are often focal points in commonlit comprehension questions, requiring detailed explanations of how the supernatural influences the plot.

## Character Analysis in "The Monkey's Paw"

Understanding the characters is vital for interpreting the story and responding to commonlit prompts. The Whites are portrayed as an ordinary family whose curiosity and desperation lead to their downfall. Each character's reactions to the monkey's paw reveal different aspects of human nature and contribute to the story's dramatic tension.

### Mr. White

Mr. White is the protagonist whose curiosity and impulsiveness drive the plot. His decision to use the monkey's paw despite warnings demonstrates human fallibility and the risks of meddling with fate. His grief and regret following Herbert's death highlight his vulnerability and the tragic consequences of his actions. Commonlit answers often focus on his character development and moral lessons.

### Mrs. White

Mrs. White represents emotional intensity and maternal love. Her desperation to bring her son back to life leads her to support the wishes, reflecting how grief can cloud judgment. Her character adds depth to the story by showing the powerful effect of loss on human behavior, which is often analyzed in commonlit responses.

### Herbert White

Herbert serves as a symbol of innocence and the unintended victim of the wishes. His role is crucial in illustrating the story's theme of unintended consequences. Although his presence is limited, his death is the catalyst for the story's tragic events, making him a key figure in literary analysis.

## Commonlit Questions and Answers

Commonlit provides guided questions designed to test comprehension and critical thinking about "The Monkey's Paw." These questions often focus on plot details, thematic elements, symbolism, and character

motivations. This section highlights typical questions and model answers to aid understanding.

## Sample Commonlit Questions

1. What is the significance of the monkey's paw in the story?
2. How do the wishes affect the White family?
3. What theme does the story convey about fate and desire?
4. Describe the mood created by the setting and events.
5. How does the author use foreshadowing in the narrative?

## Model Answers Overview

The monkey's paw symbolizes temptation and the danger of interfering with fate. The wishes bring misfortune rather than happiness, demonstrating that desires can have perilous outcomes. The story conveys the theme that fate should not be tampered with and warns against greed. The eerie setting, combined with suspenseful events, creates a mood of foreboding and horror. Foreshadowing is used effectively, such as Sergeant-Major Morris's warnings, to hint at the tragic consequences to come.

## Symbolism and Literary Devices

Symbolism and literary devices in "The Monkey's Paw" enrich the story's meaning and are frequently addressed in commonlit answers. Understanding these elements enhances readers' appreciation of the narrative's complexity and depth.

### Symbolism of the Monkey's Paw

The monkey's paw itself is the primary symbol representing the unpredictability of fate and the perils of desire. It embodies the idea that attempting to control destiny through supernatural means can lead to disaster. This object's symbolism is central to interpreting the story's moral warnings and is a common focus in literary analysis.

## Use of Foreshadowing

Foreshadowing is prominent throughout the story, preparing readers for the tragic outcomes. Early warnings by Sergeant-Major Morris and the eerie atmosphere foreshadow the negative consequences of the wishes. This literary device builds suspense and tension, making the story compelling and thought-provoking.

## Irony

The story employs situational irony, particularly in how the wishes intended to bring happiness instead cause suffering. The tragic twist that the third wish likely prevents a horrific return of Herbert illustrates the ironic reversal of expectations. Recognizing irony is essential in commonlit answers for a full understanding of the story's impact.

- Symbolism: monkey's paw as fate's unpredictability
- Foreshadowing: early warnings and mood setting
- Irony: wishes causing harm instead of good
- Atmosphere: suspense and horror elements
- Characterization: revealing human nature

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is the central theme of 'The Monkey's Paw' in CommonLit?

The central theme of 'The Monkey's Paw' is the danger of interfering with fate and the consequences of wish fulfillment.

### How does the story 'The Monkey's Paw' explore the idea of fate versus free will?

The story illustrates that fate is inevitable and attempts to alter it through the monkey's paw lead to tragic outcomes, highlighting the limits of free will.

## **What lesson does 'The Monkey's Paw' teach about desire and greed?**

It warns that unchecked desire and greed can result in unintended and disastrous consequences.

## **Who are the main characters in 'The Monkey's Paw' and what roles do they play?**

The main characters are Mr. White, Mrs. White, and their son Herbert; they represent a family whose lives are dramatically changed by the consequences of using the monkey's paw to make wishes.

## **Why does the monkey's paw have supernatural powers in the story?**

The monkey's paw is enchanted by a fakir to grant three wishes, but its powers come with a curse that causes misfortune as a consequence of meddling with fate.

## **How does suspense build throughout 'The Monkey's Paw'?**

Suspense builds through foreshadowing, the mysterious nature of the paw, and the escalating consequences of each wish made by the Whites.

## **What is the significance of the final wish in 'The Monkey's Paw'?**

The final wish is significant because it resolves the tragic consequences of the previous wishes, often interpreted as a wish to undo the harm caused, emphasizing acceptance of fate.

## **How does CommonLit suggest readers interpret the ending of 'The Monkey's Paw'?**

CommonLit encourages readers to see the ending as a cautionary conclusion about the risks of trying to control destiny and the importance of accepting life's natural course.

## **Additional Resources**

### *1. The Monkey's Paw and Other Tales of Mystery and the Macabre by W.W. Jacobs*

This collection features the original story "The Monkey's Paw," along with other eerie and suspenseful tales by W.W. Jacobs. The stories often explore themes of fate, supernatural consequences, and human folly. It's a classic collection for readers interested in early 20th-century horror and mystery fiction.

### *2. The Lottery and Other Stories by Shirley Jackson*

Shirley Jackson's collection includes "The Lottery," a story that, like "The Monkey's Paw," delves into dark human nature and the consequences of blindly following tradition. Her stories often explore psychological

horror and social commentary. This book is a great companion for readers intrigued by unsettling narratives and moral questions.

### 3. *The Tell-Tale Heart and Other Writings by Edgar Allan Poe*

Edgar Allan Poe's works are foundational in the horror and gothic genres, much like "The Monkey's Paw." This collection includes tales that examine madness, guilt, and the supernatural. Poe's mastery of atmosphere and suspense makes this a fitting read for fans of eerie short stories.

### 4. *Coraline by Neil Gaiman*

This modern dark fantasy novel shares the eerie and supernatural elements found in "The Monkey's Paw." Coraline tells the story of a young girl who discovers a parallel world with sinister secrets. It explores themes of bravery, curiosity, and the consequences of one's choices.

### 5. *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde by Robert Louis Stevenson*

Stevenson's novella explores duality, the darker side of human nature, and unintended consequences, themes that resonate with the moral lessons in "The Monkey's Paw." The story's suspense and psychological complexity make it a compelling read about the dangers lurking within.

### 6. *The Necklace and Other Stories by Guy de Maupassant*

Guy de Maupassant's short stories often involve ironic twists and explore human desires and folly, similar to the themes in "The Monkey's Paw." "The Necklace," in particular, is a famous tale of unexpected consequences. This collection is ideal for readers who appreciate moralistic and thought-provoking narratives.

### 7. *Something Wicked This Way Comes by Ray Bradbury*

Bradbury's novel combines fantasy and horror, focusing on the arrival of a mysterious carnival that brings dark wishes and dangers. Like "The Monkey's Paw," it examines the consequences of desires and the cost of getting what one wishes for. The story is rich in atmosphere and moral lessons.

### 8. *The Gift of the Magi and Other Stories by O. Henry*

O. Henry's short stories are known for their surprise endings and exploration of human nature. Though generally more lighthearted, some stories share thematic similarities with "The Monkey's Paw" in terms of sacrifice and irony. This collection offers a different but complementary perspective on unexpected outcomes.

### 9. *The Raven and Other Poems by Edgar Allan Poe*

This poetry collection includes "The Raven," a symbol of haunting and loss, echoing the dark and somber tone found in "The Monkey's Paw." Poe's exploration of sorrow, death, and the supernatural through poetry provides a lyrical counterpart to his prose tales. It is ideal for readers who appreciate atmospheric and evocative literature.

## **Monkey S Paw Commonlit Answers**

Find other PDF articles:

<https://lxc.avoicemen.com/archive-top3-20/files?docid=avC96-7003&title=modeling-instruction-amta-2013-answer-key.pdf>

Monkey S Paw Commonlit Answers

Back to Home: <https://lxc.avoicemen.com>