

The Lottery

by Shirley Jackson

1. On which day does the lottery fall each year?
2. Why did Mr. Summers replace the original wood chips with slips of paper?
3. Why is it important that the original paraphernalia for the lottery has been lost?
4. Who shows up late to the lottery? Why is she late?
5. What is the procedure for someone who cannot attend?
6. Describe the point of view of the story. How does the point of view affect what we know about the situation?

How does it preserve the story's suspense?

What if it were told from 1st person, Mrs. Hutchinson's point of view? What would change?

7. **Symbolism:** What do the black box and stones represent?

8. **Foreshadowing:** Which part of the story foreshadows the ending?

9. Even though this story deals with a violent event, there is very little description of the violence? Do you think the story would have been more or less effective if the author had described violence more? Explain.

10. **Mob mentality** refers to the behavioral tendency of people to act in unison with the group of which they are a part. How does mob mentality affect the outcome of this story?

IRONY

11. These are all bits of irony. **Explain how and what makes them ironic.**

- The word *lottery* implies:

- The sunny day suggests:

- When Old Man Warner hears that the north village is considering ending the lottery, he says, “Next thing you know, they’ll be wanting to go back to living in caves.” How is this statement ironic:

Name

Hour:

- Billy, Nancy, and Davy Hutchinson (their actions vs. their relationship to the “winner”):
- Mr. Hutchinson (his actions vs. relationship to the “winner”):
- Mrs. Delacroix
- Find an example of your own:

12. Why do the townspeople participate in the lottery? Why don't they stop having the lottery?

13. Explain the character of Old Man Warner. How does he contribute to the towns' tradition?

14. There are certain traditions in our town and other places that happen year after year. Think of a particular event (or festival) that happens each year. What would happen if someone decided to stop having it each year?

Name

Hour:

15. Why are people afraid of change?

16. Shirley Jackson said she had the setting in the present tense (she wrote it in 1948) in order to “**shock the readers with a graphic dramatization of the pointless violence and general inhumanity in their own lives.**” What “pointless violence” and “general inhumanity” is she referring to?

17. Is this story still relevant today? How? Why? Explain.

Themes: The underlying themes have been provided for you. Identify where in the story each theme can be found/proven. Tell how it is shown and explain.

Theme 1: The reluctance of people to reject outdated traditions, ideas, rules, laws, and practices.

Theme 2: Society wrongfully designates scapegoats to bear the sins of the community.

Theme 3: Following the crowd can have disastrous consequences

Theme 4: Find an example of your own:

Name

Hour:

Rising Action: What events, conflicts build suspense or increase complications in the story

Empty box for notes related to Rising Action.

Empty box for notes related to Rising Action.

Empty box for notes related to Rising Action.

Empty box for notes related to Rising Action.

Climax: Turning Point
Empty box for notes related to Climax.

Falling Action: What events help wrap up the story?

Empty box for notes related to Falling Action.

Protagonist vs. Antagonist
_____ vs. _____

Conflict:

Inciting Incident: What event sets the plot into motion?

Exposition:
Setting:

Characters:

Situation:

Theme: What is the lesson of the story? Give evidence to support your theme.
Theme: _____

Evidence: _____

Resolution: How does the story end?

