

The Monkey's Paw (Part One) Comprehension Questions

Directions: Provide a succinct answer for each of the following questions. You may underline or circle (but not copy) the words or phrases in the text that you use to support your answers.

- 1) Who are the main characters in the story and what are they doing in the beginning?
- 2) What might be the monkey's purpose in the poem—the poem?
- 3) On page 7, Mr. White realized that the paw could be given a man "happiness and misery." Why would he say that? What is a sign of some serious fear?
- 4) What is the first thing that the couple asked for? How did they get it?
- 5) What happened to the first? Did the paw have anything to do with it?
- 6) What was happening at the time? How do you know that?
- 7) How did the first family's situation change? How does that change contribute to the story's development?
- 8) What do you think the monkey's paw really was?
- 9) How did the second wish contribute to the story?
- 10) What is "reincarnation"? How does it come into play in the story?