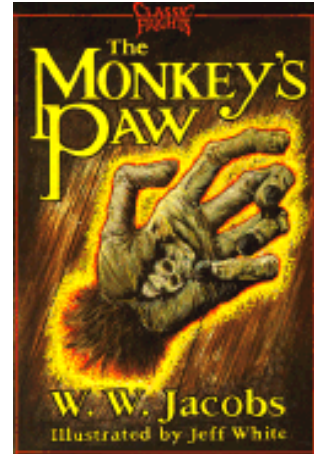


#1261

THE MONKEY'S PAW

BFA EDUCATIONAL MEDIA, 1978
COLOR
LEVEL: ADVANCED
SUBJECT AREA: LITERATURE
19 MINUTES



SYNOPSIS

Sometimes, the worst thing that can happen is if we get what we want. In this classic horror story, a mysterious monkey's paw opens the door to a family's desires. An old couple's son is killed in an accident. The mother will do anything to get him back. But when the father hears the knock at the door . . . (Adapted from the story by W. W. Jacobs.)

PURPOSE

General Objectives

1. To create an atmosphere of mystery and suspense.
2. To dramatize a classic suspense story.
3. To examine the concept of wishes, and if granted, their effects.

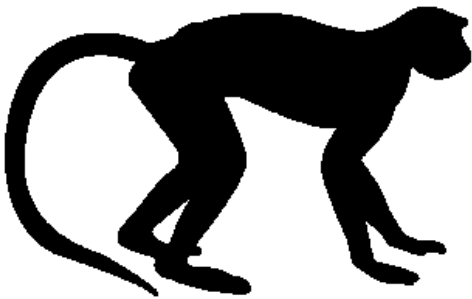
Behavioral Objectives

After viewing the media, the student will:

1. List visual or sound effects that help create the mystery and suspense of the media (e.g., storm, sea captain, strange objects from travel, monkey's paw; words: fakir, bizarre, etc.; sound effects).
2. State the type of weather with which the media opens (a storm).
3. Tell what the captain brought to his friend's house (a monkey's paw).
4. Tell how many men would be granted wishes if they had the monkey's paw (three).
5. Communicate how one would make a wish with the monkey's paw (hold in right hand and say the wish aloud).
6. Tell what Mr. White wished for first (\$500.00).
7. Relate the situation that resulted in the granting of the first wish (Herbert's death resulted in the company compensating the family).
8. Tell what the second wish was (to have the son a live again).
9. Tell what the final wish was (to send the son back to the grave).
10. Communicate what Mr. White did with the monkey's paw at the end of the story (he threw it away).

Discussion Objectives

1. Discuss in a group the following questions or statements:
 - a. What is meant by the word *fate*? Tell what the visitor says about fate. Did the Whites interfere with fate? Explain.
 - b. Captain Morris tells his friend to make wishes sensibly. Why? Are Mr. White's wishes sensible? Explain. What alternatives did Mr. White have?
 - c. Describe the mood of the story/media and evaluate its effectiveness.
 - d. Tell what plot(s) is/are seen in the media/story. Is it used effectively?
 - e. Describe the characters (Captain Morris, Charles White, Herbert White, and Elizabeth White) and explore their contributions to the plots or situations.



2. Read the short story "The Monkey's Paw" by W. W. Jacobs. (This story also comes in an adapted form which is easy reading.) Compare and contrast the story form with the media. State your preference and your reasons for the choice.

RELATED ACTIVITIES

1. Collect good-luck charms or pictures of items that are often used for making a wish or for acquiring good luck. Research the source and history of a particular item (charm) and write a short report on it. Share with classmates.
2. Have students create their own stories about wishes.
3. Reconstruct the story by changing the plots (i.e., change the second and third wishes).
4. Recall and list various stories or fairy tales that convey the theme of wishes (e.g., "King Midas and the Golden Touch," etc.).
5. List three wishes and state the reasons for having these wishes. Also, discuss in class what one could do to achieve a wish. What problems may be confronted?
6. Define the word *wish*. Make a list of words that contain the word *wish*, (e.g., wishbone, wish book, etc.). List various possible reasons for making a wish. Also, give examples of wishes that we see in our present society.
7. Many people believe in fate, and they are often called "fatalists." Name some ways that are used to predict fate (e.g., palmistry, horoscope, etc.). Discuss and exchange opinions or experiences in relation to fate. Another discussion topic could cover the subject of superstition.

RESOURCE MATERIALS

- [The Gold Bug #1376](#)
- [The Tell Tale Heart #3186](#)
- [That Strange Mr. Poe #8921](#)
- [The Fall of the House of Usher #1224](#)
- [The Oval Portrait #8853](#)

SCRIPT

(Underlining indicates important words or concepts which may need to be introduced before showing the media.)

(Singing) Not last night, but the night before, 24 robbers came knocking at my door. I ran out and they ran in.

(Morris) Let me help . . .

(Girl) No!

(Singing) I asked them what they wanted and this is what they said.

(Mr. White) The shed locked?

(Herbert) Well.

(Mr. White) He wouldn't come tonight.

(Herbert) Check!

(Mrs. White) I hope he brings no presents. These bizarre things! I put this nasty thing out.

(Mr. White) It's not nasty! It's from the Orient.

(Sound effect--knocking)

(Mr. White) It's the Captain. Behave. I never thought you'd make it tonight.

(Morris) It's not bad.

(Mr. White) This is the Captain. Morris, my wife and Herbert.

(Herbert) How do you do?

(Morris) Pleased to meet you.

C a p t i o n e d M e d i a P r o g r a m

(Mrs. White) You must be frozen. How about a hot toddy?

(Morris) Hmmm. I'll give it a try.

(Mr. White) Look at you! You were a boy when you left. Now look at what you know and have seen. I thought you were daft. But I wish I'd gone with you.

(Morris) No, you're better off here. Your family near, home, and a warm fire. Sometimes I wish I'd stayed put. I don't wish anymore

(Mrs. White) What's the harm in wishing?

(Morris) It's no good wishing for something you don't have.

(Herbert) Thank you, Mother.

(Morris) You think I'm superstitious? Let me show you. Here, take it! It's a monkey's paw. A fakir cast a spell to show fate rules lives. Anyone interfering with fate would meet with sorrow. The spell gave three men three wishes.

(Herbert) Under your pillow?

(Morris) You hold it in your right hand, like this, and wish aloud.

(Herbert) Had your three?

(Morris) Yes.

(Mrs. White) Were they granted?

(Morris) Yes.

(Mr. White) Who else wished?

(Morris) One man, I don't know his first two wishes. His third was for death. I got the paw.

(Mr. White) Why don't you let me have it?

(Morris) No. It's caused its share of grief.

(Mrs. White) Why keep it?

(Morris) I don't know. I thought I'd sell it.

(Mrs. White) Would you take three more wishes again?

C a p t i o n e d M e d i a P r o g r a m

(Herbert) Father, no!

(Morris) Charles, don't be a fool!

(Mr. White) How do you do it?

(Morris) I threw it on the fire; don't blame me.

(Mr. White) Like this?

(Mrs. White) It sounds like the Arabian Nights! A shudder went down my back! Supper?

(Herbert) Me, for one.

(Morris) Wish for something sensible.

(Mr. White) Let's eat.

(Morris) Good night.

(Mr. White) Take care.

(Herbert) We had our legs pulled.

(Mrs. White) He's quite a storyteller. Did you pay him?

(Mr. White) Not much. He didn't want anything. He pressed me again to throw it away.

(Herbert) Wish you're an emperor and Mother'll stop nagging.

(Mr. White) I don't know what to wish for. I've everything I want.

(Mrs. White) Pay off the mortgage.

(Mr. White) I wish for \$500.

(Mrs. White) What's wrong?

(Mr. White) It moved! It twisted in my hand!

(Mrs. White) You're just imagining.

(Mr. White) No, it moved in my hand!

(Herbert) No money anywhere!

C a p t i o n e d M e d i a P r o g r a m

(Mrs. White) You imagined it.

(Mr. White) It gave me a shock. Never mind. C'mon. It's late.

(Herbert) The money is probably in your bed, a strange creature on the wardrobe waiting to see what happens. The money must be somewhere. Nothing under the hens. How about the laundry bin?

(Mrs. White) How scared we were! Sailors always tell tall tales. Seems right that they do. How could \$500 hurt?

(Herbert) Might drop on you. I must go. I'll be late. Maw & Meggins, Co. needs me. Don't spend it before I get home.

(Mrs. White) Get going. Yes?

(Mailman) Mornin'.

(Mrs. White) Oh, Mr. Reed, thank you. Herbert will tease when he gets back.

(Mr. White) It moved in my hand!

(Mrs. White) You just imagined it. What . . . Charles.

(Man) Mr. and Mrs. White?

(Mr. White) Yes.

(Mrs. White) Sorry about the mess. We're starting to clean up.

(Man) I understand. I come from Maw & Meggins.

(Mrs. White) Herbert?

(Mr. White) Don't jump to conclusions, Elizabeth. I'm sure, no bad news.

(Man) I'm sorry.

(Mrs. White) Herbert's hurt.

(Man) Badly hurt, but not in pain.

(Mrs. White) Thank God. Thank God.

(Man) He was caught in the machinery. I'm sorry.

(Mr. White) Our only son!

C a p t i o n e d M e d i a P r o g r a m

(Man) The firm wishes to convey their sincere sympathy to you in your loss. Also, Maw & Meggins admits to no liability. But they wish to present you with a certain sum as compensation.

(Mr. White) How much?

(Man) \$500.

(Mr. White) Come to bed. You'll catch cold

(Mrs. White) Think how cold he is. The monkey's paw!

(Mr. White) What?

(Mrs. White) Destroyed it?

(Mr. White) No, why?

(Mrs. White) Why didn't we think of it sooner? Get it. I want it.

(Mr. White) What for? It's caused enough harm.

(Mrs. White) We've two more wishes to make.

(Mr. White) Wasn't one enough?

(Mrs. White) Get it! We'll have Herbert back. We'll laugh and be happy again.

(Mr. White) It's a coincidence.

(Mrs. White) Go get it! Wish him alive again. You want him alive?

(Mr. White). He was mutilated.

(Mrs. White) Our Herbert.

(Mr. White) He went through the machinery.

(Mrs. White) Wish him alive again! I want my boy back again! Wish! Wish, Charles!

(Mr. White) I wish my son alive again. Come to bed.

(Sound effect--banging)

(Mr. White) I'll get a candle.

C a p t i o n e d M e d i a P r o g r a m

(sound effect--knocking)

(Mrs. White) What's that?

(Mr. White) A rat.

(Mrs. White) It's Herbert!

(Mr. White) Stop!

(Mrs. White) Let me by! It's Herbert!

(Mr. White) Don't let it in! Don't!

(Mrs. White) Afraid of your own son? Herbert!

(Mr. White) The paw!

(Mrs. White) Help me! This lock won't budge. Herbert! Herbert!

(Mr. White) I wish my son dead forever!