The Monkey's Paw

W. W. Jacobs

Illustrated by Jeff White
Characters

- Mr. White – Father
- Mrs. White – Mother
- Herbert – The Son
- Sergeant Morris - The Catalyst for the short story
Theme

- Don’t tamper with fate
- Be careful what you ask for or you just might get it.
Interesting Vocabulary Words

- Placidly (adv) – pleasantly calm or peaceful; unruffled, tranquil; serenely quiet or undisturbed: placid waters.
- Rubicund (adj.) -red or reddish; ruddy: a rubicund complexion.
- Fakir (n) – a Muslim or Hindu, religious person or Monk commonly considered a wonder-worker.
- Talisman (n) – anything whose presence exercises a remarkable or powerful influence on human feelings or actions.
Interested Vocabulary Words Continued

- Ill-gotten (adj) – acquired by dishonest, improper, or evil means: ill-gotten gains
- Betoken (v.t.) to give evidence of; indicate: to betoken one’s fidelity with a vow; a kiss that betokens one’s affection.
- Bibulous (adj) fond of or addicted to drink.
- Fusillade (n) a general discharge or outpouring of anything: a fusillade of question
What is Plot

Plot is the literary element that describes the structure of a story. It shows arrangement of events and actions within a story.
Plot Components

- Exposition: the start of the story, the situation before the action starts
- Rising Action: the series of conflicts and crisis in the story that lead to the climax.
- Climax: the turning point, the most intense moment – either mentally or in action
- Falling Action-all of the action which follows the climax
- Resolution: the conclusion, the tying together of all of the threads
The Monkey’s Paw
Characters

Ms. White          Herbert          Mr. White
Sergeant-Major
Morris
Exposition

- Jacobs opens the story with Mr. White and his son playing chess
- Mrs. White sits by the fire knitting
- Sergeant-Major Morris drops in for a visit
- Setting—a typical cozy evening with the family gathered around the hearth
Rising Action

- Herbert pressures George to use the Monkey's Paw to get more money
Climax

- Herbert dies by getting caught in the machinery, as restitution Herbert's company gives the White family two hundred pounds
Falling Action

- George is forced by Jenny to wish Herbert back to life, but he comes back as he died in the machinery.
Resolution

- George wishes his son in peace, so Herbert goes back to the grave
Thought Provoking Questions

- The Whites wanted to possess the Monkey’s Paw mainly because of the wishes. Was the cost of this curiosity worthy of this tragedy? The family?
- Are the Whites really bored with the night or are they bored with life?
- Was it hard for the Whites to go with the flow or was it hard for them to remain in control of everything such as their lives?