**Text-Dependent Questioning: Secondary Level**

Virginia Department of Education – 2018

[**The Monkey’s Paw**](http://www.gutenberg.org/files/12122/12122-h/12122-h.htm)

(This W.W. Jacobs short story is available in the public domain at Project Gutenberg)

Sample Text-dependent Questions

1. Vocabulary: perils, bog, grimace, fakir, fate, compensation, resignation, fusillade, reverberated. Use context clues to gain understanding of the words.
2. What mood is created in the first nine paragraphs? List six words from the paragraphs that support your answer.
3. Identify and describe the setting of the story.
4. Compare the atmosphere in the house at the beginning of the story to the atmosphere in the house at the end of the story. Write a sentence from the beginning of the story and a sentence from the end of the story to support your answer.
5. Why did the sergeant-major say that the fakir had put a spell on the talisman? Explain what is meant by his statement.
6. What does Mr. White’s action of pulling the paw out of the fire show about his character?
7. Whose idea was it to wish for 200 pounds? Why is this an example of irony?
8. How might the story have ended differently if the Whites were given four wishes?
9. Explain why the first paragraph of the story is an example of foreshadowing. *Father and son were at chess, the former, who possessed ideas about the game involving radical changes, putting his king into such sharp and unnecessary perils that it even provoked comment from the white-haired old lady knitting placidly by the fire.*
10. Find a sentence from the short story that demonstrates where the author builds suspense.
11. On Youtube, there is a Lego video version of *The Monkey’s Paw*. Watch the video and give three reasons why this is a good summary of *The Monkey’s Paw*.
12. One theme of *The Monkey’s Paw* revolves around greed. Read or watch the speech on greed from the movie *Wall Street*. Draw a Venn diagram to compare and contrast the ideas presented in the short story and the speech.
13. Many people believe that money gain/greed causes individuals to act in ways that they would not normally act. In *The Monkey’s Paw*, money gain/greed is bad. In the *Wall Street* speech, money gain/greed is good. Research examples in history, life, or literature of people for whom greed or money gain caused them to change. Using the information from the research, write a persuasive essay supporting your opinion of whether money gain/greed is good or bad.