

Creative Writing Assignment

“The Monkey’s Paw”

Directions: Choose one of the following prompts for your assignment. You may not write less than one page or more than 3 pages.

- Plan your story first by brainstorming your ideas.
- Your story should have an exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution. Use the plot structure diagram to map out your story.
- Remember to describe your characters and use dialogue to carry your story through. Use the character map handout to plan each of your major characters.

1. Offshoot: Write your own humorous or scary story using the “three wishes” topic. Your character may or may not “wish for something sensible” and might even “spend the last wish undoing the work of the other two.” You must decide your character’s fate! Be sure to include strong instances of foreshadowing and irony. Be sure that the theme is clear to the reader.

2. Alternate Ending: Write an alternate, more conclusive ending to “The Monkey’s Paw.” At the end of “The Monkey’s Paw,” Jacobs leaves the reader hanging. What was Mr. White’s third wish? What happens to Herbert White? You can answer all of these questions and more! Be sure to include strong instances of foreshadowing and irony (which may tie back to the original story). Be sure that the theme is clear to the reader.

3. Prequel: Write a prequel to “The Monkey’s Paw.” Tell the story of what happened to Sergeant-Major Morris, or tell the story of the first owner of the paw. Be sure to include strong instances of foreshadowing and irony. Be sure that the theme is clear to the reader.