

## Guided Reading Questions

The following questions are in the order of the story. Use the questions to help students have a greater understanding of the story and to predict what will happen next.

Have you ever heard the expression “Be careful what you wish for”? What does that expression mean? Give an example in your explanation.

The first six paragraphs contain words and phrases that describe the setting. What do you know about the Whites and their home after reading these paragraphs?

If the father takes unnecessary risks in the game, do you think he might also take unnecessary risks in life?

Look back at these phrases: “beastly, slushy, out-of-the-way places” • “Pathway’s a bog, and the road’s a torrent” • “only two houses in the road are let. What kind of feeling does this give you?

Why does Sergeant-Major Morris say, “Better where you are”?

Can you guess what will happen with the Whites and the monkey’s paw? Use details from the story to support your answer.

Do you think Mr. White will use the monkey’s paw? If so, what do you think he will wish for?

Why did the holy man put a spell on the paw?

What is the paw’s power?

What do you think will happen after Mr. White makes his first wish?

Why does Mrs. White say that they were listening to nonsense the night before? (“The idea of our listening to such nonsense! How could wishes be granted in these days?”)

Her next words were “And if they could, how could two hundred pounds hurt you, father?” How could Mr. White be hurt by 200 pounds?

Why do you think the man passes by the Whites’ gate three times?

Why do you think he is there?

When the stranger gives his news, what emotions do you, as the reader, feel?

What do you think the Whites should do with the paw now?

Why does Mrs. White want the paw?

What is the second wish?

Do you think the second wish will be granted?

Sound words can help create a mood. What sound words do you see in the following paragraphs?

Neither spoke, but lay silently listening to the ticking of the clock. A stair creaked, and a squeaky mouse scurried noisily through the wall. The darkness was oppressive, and after lying for some time gathering up his courage, he took the box of matches, and striking one, went downstairs for a candle. At the foot of the stairs the match went out, and he paused to strike another; and at the same moment a knock, so quiet and stealthy as to be scarcely audible, sounded on the front door.

What does Mrs. White mean when she says, "I forgot it was two miles away"?

Why does Mrs. White ask for help?

Why does Mr. White want to find the monkey's paw?

What is Mr. White's last wish?

Why do you think the knocking stop so suddenly?