

Name \_\_\_\_\_



## Hints of Doom

From the very beginning, *The Monkey's Paw* fills the reader with a sense of unease. W.W. Jacobs carefully places small hints, or foreshadowing, throughout the story to warn readers that something terrible is coming. This technique helps build suspense and prepares the reader for the shocking climax.

The story opens on a stormy night, setting a gloomy and unsettling mood. Sergeant-Major Morris, a soldier who has traveled the world, visits the White family and brings with him the mysterious monkey's paw. When the family asks about it, he hesitates before speaking. His serious expression and the way he tosses the paw into the fire suggest that it is dangerous. "Better let it burn," he says. But Mr. White, curious and eager, pulls it from the flames.

Before leaving, Morris warns Mr. White that the paw grants wishes but with a terrible cost. He shares the tale of the first man who used it—his last wish was for death. This ominous detail hints that the wishes do not bring happiness. Instead, they twist fate in cruel ways.

Despite this warning, Mr. White makes a wish for two hundred pounds. Immediately, strange things happen. The fire flickers, the room grows cold, and the wind howls outside. Though small, these eerie details suggest that something is not right. The next day, when a visitor arrives with tragic news of Herbert's death and offers two hundred pounds in compensation, the connection between the wish and the consequence becomes clear.

The most chilling example of foreshadowing occurs when Mrs. White, overcome with grief, begs her husband to use the paw again. "What if it brings him back different?" Mr. White whispers, his voice filled with dread. His fear foreshadows the terrifying knocking at the door after the second wish—was it really Herbert, or something unnatural?

Jacobs' clever use of foreshadowing makes the story's climax—the desperate final wish and the silence that follows—even more intense. Each warning, eerie description, and nervous reaction builds up to that moment, making the reader wonder what might have happened if the door had been opened.