

Name _____

Three's Curse

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. The number three may have been used because it creates a strong pattern and adds to the sense of fate. Many traditional stories use three as an important number.
2. If they had only made one wish, Herbert might not have died, or they might not have been tempted to make more wishes. The story's message about fate would be less clear.
3. Mr. White likely felt terror, regret, and desperation, fearing what he had done by making the second wish.
4. Some might argue that the monkey's paw was truly magical, while others might say that everything happened by coincidence. The story leaves this open to interpretation.

