

Name _____



Unintended Consequences

The White family never expected that a small, dried-up monkey's paw would change their lives forever. When Sergeant-Major Morris visited them on a dark, stormy night, he told them about the paw's strange power—it could grant three wishes, but each wish came with a terrible price. He warned them to leave it alone, but curiosity got the better of them.

At first, the paw seemed harmless. Mr. White, half-jokingly, wished for two hundred pounds to pay off their house. Nothing happened immediately, and the family laughed, thinking the whole thing was just a silly tale. But the next day, their wish came true in the worst way possible. A man from the factory arrived at their door with tragic news—Herbert, their beloved son, had died in a terrible accident. As compensation, the company was offering them exactly two hundred pounds.

Grief filled the house. Mrs. White, unable to bear the loss, insisted that they use the second wish. "Bring Herbert back," she begged. Mr. White, though hesitant, held the monkey's paw and whispered the wish.

Moments later, a slow, heavy knock echoed at the door. The sound grew louder, each knock filling the house with dread. Mrs. White rushed to let Herbert in, but Mr. White was overcome with terror. What if Herbert was not the same? What if the wish had brought back something unnatural?

Panicked, Mr. White made the final wish just as Mrs. White unlocked the door. The knocking stopped. When she flung open the door, there was nothing there—only the cold, empty night.

The White family's story is a chilling reminder that wishes come with consequences. They never thought about what might happen if their wishes came true in the wrong way. The Monkey's Paw challenges the idea that we can control fate. It warns that sometimes, the things we wish for may not bring happiness, but sorrow instead.