

Name _____



Mind's Burden

When the White family first heard about the monkey's paw, they were amused. Sergeant-Major Morris warned them that it had the power to grant three wishes, but each wish came with a terrible price. Mr. White, curious and dismissive of the danger, made his first wish for two hundred pounds. At first, nothing happened, and the family laughed at the idea.

However, when a man from Herbert's workplace arrived with grim news, their feelings changed. Herbert had died in an accident, and the company offered the family two hundred pounds in compensation. The realization hit them like a thunderbolt—the monkey's paw had worked, but in the worst way imaginable. Guilt and sorrow filled the house. Mr. White regretted his foolish wish, and Mrs. White was overcome with grief.

Desperation soon replaced sorrow. Mrs. White, unable to bear the loss of her son, begged Mr. White to use the second wish. "Bring him back!" she pleaded. Though terrified of what might happen, Mr. White finally gave in. As soon as he whispered the wish, the house fell into a deep silence. Moments later, a slow, heavy knock echoed through the air.

Panic set in. Mrs. White rushed to open the door, filled with hope that her son had returned. But Mr. White felt only dread. He realized that Herbert had been dead for days—what if he returned in a horrifying form? Fear gripped his heart as the knocking grew louder. His hands shook as he grabbed the monkey's paw and made the final wish.

Instantly, the knocking stopped. Mrs. White threw open the door, only to find an empty street. The terrible silence was more haunting than any sound.

The White family's wishes had not only brought loss and fear, but they had also played with their emotions. Their first wish led to regret, their second to desperation, and their third to terror. The Monkey's Paw shows how powerful emotions like greed, grief, and fear can cloud judgment, leading to choices with devastating consequences.