

Name _____



Chilling Shadows

The wind howled outside the White family's small house, rattling the windows and shaking the doors. Rain poured down in steady sheets, making the night even darker. Inside, the family sat close together near the fire, listening to Sergeant-Major Morris tell a strange tale about a monkey's paw. The flickering flames cast eerie shadows on the walls as he warned them: "It grants wishes, but those wishes come with terrible consequences."

Despite the warning, Mr. White took the paw and made a wish. The mood in the room shifted. The warmth of the fire no longer felt comforting. Instead, it seemed to shrink under the weight of unseen danger. The air itself felt heavy, as if the house were holding its breath.

The next morning, the storm had passed, but a sense of unease lingered. The sky was gray, and the world outside felt oddly silent. Then, a visitor arrived with terrible news—Herbert had died in a factory accident. The family was given two hundred pounds in compensation, just as Mr. White had wished. The cheerful home that once echoed with laughter now felt cold and lifeless.

Days later, the night was once again dark and stormy when Mrs. White, consumed by grief, begged her husband to use the monkey's paw again. "Wish our son back," she whispered desperately. Mr. White hesitated but did as she asked. The wind roared louder, and an uneasy silence followed.

Then came the knock. Slow. Heavy. Unnatural.

Mrs. White ran to the door, but Mr. White felt a terrible dread growing in his chest. The dim candlelight made the room feel smaller, the walls seeming to press in on him. He fumbled for the monkey's paw and made one final wish.

The knocking stopped. The door creaked open, revealing only the empty, moonlit road.

The eerie and suspenseful mood of *The Monkey's Paw* is shaped by its dark setting—the stormy nights, the quiet fear, and the way shadows seem to grow with each wish. The small, cozy home turns into a place of dread, showing how fear can creep into even the most familiar spaces.