



Analyzing Language (RL1, RL4)

The author contrasts the cold stormy weather outside with the warm cozy interior to establish the setting of the story.

- Re-read lines 1-10 and cite descriptive details that help establish the setting (time and place).
 - *“Without, the night was cold and wet, but in the small parlor... the blinds were drawn and the fire burned brightly.”; “white-haired old lady knitting placidly by the fire”; “Hark at the wind”*
- How do these words help to establish the setting?

Analyzing Stories: Foreshadowing (RL3)

- ***Foreshadowing*** refers to clues an author gives that hint at what will happen later in the story.
- One way authors foreshadow events is through descriptions.
- Re-read lines 3-7 and identify the details that tell something about the father's personality.
 - *“Radical changes”; “sharp and unnecessary perils”*
 - Dad seems like he may be reckless and take chances or do things that are dangerous.
- The author uses the description of Dad to ***foreshadow*** that Dad will do something reckless and dangerous later on in the story.

Analyzing Stories: Foreshadowing (RL1, RL3)

- Horror story authors may use foreshadowing to prepare the reader for the strange and unexpected events. This technique creates ***suspense***, which is the feeling that something unexpected or scary is about to happen.
- Re-read lines 39-42; cite evidence to explain how this description of Sergeant-Major Morris helps build suspense.
 - *Sergeant-Major Morris is presented as a person who knows about “wild scenes” and “strange peoples.” This builds suspense because we begin to suspect something strange to come from him.*

Determining Theme (RL2)

- **Theme** is a message about life or human nature that a writer wants to share with readers.
- Sometimes, the writer will actually state the theme directly, but in other cases, we must **infer**, or figure out, the theme based on the details from the text.
- Re-read lines 73-77 to identify ideas that suggest what the theme of this story might be.
 - *“He wanted to show that fate rules people’s lives, and that those who interfered with it did so to their sorrow.”*
- What does this line foreshadow?
 - It foreshadows that the family will try to change their lives and that sorrow will result.

Analyzing Stories: Foreshadowing (RL1, RL3)

- Foreshadowing in a horror story is often based on a reference to something bad that happened in the past and might happen again.
- Re-read lines 90-92 and explain what makes this foreshadowing effective.
 - *Sergeant-Major Morris suggests that the result of using the first two wishes was so bad that the Whites are going to use the monkey’s paw, this foreshadows something bad for them.*



Determining Theme (RL2)

- **Universal theme** is a theme found in literature of different cultures and time periods.
- Granting wishes is a convention used in the literature of many different cultures, such as *Arabian Nights* and the fairy tales of the Brothers Grimm.
- The use of granting of wishes suggests a **universal theme** about interfering with fate.



Determining Theme (RL2)

- The convention of granting wishes in a story is particularly effective when the person given the wishes is already happy and therefore has a lot to lose.
- The White family's comfort and happiness help establish the theme of how dangerous it is to play with fate.
- Re-read lines 138-152; cite evidence of how this text contributes to this theme.
 - *Herbert's teasing of his mother, her playful response, and Mr. White's words about having all they want show that the White family is happy and doesn't need anything more than what they already have.*
- How does the author provide a new twist to the universal theme through the White family?
 - *The monkey's paw serves as a temptation for the family to challenge fate despite all of Morris's warning.*

Analyzing Stories: Foreshadowing (RL1, RL3, RL4)

- Sometimes, authors use vivid *imagery*, or descriptive language that appeals to the senses, to create foreshadowing.
- In a horror story, this imagery can create a mood of fear and impending danger, making reader feel eager to have more of the story's plot or action revealed.
- Re-read lines 176-182 and cite the words and phrases that foreshadow something frightening, Ask what effect this word choice creates.
 - *“The last face was so horrible and so simian that he gazed at it in amazement.” A horrible face in the fire suggests that something frightening may happen. It adds to the suspenseful tone of the story and sets up the next event in the plot.*

Analyzing Stories: Foreshadowing (RL1, RL3)

- Another way writers can foreshadow is through description of character's behavior.
- Re-read lines 214-225 and describe the behavior of the man outside.
 - *The man pauses several times at the gate and walks away. He seems to be putting off the moment when he will enter the house.*
- What might cause him to act that way?
 - *Something makes him reluctant to enter; perhaps he has bad news.*
- How does this foreshadowing propel the story's action?
 - *The man's actions provide a hint of foreboding and serve to introduce Herbert's death.*



Analyzing Stories: Dialogue (RL3)

- **Dialogue** are the words spoken by the characters and can be a very effective technique for communicating plot events.
- While narration makes readers feel that they are being told a story, **dialogue** makes readers feel like they're part of the action as though they are seeing the story unfold.
- Re-read the dialogue in lines 242-250. How do these lines move the plot along?
 - *Through the dialogue between the visitor and Mrs. White, readers realize what has happened to Herbert at the same moment she does.*

Making Inferences (RL1)

- You can use evidence in a text to figure out, or make an **inference**, about what the author does not state directly.
- Re-read lines 330-340 and pay attention to line 332. Mr White calls the granting of the first wish “a coincidence.” Does he really believe this? Why does he say it? Make an inference and cite evidence to support it.
 - *Mr. White does not think it's a coincidence; he believes in the power of the paw. He does not want to make the wish his wife asks for because he is afraid something even more horrible will be the result. According to the text, “a horrible fear that the unspoken wish might bring his mutilated son before him;” he feared he would see the zombie version of his son.*



Analyzing Stories: Foreshadowing (RL1, RL3, RL4)

- Remember, authors sometimes use imagery as a technique to foreshadow future events and create suspense.
- Re-read lines 344-353 and identify the imagery. What does this imagery foreshadow? What effect does it create?
 - *Imagery: “It was white and expectant”; “an unnatural look”; regarded fearfully”; “sank trembling into a chair”; “old woman, with burning eyes”*
 - *The imagery foreshadows that something terrible may happen; it creates a feeling of fear and tension.*

Determining Theme (RL2)

- You can determine the theme of a story by asking what lesson the characters learn.
- Re-read the dialogue between Mr. and Mrs. White (lines 385-391). What lesson, if any, has each character learned?
 - *Mr. White has learned not to try to change fate by making wishes. He is afraid that something terrible will result from his wish.*
 - *Mrs. White has not learned a lesson; she is still convinced that wishing on the paw has brought her son back to life.*

