

NAME _____

DATE _____

PERIOD _____

Shirley Jackson's "The Lottery"

Discussion Questions

1. This story begins with a mood that is very different from the mood at the end of the story. How are these two moods different? What specific words show this?

2. In the second paragraph of the story, the children are gathering stones, seemingly just for fun. The end of the reading demonstrates why they were actually gathering the stones. What literary device does this exemplify?

3. What does it say about the culture of this village that the lottery was conducted in the same manner as "the square dances, the teen club, the Halloween program."

4. The actual lottery happens on page four. The tone of the section is one of anxiety. What specific words does the author use to show this feeling of worry?

5. On the bottom of page 3, Mr. Adams states that in a neighboring village they don't even have a lottery. Old Man Warner responds that those villagers are a "pack of crazy fools". Why is this ironic?

6. Why do you think the village has a lottery? Is it a good thing, or a bad thing?

7. Do you think it was right for the youth in this story to have been forced to participate in the event?

8. Even though this story deals with a very violent event, there is very little description of the violence. Do you think the story would have been more or less effective if the author had described the violence more?

9. In the story, the lottery is overall a rather relaxed, natural occurrence. How do you think you would feel if you were there?

10. How did this story make you feel overall?
