

**“The Monkey’s Paw”** by W.W. Jacobs  
**“The Bridegroom”** by Alexander Pushkin

## Selection Test

### Critical Reading

In the blank, write the letter of the one best answer.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. What is “The Monkey’s Paw” about?
- a retired sergeant major who brings a magical monkey’s paw from India
  - an unsuspecting son who dies as a result of his mother’s greed
  - a monkey’s paw that grants three wishes to three different people
  - a magical but evil monkey’s paw that ruins the quiet life of a family
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Which of the following phrases from “The Monkey’s Paw” best describes the Whites’ lives before the first wish is granted?
- “wild scenes and doughty deeds”
  - “an air of prosaic wholesomeness”
  - “steeped in shadow and silence”
  - “the hopeless resignation of the old”
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. In “The Monkey’s Paw,” which of the following lines spoken by Mr. White hints that the wishes can only change his life for the worse?
- “And what is there special about it?”
  - “It seems to me I’ve got all I want.”
  - “. . . there’s no harm done, but it gave me a shock all the same.”
  - “. . . the things happened so naturally. . . .”
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Which of the following lines from “The Monkey’s Paw” is an example of foreshadowing?
- “When he went away he was a slip of a youth in the warehouse.”
  - “I should like to see those old temples and fakirs and jugglers. . . .”
  - “[The monkey’s paw] has caused enough mischief already.”
  - “Did you give him anything for it, Father?”
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Which of the following lines from “The Monkey’s Paw” foreshadows what happens to Herbert?
- “. . . I don’t see the money . . . and I bet I never shall.”
  - “Why, we’re going to be rich, and famous and happy.”
  - “If you only cleared the house, you’d be quite happy. . . .”
  - “I expect you’ll find the cash tied up in a big bag. . . .”
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. In “The Monkey’s Paw,” when a stranger comes to the Whites’ door, Mrs. White thinks at first he has come to
- announce Herbert’s death.
  - give Mr. White 200 pounds.
  - ask them for the monkey’s paw.
  - present a bill from the tailor.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. In “The Monkey’s Paw,” Herbert is “. . . caught in the machinery. . . .” In this context, machinery may also indicate the effects of \_\_\_\_\_.
- destiny
  - carelessness
  - everyday life
  - industrialization

- \_\_\_ 8. In "The Monkey's Paw," when Maw and Meggins offers Mr. White compensation, he faints because he
- is overcome with grief by Herbert's death.
  - knows he should have wished for something else.
  - realizes he sold his son for 200 pounds.
  - cannot bear the anguished cries of his wife.
- \_\_\_ 9. In "The Monkey's Paw," why is Mr. White afraid to wish a second time?
- He does not believe the paw can grant wishes.
  - He is so grief stricken that he forgets the paw.
  - He has become apathetic since Herbert's death.
  - He realizes his wishes can have only bad consequences.
- \_\_\_ 10. At the end of "The Monkey's Paw," what does Mrs. White realize just after she opens the front door?
- Her husband has made the third wish.
  - The monkey's paw killed her son.
  - She no longer wants her son to return.
  - The knocking sound is not Herbert.
- \_\_\_ 11. A central idea of "The Bridegroom" is that
- parents often fail to understand their children.
  - matchmakers do not know what real love is.
  - dreams sometimes reveal what the future holds.
  - charming exteriors can hide awful truths.
- \_\_\_ 12. Why does Natasha fear the bridegroom?
- He plans to punish her for spying on him.
  - He is a wealthy lord who bows to no one.
  - She saw what he did to the other woman.
  - He threatened her when she was in the hut.
- \_\_\_ 13. In "The Bridegroom," what is the most likely reason that Natasha chooses at the wedding feast to tell her story as if she dreamt it?
- to avoid revealing that she had been in the hut
  - to make her fears seem real until she can prove them
  - to make the guests believe that she is a prophetess
  - to warn the bridegroom that she knows his true intentions
- \_\_\_ 14. In "The Bridegroom," Pushkin draws upon themes from
- supernatural events.
  - folklore.
  - social reform.
  - upper-class customs.
- \_\_\_ 15. Which of the following details in "The Bridegroom" foreshadows the groom's fate?
- Natasha's disappearance
  - Natasha's first reaction to the handsome young man
  - the matchmaker's unexpected visit
  - Natasha's request to invite the law

## Vocabulary and Grammar

- \_\_\_ 16. Which of the following sentences contains a pronoun that does not agree with its antecedent?
- Mr. White tried, unsuccessfully, to distract his son during a chess game.
  - The visitor brought bad news to the Whites; he told him that their son was dead.
  - Mr. White could not have known the results of his first wish.
  - Sergeant Morris took the monkey paw and threw it upon the fire.

- \_\_\_ 17. Which of the following words or phrases is closest in meaning to the word *maligned*?
- praised
  - lingered
  - flattered
  - slandered
- \_\_\_ 18. Which of the following words is most nearly opposite in meaning to the word *tumult*?
- order
  - commotion
  - chaos
  - tremor
- \_\_\_ 19. Though upset by \_\_\_\_\_ betrothal to the groom, Natasha devised a plan that would bring the young man to justice.
- |        |          |
|--------|----------|
| a. his | c. her   |
| b. its | d. their |
- \_\_\_ 20. What is the antecedent of the word *them* in the following sentence?  
After she calmed down, Natasha asked her parents to prepare a feast for the guests and told them to invite the law.
- |            |           |
|------------|-----------|
| a. Natasha | c. guests |
| b. parents | d. law    |

### Essay Questions

21. In "The Monkey's Paw," many hints foreshadow future events. In an essay, identify two examples of foreshadowing from the selection, and explain in detail the specific future events they suggest.
22. What might have happened to Natasha had she married the handsome bridegroom? In an essay, explain your prediction and identify evidence in Pushkin's ballad that helped you to make it.
23. "The Monkey's Paw" comes to a disturbing end. What does the father understand that the mother does not? How would the ending be different had Mrs. White opened the door before Mr. White made his third wish? Why were you surprised or not surprised by the story's conclusion? Answer these questions in an essay, and support your main points with details from the story.