*Collections* Grade 8 Guiding Questions

Collection 2

“The Monkey’s Paw” by W. W. Jacobs

Read the short story “The Monkey’s Paw” by W. W. Jacobs. Then, reread the lines indicated with each question below. Answer each question, citing text evidence.

1. Lines 1–10: Which descriptive details help establish the setting?
2. Lines 3–7: Which details tell something about the father’s personality? How could this aspect of his personality affect the plot?
3. Lines 39–42: Explain how this description of Sergeant-Major Morris helps build suspense.
4. Lines 73–77: Which ideas in this passage suggest what the theme of this story might be? What might those ideas foreshadow in the story?
5. Lines 90–92: Explain what makes the foreshadowing in these lines effective.
6. Lines 110–116: Look for evidence in these lines of a universal theme related to interfering with fate. Which words warn of interfering with fate?
7. Lines 138–152: How does this passage contribute to the theme? How does the author provide a new twist to the universal theme through the White family?
8. Lines 176–182: Which words and phrases foreshadow something frightening? What effect does this word choice create?
9. Lines 214–225: Describe the behavior of the man outside. What might cause him to act that way? How does this foreshadowing propel the story’s action?
10. Lines 242–250: How do these lines of dialogue move the plot along?
11. Lines 271–281: How does the information from the man from Maw and Meggins support the theme of the story? In what way have the Whites interfered with fate?
12. Lines 330–340: In line 332, Mr. White calls the granting of the first wish “a coincidence.” Does he really believe this? Why does he say it?
13. Lines 344–353: What imagery is in these lines? What might it foreshadow? What effect does it create?
14. Lines 385–391: Based this dialogue between Mr. and Mrs. White, what lesson, if any, has each character learned?