

Here is the chart we filled out to help you:

	<b>“The Monkey’s Paw”</b>	<b>“The Third Wish”</b>
<b>Main character</b>	Mr. White	Mr. Peters
<b>What does he want?</b>	He wants to use the wishes	He wants three wishes.
<b>First wish (and consequences)</b>	200 pounds, Herbert died	A wife “as beautiful as the forest”
<b>Second wish (and consequences)</b>	He wishes Herbert back to life. Mrs. White is terrified Herbert has come back as a monster.	He wishes for Leita to turn back into a swan. Leita is happy but Mr. White is lonely.
<b>Third wish (and consequences)</b>	Mr. White wishes Herbert to go away. They never know if it was him knocking at the door.	He never uses it, but he dies happily knowing that Leita is happy.
<b>Mood of the story</b>	Spooky, dark, mysterious,	Wholesome, serene, peaceful
<b>How does the story end?</b>	The knocking stops and Mr. & Mrs. White see no one at the door.	Mr. Peters dies happily in his bed. Leita stays a swan with her sister.
<b>Lesson about life</b>	Don’t try to mess with fate or else you will face negative consequences.	Don’t try to mess with fate or else you will face negative consequences.

THE FOLLOWING IS AN  
EXAMPLE OF A COMPARE AND  
CONTRAST ESSAY. IT  
COMPARES THE TWO SHORT  
STORIES, “The Monkey’s Paw” and  
“The Third Wish.”

Please note:

It is not totally complete (the third  
body paragraph is incomplete)  
because I don’t want you to copy it.  
It is meant to be loosely followed for  
your own compare and contrast  
essay.

Joe Student  
 Mrs. King  
 English 8 Resource  
 26 October, 2020

### Compare and Contrast Essay: “The Monkey’s Paw” & “The Third Wish”

“The Monkey's Paw” by W.W. Jacobs and “The Third Wish” by Joan Aiken are very similar stories. **The plot** and **theme** of the two stories are very similar. **The way the wishes were used** by the main characters is very different. The similarities and differences can be seen through looking carefully at the various examples in the stories and through examining textual evidence.

**The plot of “The Monkey's Paw” and “The Third Wish” is very similar.** In "The Monkey's Paw" Mr. White was impetuous with his wishes, but in "The Third Wish" Mr. Peters pondered about his first wish. For example, Herbert suggests that Mr. White wish for 200 pounds. Herbert says, "If you cleared the house, you'd be quite happy, wouldn't you?" with his hand on his shoulder. "Well, wish for 200 pounds, then; that'll just do it" (Jacobs 91). Mr. Peters did not want to use his wishes without thinking first, so he pricked his tongue with a thorn from a rose (Aiken 103). Mr. White and Mr. Peters, the main characters of each story, used their wishes in very different ways as seen by their actions.

The **theme** of “The Monkey’s Paw” and “The Third Wish” is very similar as well. The message of both stories is to be careful what you wish for. The reader can infer this because in both stories, the wishes led to negative consequences. In “The Monkey’s Paw,” we can infer this from the very beginning. The Whites knew that the paw had negative history behind it when Mr. White’s friend, Sergeant Major Morris, arrived with the monkey’s paw. Sergeant Major Morris said, that the paw “...had a spell put on it by an old fakir” (Jacobs 88). He went on to say, “He wanted to show that fate ruled people’s lives, and that those who interfered with it did so to their sorrow.” (Jacobs 88) This is powerful bit of foreshadowing that helps the reader understand where the story might go, but also, to be careful what you wish for. The most specific examples of the theme, “be careful what you wish for,” are in the consequences that each character is met with once s/he makes his/her wish. In “The Monkey’s Paw,” Mr. White wishes for 200 pounds, the equivalent of one thousand dollars, however, he receives it only after his son Herbert is killed in an accident. The money comes to him from Herbert’s former employer as compensation for his death. In “The Third Wish,” Mr. Peters wishes for a wife or companion, however he receives one in the form of a swan. Based on the events of both stories, it is clear that the message is to be careful what you wish for. In both stories, the characters faced negative consequences after making wishes.

**Topic Sentence:** **The way the wishes were used** in "The Third Wish" and "The Monkey's Paw" were very different. In The Monkey’s Paw, the Whites were hasty in their wish-making and wished right away for money, then for Herbert to come back, and finally for Herbert to go away.

(Jacobs 91-99) In the Third Wish, Mr. Peters wishes for a companion, then for Leita to be turned back into a swan, and he dies without using his last wish. (Aikens \_\_\_\_).

**Text Evidence:**

**Detail:**

**Conclusion Sentence:**

“The Monkey's Paw” by W.W. Jacobs and “The Third Wish” by Joan Aiken are two short stories with elements that are both similar and different. Overall, the two stories are very similar and differ only slightly. The two elements where I found them to be most similar were **the plot** and **theme**. One area where I felt the two stories differed greatly were **the ways the wishes were used** by the main characters. By taking a careful look at several examples in the stories, the reader can enjoy them and realize that they sound very different, can in fact be very much the same.

### Works Cited

Aiken, Joan. “The Third Wish.”

Jacobs, W.W. “The Monkey’s Paw.”

