

Inference Summative Assessment

The Lottery

by Shirley Jackson

After reading the short story, "The Lottery," answer the following questions, using clues from the context of the story to support your inferences.

1. What did you infer from the title of the story before you started reading the story?
What do you generally think of when you hear the word "lottery"?

Inference:

2. After reading the following quote from the story, what can you infer about the villagers' attitude towards the lottery tradition? Use evidence from the excerpt to support your answer.

"The original paraphernalia for the lottery had been lost long ago, and the black box now resting on the stool had been put into use even before Old Man Warner, the oldest man in town, was born. Mr. Summers spoke frequently to the villagers about making a new box, but no one liked to upset even as much tradition as was represented by the black box. There was a story that the present box had been made with some pieces of the box that had preceded it, the one that had been constructed when the first people settled down to make a village here. Every year, after the lottery, Mr. Summers began talking again about a new box, but every year the subject was allowed to fade off without anything's being done. The black box grew shabbier each year: by now it was no longer completely black but splintered badly along one side to show the original wood color, and in some places faded or stained."

Inference:

Evidence:

3. What can you infer about one reason they did the lottery from the following quote? Give evidence to support your answer.

"Used to be a saying about 'Lottery in June, corn be heavy soon.' First thing you know, we'd all be eating stewed chickweed and acorns. There's always been a lottery," he added petulantly.

Inference:

Evidence:

4. What can you infer about the importance of the lottery to the villagers from the following quote? Give evidence to support your answer.

"The lottery was conducted—as were the square dances, the teen club, the Halloween program. . ."

Inference:

Evidence: