

Name
Class
Date

“The Lottery” by Shirley Jackson

1. Find three unfamiliar words from the story and define them.
2. What are the first signs something ominous is taking place? What definite signs are there that the outcome will be dreadful?
3. What ironies are involved in the villagers' sense of fairness
4. What social rituals similar to the lottery do you participate in today?
5. What is the major theme?
6. How does “The Lottery” prevent the breakdown of society in this community?
7. How does Shirley Jackson use the character, Tessie Hutchinson to strengthen the impact and point of the story?
8. What role did foreshadowing play in the development of the story?
9. Sacrifice rituals operate on the principle of “scapegoating”. After defining the term, describe how the process of “The Lottery” uses the scapegoat. Are there any examples in our current society of using scapegoats?
10. How does the community in “The Lottery” compare to the community in “Harrison Bergeron”?