

Name  
Date

## **The Lottery**

**1. What is an event that foreshadows the violent conclusion? (2nd paragraph)**

**2. We learn all about the tradition of the lottery throughout the story, but we don't learn the purpose of the lottery until the end. What purpose does it serve for Jackson to withhold this information?**

**3. There are many specific details that are told in the beginning of the story. What purpose does this serve?**

**4. What is the mood/tone that Jackson conveys in the beginning of the story as the villagers are preparing for the lottery? How does the writing style contribute to this?**

**5. What is the attitude of the villagers towards the lottery? Do the villagers question the tradition, or try to change it?**

**6. Are the characters in The Lottery flat or dynamic? Why?**

### **Character Analysis**

***Tessie Hutchinson***

***Old Man Warner***

***Mr. Summers***



## Motifs

### Definition of Motif:

The literary device 'motif' is any element, subject, idea or concept that is constantly present through the entire body of literature.

Motifs may come in the form of repeated and recurring imagery, language, structure, or contrasts. The development of motifs in a work of literature often contributes to mood and/or theme. Motifs are very noticeable and play a significant role in defining the nature of the story, the course of events and the very fabric of the literary piece.

### Example:

In Poe's murder stories, homicide requires an animalistic element. Animals kill, they die, and animal imagery provokes and informs crimes committed between men. Thus, animals become a motif in Poe's stories. In *The Tell-Tale Heart*, the murderer dehumanize his victims by likening him to animal. The narrator of "The Tell-Tale Heart" claims to hate and murder the old man's "vulture eye," which he describes as "pale blue with a film over it." He attempts to justify his actions by implicitly comparing himself to a helpless creature threatened by a hideous scavenger

7. What are two examples of MOTIF in *The Lottery*?

8. What does the the Black Box symbolize?

9. What does the Lottery symbolize?

10. In *The Lottery*, Villagers persecute individuals at random, and the victim is guilty of no transgression other than having drawn the wrong slip of paper from a box. The elaborate ritual of the lottery is designed so that all villagers have the same chance of becoming the victim—even children are at risk. Each year, someone new is chosen and killed, and no family is safe.

Finish the following sentence:

Tessie's death is an extreme example of ...



# MOTIFS

***Repetition is an important principle in every artistic act from music to painting to literature. It adds another layer of meaning and symbolic value to your seemingly casual description, dialogue, or action. It will certainly add to your short story!***

*Let's try a unique exercise to help us practice repetition in the form of motif.*

## **PRACTICE**

*Spend the day looking for a color. When you see something in that color, describe it in your journal (which you'll want to carry around for the day so you don't forget your green things).*

*Example: GREEN*

***The green grass in front of the old red-brick house that no one will buy.***

***The green-yellow bananas lying on their side in the supermarket.***

***The green pine tree which looks bright next to the skeletal oak.***

*Pretty fun, right? But before we begin, let's talk more about motif.*

## **How Great Authors Use Motif**

*Motif is when you **repeat** something in your narrative. Often, authors repeat **description**, but **dialogue**, **action**, or **any other element** of narrative can be repeated as well. The repeated thing gains **symbolic meaning** as you repeat it.*

- *For example, in the novel, **The Picture of Dorian Grey**, Oscar Wilde uses the color white as a motif. Through the repeated use of the word "white" in reference to things of innocence, Wilde tells of Dorian's downfall from innocence.*

*Motif is the technique you use to convey the world of your story and its underlying meaning.*

## **Your Life Has Motifs Too**

*As you go through your day you might notice a few motifs. It might be certain actions in your classes. It might be attitudes inherent in your personality. It could be the sounds you hear as you through your school day, or colors you see as you live through the seasons. Hopefully, today's exercise will help you begin to notice patterns in your own life, so that you can start to arrange patterns in the lives of your characters.*

*If you were to paint your life, what palette (range of colors) would you use?*

*If you were going to convey your life on the page, what motifs would you use?*



## **ASSIGNMENT:**

***Choose one of the following colors: green, blue, brown, white, black***

***Make a list of at least fifteen descriptions in your journal.***

***Due: \_\_\_\_\_***