

## 1: The Lottery | Introduction & Overview

*Welcome to the LitCharts study guide on Shirley Jackson's The Lottery. Created by the original team behind SparkNotes, LitCharts are the world's best literature guides. Shirley Jackson was born in San Francisco to affluent, middle-class parents, and she grew up in a suburb. This setting would.*

PDF Take our free The Lottery quiz below, with 25 multiple choice questions that help you test your knowledge. Determine which chapters, themes and styles you already know and what you need to study for your upcoming essay, midterm, or final exam. Take the free quiz now! Click on the correct answer. Questions of 8: What does Jackson suggest about civic prominence in the character of Mr. That Summers has no real power in the village. That wealth is the standard for importance. That age is the criterion for civic leadership. What happens to Tessie first? The women form a circle around her to change her clothes. They present her with roses. A stone hits her on the side of her head. What is Tessie doing in the center of the circle of her friends, neighbors, and family? Sitting on a makeshift throne. Dancing the lottery jig. Holding out her hands and crying that it is not fair. How does Jackson suggest that tradition may be questioned? Old man Warner compares it to the Stone Age. The village is getting smaller so tradition may die out. A lot about the lottery has been forgotten. The need for tradition in small towns. The value of human life. The stupidity of blindly following tradition.

## 2: The Lottery Study Guide from LitCharts | The creators of SparkNotes

*Study Guide for The Lottery and Other Stories* The Lottery and Other Stories study guide contains a biography of author Shirley Jackson, literature essays, quiz questions, major themes, characters, and a full summary and analysis.

Plot[ edit ] Details of contemporary small-town American life are embroidered upon a description of an annual ritual known as "the lottery". In a small village in New England of about residents, the locals are in an excited yet nervous mood on June Children gather stones as the adult townsfolk assemble for their annual event, which in the local tradition is practiced to ensure a good harvest Old Man Warner quotes an old proverb: The lottery preparations start the night before with Mr. Graves making the paper slips and the list of all the families. Once the slips are finished, they are put into a black box, which is stored overnight in a safe place at the coal company. The story briefly mentions how the ballot box has been stored over the years in various places in the town, including a grocery store shelf, a barn, and in the post office basement. On the morning of the lottery, the townspeople gather close to 10 a. First, the heads of the extended families draw slips until every family has a slip. Bill Hutchinson gets the one slip with a black spot , meaning that his family has been chosen. The final round is for the individual family members within the winning household to draw, no matter their age. After the drawing is over and Tessie is picked, the slips are allowed to fly off into the wind. In keeping with tradition, each villager obtains a stone and begins to surround Tessie. The story ends as Tessie is stoned to death while she bemoans the unfairness of the situation. Themes[ edit ] One of the major ideas of "The Lottery" is that of a scapegoat. The act of stoning someone to death yearly purges the town of the bad and allows for the good. This is hinted in the references to agriculture. The story also speaks of mob psychology and the idea that people can abandon reason and act cruelly if they are part of a large group of people behaving in the same manner. The idyllic setting of the story also demonstrates that violence and evil can take place anywhere and in any context. This also shows how people can turn on each other so easily. Alongside the mob mentality , the story speaks about people who blindly follow traditions without thinking of the consequences of those traditions. Explaining just what I had hoped the story to say is very difficult. Jackson lived in North Bennington , Vermont , and her comment reveals that she had Bennington in mind when she wrote "The Lottery". In a lecture printed in her collection, *Come Along with Me* , Jackson recalled the hate mail she received in One of the most terrifying aspects of publishing stories and books is the realization that they are going to be read, and read by strangers. I had never fully realized this before, although I had of course in my imagination dwelt lovingly upon the thought of the millions and millions of people who were going to be uplifted and enriched and delighted by the stories I wrote. It had simply never occurred to me that these millions and millions of people might be so far from being uplifted that they would sit down and write me letters I was downright scared to open; of the three-hundred-odd letters that I received that summer I can count only thirteen that spoke kindly to me, and they were mostly from friends. Even my mother scolded me: That summer she regularly took home 10 to 12 forwarded letters each day. Curiously, there are three main themes which dominate the letters of that first summerâ€”three themes which might be identified as bewilderment, speculation and plain old-fashioned abuse. In the years since then, during which the story has been anthologized, dramatized, televised, and evenâ€”in one completely mystifying transformationâ€”made into a ballet, the tenor of letters I receive has changed. I am addressed more politely, as a rule, and the letters largely confine themselves to questions like what does this story mean? The general tone of the early letters, however, was a kind of wide-eyed, shocked innocence. People at first were not so much concerned with what the story meant; what they wanted to know was where these lotteries were held, and whether they could go there and watch. Symbolic Tour de Force", in *American Literature March* , claims that every major name in the story has a special significance. By the end of the first two paragraphs, Jackson has carefully indicated the season, time of ancient excess and sacrifice , and the stones, most ancient of sacrificial weapons. She has also hinted at larger meanings through name symbolism. This, juxtaposed with "Harry Jones" in all its commonness and "Dickie Delacroix" of-the- Cross urges us to an awareness of the Hairy Ape within us all, venerated by a Christianity as perverted as "Delacroix," vulgarized to "Dellacroy" by the villagers. Horribly, at

the end of the story, it will be Mrs. Delacroix, warm and friendly in her natural state, who will select a stone "so large she had to pick it up with both hands" and will encourage her friends to follow suit Adams," at once progenitor and martyr in the Judeo-Christian myth of man, stands with "Mrs. Graves"â€”the ultimate refuge or escape of all mankindâ€”in the forefront of the crowd. Since Tessie Hutchinson is the protagonist of "The Lottery," there is every indication that her name is indeed an allusion to Anne Hutchinson, the American religious dissenter. She was excommunicated despite an unfair trial, while Tessie questions the tradition and correctness of the lottery as well as her humble status as a wife. It might as well be this insubordination that leads to her selection by the lottery and stoning by the angry mob of villagers. One of them is Homer , who throws the book into the fireplace after Brockman reveals that, "Of course, the book does not contain any hints on how to win the lottery. It is, rather, a chilling tale of conformity gone mad. Essays on the Literary Legacy, Bernice Murphy comments that this scene displays some of the most contradictory things about Jackson: Please help improve this article by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. August In addition to numerous reprints in magazines, anthologies and textbooks, "The Lottery" has been adapted for radio, live television, a ballet, films in and , a TV movie, an opera, and a one-act play by Thomas Martin. Chances are, there will be, though.

### 3: Study Guide to Shirley Jackson's "The Lottery"

*The Lottery by Shirley Jackson Study Guide Background Information: Shirley Jackson (December 14, - August 8, ) was an american author who wrote short.*

**Brief Biography of Shirley Jackson** Shirley Jackson was born in San Francisco to affluent, middle-class parents, and she grew up in a suburb. This setting would feature in her first novel, *The Road Through the Wall*, which was published when Jackson was 32 years old. As a student, Jackson worked for the campus literary magazine, where she met her future husband, Stanley Edgar Hyman. Hyman was also a lover of literature and would go on to become a successful critic. Hyman worked as a professor at Bennington College, and Jackson spent her time writing. Both husband and wife enjoyed socializing and hosting events, and they had a wide circle of literary friends, which included Ralph Ellison. Jackson died in her sleep due to heart failure in She was only 48 years old, although her health had declined in the years prior due to her diet and smoking habit, as well as her use of various drugs to combat lifelong neurosis. By her admission, Jackson intended the story to point out the human capacity for violence. WWII exposed people all over the world to a new extent of human cruelty and violence, as accounts of the deeds of the Nazis and the horrors taking place in concentration camps slowly came to light. The name Tessie Hutchinson may be an intentional allusion to Anne Hutchinson, a 17th century historical figure in Rhode Island who was declared heretical by the Puritan religious powers of the time and who was banished from her village. Like Anne, Tessie presents a figure who speaks out against the structure of the lottery and the village and is sacrificed by her fellow villagers. It is included in numerous anthologies and often assigned to students, despite its initial chilly reception. **The Lottery** Where Written: North Bennington, Vermont When Published: June 26, Literary Period: Realistic Fiction; Dystopian Literature Setting: A rural small town, mid-twentieth century Climax: Tessie Hutchinson is stoned to death by her neighbors, which reveals the purpose of the mysterious annual lottery. The tradition of the lottery, the human inclination toward violence Point of View: Retrieved November 14,

### 4: The Lottery: Lesson Plans, Teaching Guides, Study Guides, and more ([www.enganchecubano.com](http://www.enganchecubano.com))

*Study Guide to Shirley Jackson's "The Lottery" It's best not to read further in this study guide until you have completed your first reading. After you've read the story a few times, give some thought to the following issues.*

How does this story tell us that we are to take the lottery as symbolic? SJ got a lot of mail in response to this story. She was shocked to find that some readers wanted to know where they could go to watch this event. We can imagine that there were two parts to her reaction. There was of course the moral side: What did these readers fail to take into account that the author was reasonably expecting them to take into account? What, in American society of her day, or perhaps even ours might Jackson be pointing to, with the lottery of her story? How does her story point us to what the lottery is symbolic of? This question about technique is easier to get a handle on. The one we started with -- essentially a question about the ultimate theme of the story as a whole -- confronts us with too large a jump. But a question about how a story goes about pointing us to whatever it might be pointing us to gives us a workable starting point -- and one that, we can be reasonably confident, will eventually lead us to get hold of whatever it is that it is pointing at. But first things first: The key problem will be to abstract from the lottery the appropriate traits. How do we know what these are? Well, presumably, at least certain of the key properties of the lottery for this purpose will be the ones that Jackson has contrived, in one way or another, to attract our attention to. What are some of these? Pay special attention to the history of the lottery implied by the story. What must have been its sense in the ancient past? What are the clues here? What issues are ironically pointed to by Mrs. Permission is granted for non-commercial educational use; all other rights reserved. This page last updated 25 January

## THE LOTTERY STUDY GUIDE pdf

### 5: The Lottery Study [www.enganchecubano.com](http://www.enganchecubano.com) - Google Docs

*A study guide similar to the Finding Forrester quiz that will prepare you to answer any Lottery-affiliated questions on the English test.*

The children arrive first, and some of the boys begin to put rocks and stones into a pile. As the morning progresses, the men of the village begin to arrive, coming from their farms and fields. They are soon joined by their wives, who have come from their household chores. The scene is convivial: The children laugh and play, and the adults joke and gossip. Summers, a local businessperson who seems to be in charge of the assembly, arrives, carrying a large black box. He is followed by the village postmaster, Mr. Graves, who carries a stool. Two men help Mr. Summers place the heavy box on the stool, and Mr. Summers begins to stir and shuffle the hundreds of slips of paper that are inside the box. Graves begin drawing up lists of families, including the head of each household and the names of all members of each family. The old and decrepit box makes it clear that some sort of ancient tradition is being followed. The villagers recall that in the past the procedure had been longer and more elaborate. The oldest denizen of the town, Old Man Warner, points out that this is his seventy-seventh year participating in the ritual, called simply the lottery. As the men are working on the lists of families, Tessie Hutchinson arrives, the last villager to join the crowd at the square. Tessie had realized at the last minute, while she was washing dishes, that today is June. Her friends and neighbors tease her about her tardiness. Summers calls up each head of household in alphabetical order, from Adams to Zanini. As people draw their slips, the villagers show a certain degree of nervousness. However, homespun humor reasserts itself when Bill Hutchinson is called and his wife urges him forward in a raucous and bossy way, causing those around her to snicker. While the drawings by the heads of households continues, Old Man Warner gets into a discussion with the people sitting near him about the background of the lottery. It appears that the lotteries used to be common in the region, but some villages have given up the practice. Bill finds that he has drawn a slip with a dark splotch. The slips of paper are retrieved, including the one with the ominous black splotch. Next, each of the five members of the Hutchinson family is made to draw from five slips. As Tessie stands alone, her neighbors and family and friends pick up stones and rocks from the piles the boys had amassed earlier. As Tessie shrieks about the unfairness of the ritual, the villagers begin to stone her to death.

### 6: The Lottery - Wikipedia

*This study guide and infographic for Shirley Jackson's The Lottery offer summary and analysis on themes, symbols, and other literary devices found in the text.*

### 7: Study Questions: The Lottery by Shirley Jackson :: Homework Help and Answers :: Slader

*The Lottery and Other Stories study guide contains a biography of author Shirley Jackson, literature essays, quiz questions, major themes, characters, and a full summary and analysis.*

### 8: SparkNotes: The Lottery

*This Study Guide consists of approximately 39 pages of chapter summaries, quotes, character analysis, themes, and more - everything you need to sharpen your knowledge of The Lottery.*

### 9: The Lottery Quiz

*Directions: Use this discussion guide to facilitate thoughtful responses to the story "The Lottery." Before students read the story, utilize the "accessing the story" questions to assist students with recalling their prior knowledge.*

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