

Figurative Language In The Lottery

"The Lottery" by Shirley Jackson
Literary Devices - Foreshadowing - ANSWERS

Instructions:
First, for each of the made up examples of foreshadowing given below, identify what you think might happen later in the story. An example has been provided for you. Next, identify three moments of foreshadowing in "The Lottery." Write down a quote that foreshadows later events in the story and cite your evidence. Explain how this quote foreshadows later events.

Example: A man tells his wife that he forgot to renew the car insurance.
Example response: The man might get into a car accident since attention has been placed on his lack of insurance.

Example: There is a breaking news story about a strange new illness that is going around.
Answers will vary. - We can assume that a massive outbreak will occur, threatening the lives of many.

Example: The main character leaves the window open in the kitchen.
Answers will vary. - A burglar might break into the house. Something valuable may be stolen.

Example 1:
Quote: "I thought we were going to have to get on without you."
Citation: Jackson, p. 3
Explain: This line says exactly what will happen to Mrs. Hutchinson by the end of the story. Although Mr. Summers speaks in reference to the lottery itself, in the end the entire village will have to get on without Mrs. Hutchinson because she is killed.

Example 2:
Quote: "Bobby Martin had already stuffed his pockets full of stones, and the other boys soon followed his example."
Citation: Jackson, p. 1
Explain: The foreshadowing of the boys gathering stones is incredibly significant because these are the weapons used to kill Mrs. Hutchinson.

Example 3:
Quote: "They stood together, away from the pile of stones in the corner, and their jokes were quiet, and they smiled rather than laughed."
Citation: Jackson, p. 1
Explain: The description here is important because it lets readers know that the men do not want to associate with the stones that will later be used to kill Mrs. Hutchinson. It also lets readers know that the event is not a happy one; weapons used to kill Mrs. Hutchinson.

Foreshadowing is easier to spot once you have finished reading. Often in TL and novels it is so subtle that you notice it right away, but in fiction you might not catch it until you have finished.

Figurative Language in Shirley Jackson's "The Lottery"

Are you fascinated by the chilling power of Shirley Jackson's "The Lottery"? Beyond the shocking climax, the story's unsettling effect stems partly from Jackson's masterful use of figurative language. This post delves deep into the subtle yet potent figurative devices employed in "The Lottery," revealing how they contribute to the story's overall atmosphere of unease and foreshadowing. We'll analyze specific examples, exploring how metaphors, similes, and other literary techniques heighten the tension and amplify the story's disturbing themes. Prepare to uncover a new layer of appreciation for this classic tale of unsettling conformity.

H2: The Power of Foreshadowing Through Figurative Language

Jackson masterfully uses figurative language not just to describe the setting and characters but also to foreshadow the horrifying events to come. The seemingly innocuous descriptions subtly hint at the violence and brutality that lie ahead.

H3: The "Cloudy" Atmosphere of Dread

The opening description of the day – "a clear and sunny, with the fresh warmth of a full-summer day; the flowers were blossoming profusely and the grass was richly green" – is immediately juxtaposed with the sense of unease permeating the village. This initial idyllic image, a classic example of irony, sets a stark contrast to the dark events unfolding. The seemingly ordinary day becomes a metaphor for the deceptive normalcy masking the barbaric ritual. The seemingly innocent children gathering stones can be seen as a symbol of the upcoming violence.

H3: Similes and the Growing Tension

As the lottery progresses, Jackson uses similes to build suspense. Phrases such as "Mr. Summers' voice was gruff" or the description of the black box as "old and worn" aren't just descriptive; they are subtle foreshadowing. The "worn" box, a symbol of tradition and ritual, hints at the age-old, almost decaying nature of the brutal practice it represents. These seemingly simple similes subtly heighten the growing tension, painting a picture of a community slowly moving toward a horrific act.

H2: Personification and the Dehumanization of the Victims

Jackson effectively employs personification to emphasize the dehumanization of Tessie Hutchinson and other villagers. The lottery itself is almost personified; it's not just a process, but an entity with its own power and agency. The black box, through its age and worn condition, takes on an almost sinister presence.

H3: The Stones as Symbols of Violence

The stones, initially depicted as seemingly innocent objects used by children in play, transform into instruments of death. This gradual shift, through vivid descriptions and implied action, acts as powerful symbolism. The stones themselves become almost personified in the minds of the readers, representing the brutal indifference of the community. Their transformation from playful objects to deadly weapons underscores the dehumanization at the heart of the lottery.

H2: Metaphors of Conformity and Blind Obedience

The entire lottery can be viewed as a powerful metaphor for blind obedience to tradition and the

dangers of unquestioning conformity. The villagers participate in the ritual year after year, despite the obvious brutality, highlighting the insidious nature of societal pressure and the fear of deviating from established norms. Even Tessie Hutchinson, initially seemingly content, only objects when the lottery directly affects her. This illustrates the fragility of individual conscience in the face of collective conformity.

H2: The Significance of Setting and its Figurative Use

The setting itself isn't just a backdrop; it's an integral part of the story's figurative language. The seemingly idyllic village creates a stark contrast with the brutal ritual, enhancing the shock value and emphasizing the hidden darkness within an outwardly normal community. The description of the cheerful atmosphere and the blooming flowers before the lottery adds to the terrifying nature of the event, creating a significant example of juxtaposition, a powerful figurative technique.

H2: Analyzing the Impact of Figurative Language on Theme

The effectiveness of Jackson's storytelling lies in her ability to use seemingly simple figurative language to convey complex themes. The subtle shift in tone and the gradual increase in tension, created through careful use of simile, metaphor, and personification, effectively conveys the story's disturbing themes of conformity, tradition, and the inherent violence hidden beneath the surface of seemingly ordinary life. The chilling effect of the story remains powerful precisely because of Jackson's skillful use of these literary devices.

Conclusion

Shirley Jackson's "The Lottery" is a masterclass in the use of figurative language. By subtly weaving metaphors, similes, personification, and other literary devices into the narrative, Jackson creates a deeply unsettling atmosphere and foreshadows the horrifying climax. The seemingly simple descriptions become powerful tools for conveying complex themes, ultimately leaving the reader disturbed and pondering the dangers of blind conformity and unquestioning adherence to tradition. By carefully analyzing the figurative language, we gain a deeper appreciation for the story's lasting impact and its enduring relevance.

FAQs

1. What is the most significant metaphor in "The Lottery"? The lottery itself is arguably the most significant metaphor, representing blind adherence to tradition and the potential for violence inherent in unquestioning conformity.
2. How does personification contribute to the story's atmosphere? Personification, particularly of the black box and the stones, creates a sense of ominous foreboding and highlights the dehumanizing aspects of the ritual.
3. What is the role of irony in "The Lottery"? The irony lies in the juxtaposition of a seemingly idyllic setting and cheerful atmosphere with the brutal violence of the lottery, creating a shocking contrast that emphasizes the story's disturbing themes.
4. How does the use of simile build suspense? Similes such as the description of Mr. Summers' voice as "gruff" contribute to the overall mood of unease and subtly foreshadow the violence to come.
5. Why is analyzing figurative language crucial to understanding "The Lottery"? Analyzing figurative language allows for a deeper understanding of the story's themes, its unsettling atmosphere, and Jackson's skillful manipulation of narrative to create a lasting impact on the reader.

figurative language in the lottery: Aspects of Figurative Language Lisa Jensen, 2011-10 Bachelor Thesis from the year 2010 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Linguistics, grade: 1,7, University of Hannover (Englisches Seminar), language: English, abstract: The paper deals with different types of figurative language and the question of why and how these should be taught in second language teaching. In order to prove that figurative language is essential in communication and therefore needs to receive more attention in schools, I start by analysing and comparing the concepts of metaphors, idioms and proverbs. Many scholars have discussed metaphors and so as to outline the most important aspects, I refer to Lakoff, Johnson, Ortony and Langlotz amongst others. Those aspects will include the differences between novel and conventional metaphors, the different functions that metaphors fulfil and the phenomenon of mixed metaphors. When discussing idioms I focus on their relationship to metaphorical language, the aspect of frozenness and their functions as well as other topics. Here, scholars like Swinney, Skandara and Götz are quoted and their propositions towards idiomatic language are analysed. To end the first part of the paper I discuss the relationship of proverbs to metaphors and idioms and base this part on Norrick in order to focus on didactic content and the issue of distinguishing between a proverb's literal and figurative meaning. After having given the survey of those concepts, I turn to the part of explaining why it is so important to teach figurative language and I do that by drawing on Ortony's theses of compactness, inexpressibility and vividness. Furthermore, Katz's theory of metaphor as politeness is examined and also Liu's view on idioms as containing cultural references. To end this theoretical paper with an idea of how to use the information practically, the last section deals with the question of how figurative language is best taught. The methods presented are based on a preceding part of background information on h

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Shadow Council knew better; to them, the winner was the lottery victim. Whatever the label, the fated student became the Council's gofer, delivering messages of doom to selected targets. In response, the student body shunned the lottery winner for the entire year. This year's victim was fifteen-year-old Sally Hanson.

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overcome the challenges they face in school. The book contains academic language lists (the mortar) and four content area academic vocabulary lists (the bricks) to help ELL, struggling readers, and any student who wants to succeed academically and prepare for college. The word lists alone are worth their weight in gold for students who lack the essential academic language and academic vocabulary to succeed in school. Learn the strategies and key words that will unlock learning for all of your students.

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figurative language in the lottery: Revenge of the Kudzu Debutantes Cathy Holton, 2006-05-16 kud • zu \kud-zü\ n: a ubiquitous vine/weed found in Southern climes that, left uncontrolled, will grow over any fixed object in its path, including trees, power lines, and the entire state of Georgia. deb•u•tante \de-byu-tänt\ n: a young woman making a debut into society, easily spotted in white dress and pearl necklace. Common names include Muffy, Bootsy, and Bunny. Eadie Boone is no shrinking violet. An artist and former beauty queen who married into one of the first families of Ithaca, Georgia, she tackles everything with gusto and flair. But tailing her wayward

husband proves to be, well, an exasperating chore. If only Trevor would just see the light, dump his twenty-two-year-old hussy, and return home, Eadie's creative energy could be put to better use. Now all she has to do is convince him. Nita Broadwell, a good Southern girl from a good Southern family, is jolted out of complacency when she discovers condoms in her husband's shirt pocket ("Maybe he'd found them on the ground and picked them up"). Between clinging to denial and dodging her overbearing mother-in-law, Nita is also trying to break her addiction to steamy bodice-ripper novels. Only now it appears she's authoring her own real-life romance tale with a hunky handyman thirteen years her junior. Lavonne Zibolsky—a transplanted Yankee, bless her heart—is saddled with planning the annual Broadwell & Boone law firm party. That and her lackluster marriage have her seeking solace in the contents of her refrigerator. If she could just put down the Rocky Road ice cream and peach pie, she might get around to finding a caterer, dropping sixty pounds, and figuring out how to fall in love with her husband again. Not necessarily in that order. Bonded by years of friendship, these three women discover what else they have in common: lying, cheating spouses. So they heed their collective betrayals as a wake-up call and band together to exact sweet revenge. The take-charge trio will see to it that the punishment is just, exquisitely humiliating, and downright hilarious. Cathy Holton's debut novel is a delicious yarn of friendship and marriage, secrets and retribution, and how nothing stays hidden for long. Against a Southern backdrop of gentility and decorum, *Revenge of the Kudzu Debutantes* dares to abandon Junior League social graces in ways that would make even Scarlett O'Hara blush. It's great fun reading about these women as they trade their tea for tequila and get smart, get out, and get even, with amusing, and surprising results. --Nancy Thayer, author of *The Hot Flash Club* Sly, smart, and full of great characters -- and then there's that sweet, sweet revenge. Getting even has never been so creative. Or delicious. --Louise Shaffer, author of *The Ladies of Garrison Gardens*

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