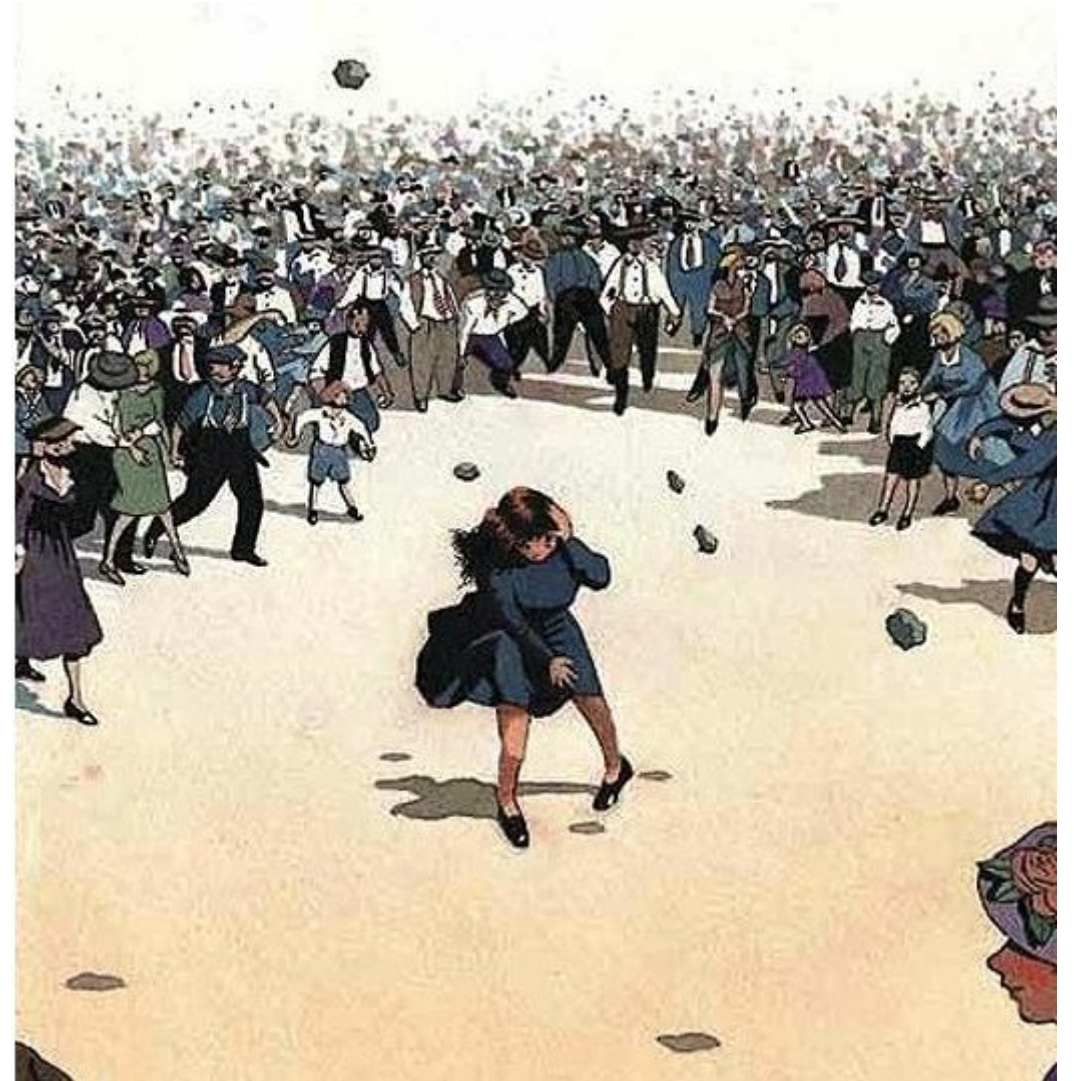


The Lottery

by Shirley Jackson

Published in 1948



An Introduction to The Lottery

- This short story was first published in The New Yorker magazine, a publication that included both fiction and non-fiction. The story generated more letters sent in response than any other publication in the magazine's history. Readers were disgusted, shocked, horrified and unsure if it was fact or fiction.
- The story centres around a small village where everybody knows everybody. It is a story steeped in tradition, forcing us to consider traditional rules engrained in society, and often followed blindly.

The title

- Before you read, consider the meaning of the word 'lottery'.
- What do we know the concept of the lottery to be?
- Consider what you expect of a story with this title.



Read the short story using this link...

- [http://web1.nbed.nb.ca/sites/ASD-S/1820/J%20Johnston/The Lottery with questions Shirley Jackson.pdf](http://web1.nbed.nb.ca/sites/ASD-S/1820/J%20Johnston/The%20Lottery%20with%20questions%20Shirley%20Jackson.pdf)

- You can also watch a short adaptation. The quality isn't the best but give it a chance, it's not a bad watch.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vQQoMCaUz5Y>

Now write a summary using these words/phrases to help you...

Sunny day

All know each other

Annual ritual / Tradition

Family

Tessie respected

Growing tension

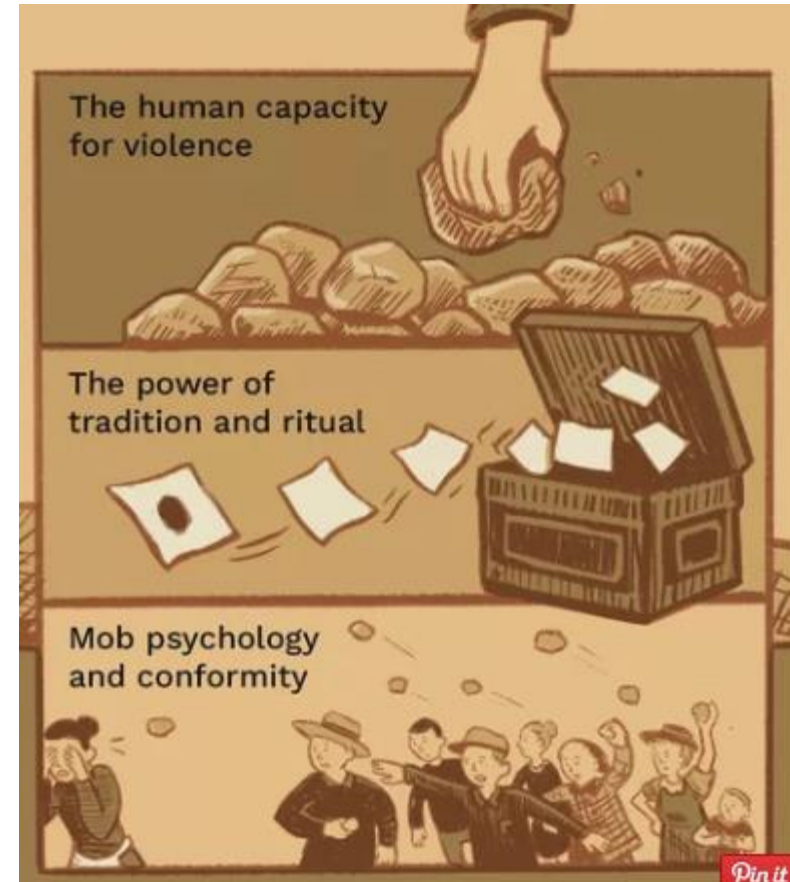
Lottery

Protest

Tessie killed

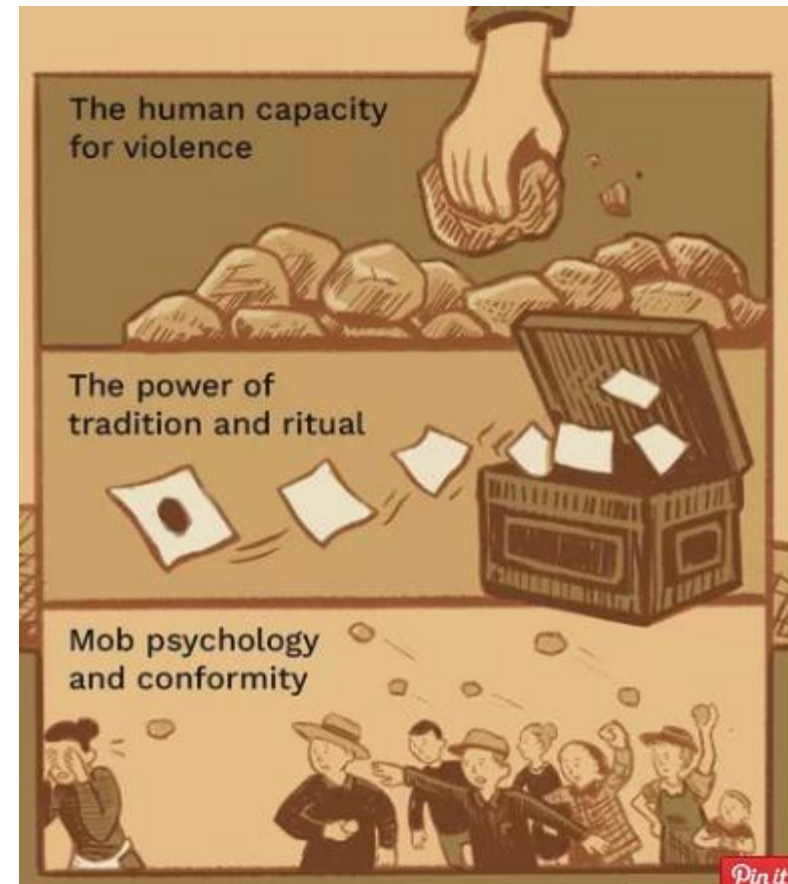
Can you work out the anagrams that show the themes of the text?

- radiittno
- yalimf
- sleur
- layatreb
- elovecni
- resecnotpui
- yssrpoeilibtni
- omb netmalyti



Can you work out the anagrams that show the themes of the text?

- Tradition
- Family
- Rules
- Betrayal
- Violence
- Persecution
- Responsibility
- Mob mentality



Now answer these questions on the themes - there are some links to some useful websites on the next slide to help

1. This story has many contrasts, we are told it is a sunny day and at first there seems to be a pleasant atmosphere, what does this lead the reader to believe the story will be about? How is this contrasted later on in the text?
2. Are there any hints the story will end on such a sinister note? Consider some of the description carefully.
3. The Lottery is an annual ritual for the village, does anyone question this ritual? What do some of the characters think will happen if the ritual isn't followed?
4. Tessie is persecuted for no good reason, other than she chose the slip with the black dot on, how can we link this to modern day life?
5. There is a strong theme of family, with family names and family hierarchy present, why does this make the murder of Tessie even worse?
6. Do the villagers struggle with killing Tessie? What are the villagers going to do after the murder? How does this add to the dark tone of the text?
7. Not one person is individually responsible for Tessie's death, they work as a collective, why is no one person responsible? What difficulty does this create? What role do they all have to play?
8. Considering all of your work on this story, what message / warning is Shirley Jackson trying to give the reader?

Websites to help with further analysis...

- <https://www.sparknotes.com/short-stories/the-lottery/themes/>
- <https://www.thoughtco.com/analysis-the-lottery-by-shirley-jackson-2990472>