

Homework 5 - 10/22

Advanced Eng. C1

Ms. Martocello



Recap Today's class we read "The Lottery" By Shirley Jackson and discussed the use of odd traditions and fear of change.

The Danger of Blindly Following Tradition

The village lottery culminates in a violent murder each year, a bizarre ritual that suggests how dangerous tradition can be when people follow it blindly. Before we know what kind of lottery they're conducting, the villagers and their preparations seem harmless, even quaint.

The Randomness of Persecution

Tessie's death is an extreme example of how societies can persecute innocent people for absurd reasons. Present-day parallels are easy to draw, because all prejudices, whether they are based on race, sex, appearance, religion, economic class, geographical region, family background, or sexual orientation, are essentially random.

Foreshadowing

- In the second paragraph, children put stones in their pockets and make piles of stones in the town square, which seems like innocent play until the stones' true purpose becomes clear at the end of the story.
- Tessie's late arrival at the lottery instantly sets her apart from the crowd, and the observation Mr. Summers makes—"Thought we were going to have to get on without you"—is eerily prescient about Tessie's fate.
- When Mr. Summers asks whether the Watson boy will draw for him and his mother, no reason is given for why Mr. Watson wouldn't draw as all the other husbands and fathers do, which suggests that Mr. Watson may have been last year's victim.

The Black Box

The lottery is filled with similar relics from the past that have supposedly been passed down from earlier days, such as the creation of family lists and use of stones.

Homework:

New Story:

Read/Listen to the story of "The Cask of Amontillado" by Edgar Allen Poe and be ready to discuss in class.

Resources:

Story (print version)
[click here](#)

Story (audio version)
[click here](#)

Due: 10/29/2023

FAQ

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So much of the ritual had been forgotten or discarded.