


Essay Prompt:
How does the narrator create suspense in the story? Use details and MLA citation with commentary.

Title:

Introduction

- Hook (make a statement about wishes or fate - no questions)
- Background (summarize story, name author and title)
- Thesis (answer the prompt with 3 generalized ideas of word choice, foreshadowing and the ending):

Body

- Topic sentence (general statement about how to create suspense)
- Example 1 (write down a quote from the story that shows suspenseful words)
- Commentary on EX 1 (note why or how those words work to keep the suspense)
- Example 2 (write down another quote from the story that shows foreshadowing, or something that predicts the future bad things to come)
- Commentary on EX 2 (note why hinting at the future can create suspense)
- Example 3 (write down a quote from the ending that creates suspense - like a cliffhanger)
- Commentary on Ex 3 (note why using cliffhangers work)
- Concluding sentence (summarize why an author creates suspense for the reader)

Conclusion

- Reword Thesis (state what three elements are used to create suspense in this story)
- Best example (choose the best method of suspense: word choice, foreshadowing or cliffhanger)
- Call to Action (comment that all scary stories should have an element)

Summary of “The Monkey’s Paw” from Shmoop.com

“The Monkey’s Paw” is set in the White family home in England. It begins on a dark and stormy night, so we know we’re in for a scary story. The Whites – Mr. and Mrs. White and their adult son Herbert – are inside enjoying a cozy evening around the fire.

Soon Sergeant-Major Morris arrives. He’s been in the army in India for the past 21 years. He tells the Whites stories of his adventures in that faraway land and shows them a monkey’s paw that has the power to grant three wishes. Mr. White wants the paw, but Morris tells him it’s cursed – people get hurt when their wishes are granted. He tries to burn the paw in the fire, but Mr. White snatches it up and buys it. After Morris leaves, Mr. White, following Herbert’s suggestion, wishes for two hundred pounds, the amount of money he would need to pay off the bank and own the house outright.

The next morning, Herbert goes off to work as usual and Mrs. White watches for the two hundred pounds to show up. In the afternoon, a fancily dressed man pays the Whites a visit. He is from Maw and Meggins, the company Herbert works for. The man tells the Whites that Herbert has been killed in a machinery accident. (We aren’t given details of Herbert’s work, but the clues suggest that he works in some kind of factory.) The man says that the company takes no blame for Herbert’s death but wants to give the Whites some money to help with their loss. You can probably guess how much money the man gives the Whites. That’s right, two hundred pounds. Mrs. White screams and Mr. White faints.

Full of sadness over Herbert’s death, Mr. and Mrs. White bury him in the cemetery two miles from their home. One night Mrs. White gets a bright idea: use those other two wishes to bring Herbert back! She shares her plan with Mr. White. He thinks it’s a bad idea – he could barely look at Herbert’s mangled body when he went to identify it. His wife really turns up the heat, though, and he caves in. Mr. White pulls out the cursed monkey’s paw and wishes Herbert back to life.

Nothing happens, so the Whites go back to bed. Soon after, someone – or something – starts pounding on the door. (Have you seen [Pet Sematary](#)? This cannot be good.) Mrs. White is sure it’s Herbert – it just took him a minute to get there from the cemetery. Mr. White is sure it’s Herbert too, and he doesn’t want his son to get in the house, so he makes his third wish on the monkey’s paw. (We aren’t told what it is.) The knocking stops. Mr. White hears Mrs. White open the door. He hears her scream out in agony because Herbert is not there. He goes outside with her and sees that the road is completely empty.