

monkeys paw plot diagram

monkeys paw plot diagram serves as an essential tool for understanding the structure and progression of W.W. Jacobs' classic horror story, "The Monkey's Paw." This article explores the intricate plot elements, narrative arc, and thematic layers encapsulated within the monkeys paw plot diagram. By examining the exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution, readers can gain a deeper comprehension of how suspense and moral lessons are crafted in the tale. The monkeys paw plot diagram also highlights key turning points that shape the characters' fates and the story's overall impact. This analysis will be beneficial for students, educators, and enthusiasts aiming to dissect the story's structure and its use of supernatural elements. To facilitate a systematic review, the article is organized into clear sections outlining each part of the plot diagram, character roles, and thematic significance.

- Understanding the Exposition of The Monkey's Paw
- Analyzing the Rising Action and Conflict Development
- Climax: The Turning Point in the Story
- Falling Action and Its Role in the Narrative
- Resolution and the Story's Final Outcome
- Character Roles within the Plot Diagram
- Thematic Elements Illustrated by the Plot Structure
- Importance of the Monkeys Paw Plot Diagram in Literary Studies

Understanding the Exposition of The Monkey's Paw

The exposition is the initial stage in the monkeys paw plot diagram where the setting, characters, and background information are introduced. In "The Monkey's Paw," this phase establishes the White family's domestic environment and the arrival of Sergeant-Major Morris, who brings the mysterious and enchanted monkey's paw. Key details about the paw's supernatural powers and the cautionary warnings associated with it are revealed here. This part of the plot diagram sets the tone for the narrative and foreshadows the events to come. The exposition is crucial for orienting the reader to the story's mood, setting, and potential conflicts.

Analyzing the Rising Action and Conflict Development

The rising action in the monkeys paw plot diagram encompasses the series of events that increase tension and build suspense. After the White family learns about the paw's ability to grant three wishes, they face internal conflict regarding whether to use it. The decision to make the first wish introduces external conflict as the paw's powers begin to manifest in unexpected and ominous ways. The rising action focuses on the consequences of tampering with fate and the supernatural. This section is marked by escalating stakes and emotional turmoil, which propel the story toward its climax.

Key Elements of the Rising Action

- The first wish for £200 and its repercussions
- Herbert's mysterious death and its impact on the family
- The second wish to bring Herbert back to life
- Growing fear and anticipation as the consequences unfold

Climax: The Turning Point in the Story

The climax represents the monkeys paw plot diagram's peak moment of tension and conflict resolution. In "The Monkey's Paw," the climax occurs when the Whites make the third and final wish. This wish is typically interpreted as an attempt to undo the unnatural events brought about by the previous wishes. The story reaches its emotional and narrative zenith as the supernatural forces come into full effect, and the fate of the characters hangs in the balance. The climax is pivotal for delivering the story's message about fate, desire, and unintended consequences.

Falling Action and Its Role in the Narrative

Following the climax, the falling action of the monkeys paw plot diagram describes the events that lead toward the story's resolution. This phase shows the aftermath of the third wish and the characters' reactions to the outcomes of their decisions. The falling action decreases the narrative tension but maintains a somber and reflective tone. It serves to illustrate the full impact of the supernatural interference and the irreversible changes to the Whites' lives. This section often highlights themes of regret and

loss.

Resolution and the Story's Final Outcome

The resolution concludes the monkeys paw plot diagram by resolving the central conflicts and providing closure to the narrative. In the story, the resolution leaves the Whites in a state of sorrow and emptiness, emphasizing the high cost of their wishes. The paw's powers are ultimately shown to be dangerous and uncontrollable, reinforcing the moral that tampering with fate leads to tragedy. The resolution underscores the story's cautionary themes and leaves a lasting impression on the reader.

Character Roles within the Plot Diagram

Characters are integral to the monkeys paw plot diagram, as they drive the narrative forward and embody its themes. The White family members—Mr. White, Mrs. White, and their son Herbert—each play distinct roles in the progression of the plot. Sergeant-Major Morris serves as the catalyst through his introduction of the monkey's paw and his warnings. The characters' desires, fears, and decisions shape the rising action and the ultimate consequences, illustrating human vulnerability to temptation and the unknown.

Main Characters and Their Functions

- **Mr. White:** Protagonist whose curiosity and wish-making initiate the conflict.
- **Mrs. White:** Emotional force who drives the second wish, highlighting grief and hope.
- **Herbert White:** Victim of the wishes and symbol of innocence lost.
- **Sergeant-Major Morris:** Bearer of the supernatural element and voice of caution.

Thematic Elements Illustrated by the Plot Structure

The monkeys paw plot diagram reveals several key themes woven into the story's structure. One prominent theme is the danger of interfering with fate, as each wish leads to unintended and tragic consequences. The story also explores the themes of desire, loss, and the supernatural's

unpredictability. By analyzing the plot diagram, one can see how these themes are developed through escalating conflict and the ultimate resolution. The structure reinforces the moral lessons and enhances the story's impact on readers.

Importance of the Monkeys Paw Plot Diagram in Literary Studies

The monkeys paw plot diagram is a valuable analytical tool in literary studies, providing a clear framework for dissecting the story's narrative components. It aids in understanding how W.W. Jacobs crafted suspense and moral complexity within a concise format. Literary educators use the plot diagram to teach narrative structure, character development, and thematic analysis. Additionally, it serves as a reference for comparing similar stories involving supernatural elements and cautionary tales. The diagram's clarity enhances critical thinking and appreciation of classic literature.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a plot diagram for 'The Monkey's Paw'?

A plot diagram for 'The Monkey's Paw' outlines the story's structure: exposition introduces the White family and the mystical paw; rising action includes the granting of wishes and their eerie consequences; the climax occurs when the third wish is made; falling action follows the aftermath of the wishes; and the resolution concludes the story with the final outcome.

What are the main elements in the exposition of 'The Monkey's Paw' plot diagram?

In the exposition, the story introduces the White family, their home, Sergeant-Major Morris who brings the magical monkey's paw, and the mysterious background of the paw's wish-granting powers.

What event marks the climax in 'The Monkey's Paw' plot diagram?

The climax occurs when Mr. White uses the third and final wish, which is implied to be a wish to undo the horror caused by their previous wishes, leading to the story's suspenseful peak.

How does the rising action develop in 'The Monkey's

Paw' ?

The rising action includes the Whites making their first wish for money, the subsequent tragic death of their son Herbert, and the eerie arrival of a mysterious knock at the door, building tension and suspense.

What is the falling action in the plot diagram of 'The Monkey's Paw'?

The falling action shows the aftermath of the third wish, with the disappearance of the mysterious knocking and the implied resolution of the supernatural events.

Why is the monkey's paw significant in the plot diagram of the story?

The monkey's paw is the central plot device that drives the story's events, symbolizing fate, consequences, and the dangers of interfering with destiny.

What is the resolution of 'The Monkey's Paw' according to the plot diagram?

The resolution occurs when the Whites are left with an empty house and the consequences of their wishes, suggesting a return to normalcy but with a lasting sense of loss and warning.

How can a plot diagram help in understanding 'The Monkey's Paw'?

A plot diagram helps by visually organizing the story's key events and structure, making it easier to analyze the cause-and-effect relationships and the story's themes.

What role does suspense play in the plot diagram of 'The Monkey's Paw'?

Suspense is built throughout the rising action and reaches its peak at the climax, keeping readers engaged and emphasizing the horror elements of the story.

Additional Resources

1. *The Monkey's Paw* by W.W. Jacobs

This classic horror short story is the original tale that introduces the cursed monkey's paw, which grants three wishes but with terrible consequences. It explores themes of fate, greed, and the supernatural. The

plot diagram follows a clear structure of exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution, making it a perfect example for study.

2. *The Lottery* by Shirley Jackson

Though not about a monkey's paw, this story shares similar themes of fate and unintended consequences. The plot revolves around a small town's annual ritual, which has a dark and shocking outcome. It provides a compelling plot structure with rising tension and a climactic twist.

3. *The Tell-Tale Heart* by Edgar Allan Poe

This story delves into guilt and madness after the narrator commits a crime, paralleling the psychological effects seen in "The Monkey's Paw." The plot diagram includes exposition of the narrator's instability, rising action as paranoia grows, climax during a confession, and resolution in madness.

4. *The Necklace* by Guy de Maupassant

This tale of desire and consequences explores the dangers of greed and pride, similar to the moral lessons in "The Monkey's Paw." The story's plot follows a clear structure leading to an ironic and devastating conclusion, ideal for analyzing cause and effect in plot diagrams.

5. *The Signal-Man* by Charles Dickens

A ghost story involving a mysterious warning and inevitable tragedy, this story has a suspenseful plot that builds tension much like "The Monkey's Paw." The structure highlights the supernatural and fatalistic elements through escalating incidents and a dramatic climax.

6. *The Yellow Wallpaper* by Charlotte Perkins Gilman

While focusing on psychological horror and mental illness, this story shares themes of entrapment and the consequences of ignoring warnings. The plot unfolds through journal entries, with rising tension leading to a haunting climax, useful for exploring character-driven plot development.

7. *The Masque of the Red Death* by Edgar Allan Poe

This allegorical tale about fate and death features a tightly constructed plot with symbolic elements, akin to the moral warnings in "The Monkey's Paw." The story builds through exposition to a dramatic climax where fate is unavoidable.

8. *Flowers for Algernon* by Daniel Keyes

This science fiction story examines the consequences of wishful thinking and the pursuit of happiness. Its plot diagram shows a rising action with increasing intelligence, a climax with tragic realization, and a resolution filled with emotional impact.

9. *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button* by F. Scott Fitzgerald

Exploring themes of time and fate, this story's unique premise creates a plot filled with irony and unexpected outcomes. The structure includes exposition of the protagonist's condition, rising action through his life experiences, climax at a critical turning point, and a reflective resolution.

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