**The Lottery – Shirley Jackson**

**Instructions**

1. Complete the Pre-Reading questions on looseleaf.
2. Read the story.
3. Complete the Post-Reading questions on looseleaf.
4. Staple work together and pass in when work is completed. Work not completed during class time is to be passed in at the start of next class.

**Pre-Reading**

1. Based on the title, what do you think this story is about? Define the term *Lottery* in your answer.
2. Define the terms *irony, symbol* and *satire* in your own words.
3. This story was written in 1948. Do you think the story being over 60 years old will influence the message it contains? How so?

**Post-Reading**

1. Complete a “Main Idea and Supporting Details” organizer for this story.
2. Reflect on your answer to question 1. Was your prediction accurate? Why might the title of the story “The Lottery”, or the opening description in paragraph 1, be considered ironic? What are some other examples of irony in this story?
3. Were you surprised by the ending of the story? If not, at what point in the story did you know what was going to happen? How does Jackson start to foreshadow the ending in paragraphs 2 and 3? Conversely, how does Jackson convince us that this is just an ordinary story with an ordinary town?
4. Where does the story take place? In what way does the setting affect the story? Does it make you more or less likely to anticipate the ending? Does it remind you of any other place in another story/movie you’ve read/seen recently?
5. In what ways are the characters differentiated from one another? Looking back on the story, can you see why Tessie Hutchinson is singled out as the “winner”?
6. Take a close look at Jackson’s description of the black wooden box (paragraph 5) and of the black spot on the fatal slip of paper (paragraph 72). What do these objects suggest to you? Why is the black box described as “battered”? Are there any other symbols in the story?
7. What do you understand to be the writer’s own attitude toward the lottery and the stoning? Exactly what in the story makes her attitude clear to us?
8. This story satirizes a number of social issues, including the reluctance of people to reject outdated traditions, ideas, rules, laws and practices. What kinds of traditions, practices, laws, etc. might “The Lottery” represent?
9. This story was published in 1948, just after World War II. What other cultural or historical events, attitudes, institutions, or rituals might Jackson be satirizing in this story?