**Plot Summary:**

In the story “The Lottery” by Shirley Jackson, Jackson tells a story of a tradition that occurs within a small town in Vermont. The entire town gathers yearly on June 27th to partake in what is called the “lottery”, a selection of an individual to be sacrificed each year. At the gathering, stones are collected in order to prepare for the selection. Tessie Hutchison, an individual in the community, shows up late and does not seem pleased. Mr. Summers, a mayor of sorts, draws papers of families and individuals in the town that could be selected. Tessie, the disinterested one, ironically is selected and is stoned to death, ultimately to display that traditions can often be harmful.

**Setting:**

**Character Analysis:**

The protagonist of “The Lottery” is Tessie Hutchison. We know that she is the protagonist, because the major conflict, being stoned, happens to her, and there is a subtle extra focus on her even from the start. The antagonist of the story is not a person itself, but the tradition of the lottery which wreaks havoc upon the town, even when the town does not realize it. Other characters in the story would include children, Mr. Joe Summers, Mr. Harry Grave, Old Man Warner, Mr. and Mrs. Adams, the Delacroix family, the Watsons and the Dunbars, Mrs. Graves, Mr. Bill Hutchison and his children, Baxter Martin, and Mr. and Mrs. Martin. The characters are highly symbolic and help to represent the fact that tradition can sometimes be senseless and even extremely harmful when adhered to senselessly. With the exception of Tessie, the remaining characters seem appreciative of the lottery—or at least apathetic. What this shows is that people have become so blinded by tradition that it flaws their moral compass. Additionally, the symbolism of characters is blatant. Mr. Summers is not at all summery; he is responsible for deaths and irony is shown. Mr. Graves represents the fact that death will occur, and the Delacroix family displays that a sacrifice “must” be made. However, the author uses such symbolism to point out the obvious; such a tradition should never occur.

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