“Monstrous Acts and Little Murderers” Questions

1. What was the response of many *New Yorker* readers after the magazine made the bold decision to publish "The Lottery"?

2. Why do you think that readers responded so strongly to the story? Draw on your knowledge of the story's themes, setting, narrative, literary devices, and other elements in order to answer this. Be reflective and provide specific examples.

3. Where did both Lethem (the author of the essay) and Shirley Jackson live?

4. Describe Shirley Jackson's family and social life while inhabiting the town.

5. How did Jackson's childhood and adolescence contribute to her becoming the author who would pen "The Lottery"?

6. According to Lethem, what events from Jackson's life influenced or directly figured into "The Lottery"?

7. Why is this article titled "Monstrous Acts and Little Murders"?

8. Have you witnessed any "monstrous acts" in your community or school?