

“The Monkey's Paw”

Genre Contrast Writing Assignment

Prompt: Name two important differences between the two genres of “The Monkey's Paw” and explain how those differences shape the story in an important way. You will write two paragraphs, one for each difference, and each paragraph will begin *and* end with an effective topic sentence. Each paragraph will also contain quotes and correct citations from *both* the prose and drama versions of “The Monkey's Paw” in order to prove that the difference actually exists. The bulk of each paragraph will be comprised of your explanation of why/how that difference is *important* in shaping the story.

Body Paragraph I

Topic sentence T.S. _____

- Effective (3 pts)
- Minor issues/concerns (2 pts)
- Ineffective focus/too focused on details (1 pt)

Support SPT _____

- Thorough; good use of quotes; well explained (10 pts)
- Ample; adequate explanation (8 pts)
- Some gaps in support/explanation; unclear relationship b/w support and t.s. (7 pts)
- Underdeveloped/incomplete; not enough or inadequate quotes; no explanation (6 pts)
- Off topic (5 pts)

Restatement of Topic Sentence T.S.R. _____

- Effective (3 pts)
- Minor issues/ concerns (2 pts)
- Ineffective focus/too focus on details (1 pt)

Body Paragraph II

Topic sentence T.S. _____

- Effective (3 pts)
- Minor issues/concerns (2 pts)
- Ineffective focus/too focused on details (1 pt)

Support SPT _____

- Thorough; good use of quotes; well explained (10 pts)
- Ample; adequate explanation (8 pts)
- Some gaps in support/explanation; unclear relationship b/w support and t.s. (7 pts)
- Underdeveloped/incomplete; not enough or inadequate quotes; no explanation (6 pts)
- Off topic (5 pts)

Restatement of Topic Sentence T.S.R. _____

- Effective (3 pts)
- Minor issues/ concerns (2 pts)
- Ineffective focus/too focus on details (1 pt)

Other

Citations CIT _____

- All quotes cited correctly (5 pts)
- Quotes are not cited correctly- up to 2 pts deduction
- Quotes are not cited -- up to 3 pts deduction

Formality FRM _____

- No first person used (3 pts)
- For each two instances, 1 point deduction, up to 2 pt deduction total

Deductions

Format and/or legibility concerns DDCT _____

Total Score _____ /40

How to Shape Your Paragraph for “The Monkey's Paw” Genre Contrast

Begin your paragraph with a topic sentence that briefly explains what the difference is between the two genres. Be sure to include key words from the prompt (“difference,” “genres,” and the title).

- One important difference between the two genres of “The Monkey's Paw” is Mr. White's rant after he loses to Herbert in chess, and this shapes Mr. White's character in an important way.

Then add your first quote with the citation. The citation must immediately follow your quote.

- In the play version, Mr. White says, “That's what I can't stand about living out in the middle of nowhere like this! Every time it rains, the road gets flooded and no one can get out here. And what do those politicians in town do about it? Nothing! I suppose our three votes just don't count” (Rockliff 187).

Transition into your second quote with the citation.

- In the short story version, Mr. White is still rants, but it is slightly different. He says, “‘That's the worst of living so far out,' bawled Mr. White, with sudden and unlooked-for violence; 'of all the beastly, slushy, out-of-the-way places to live, this is the worst. Pathway's a bog, and the road's a torrent. I don't know what people are thinking about. I suppose because only two houses on the road are let, they think it doesn't matter’” (Jacobs 196).

Next, explain HOW that difference shapes/affects the story or characters.

- While Mr. White is angry in both, the mention of his outburst being described as violent makes him sound more dangerous and unpredictable in the short story version, which better fits the dangerous act he does by making wishes when he knows that there will be bad consequences. Also, in the short story version, he seems to be more angry about where he lives, calling it the worst of places to live. This makes him sound less happy about where he lives, and maybe more desirous to make a wish to improve his life.

Finally, end your paragraph on a restated topic sentence. Again, use the key words.

- The difference in Mr. White's angry rant is an important difference between the two genres of “The Monkey's Paw” that shapes Mr. White's character in an important way.

End product example*:

- One important difference between the two genres of “The Monkey's Paw” is Mr. White's rant after he loses to Herbert in chess, and this shapes Mr. White's character in an important way. In the play version, Mr. White says, “That's what I can't stand about living out in the middle of nowhere like this! Every time it rains, the road gets flooded and no one can get out here. And what do those politicians in town do about it? Nothing! I suppose our three votes just don't count” (Rockliff 187). In the short story version, Mr. White is still rants, but it is slightly different. He says, “‘That's the worst of living so far out,' bawled Mr. White, with sudden and unlooked-for violence; 'of all the beastly, slushy, out-of-the-way places to live, this is the worst. Pathway's a bog, and the road's a torrent. I don't know what people are thinking about. I suppose because only two houses on the road are let, they think it doesn't matter’” (Jacobs 196). While Mr. White is angry in both, the mention of his outburst being described as violent makes him sound more dangerous and unpredictable in the short story version, which better fits the dangerous act he does by making wishes when he knows that there will be bad consequences. Also, in the short story version, he seems to be more angry about where he lives, calling it the worst of places to live. This makes him sound less happy about where he lives, and maybe more desirous to make a wish to improve his life. The difference in Mr. White's angry rant is an important difference between the two genres of “The Monkey's Paw” that shapes Mr. White's character in an important way.

*DO NOT use this example argument in your paragraphs. Doing so will result in a zero for that paragraph's content, and possibly the organization, as well.