

The monkeys paw by
w.w. jacobs and the
third wish by joan
aiken essay sample



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Wishes can be good, and wishes can be a huge disaster. The story of “ The Monkeys Paw” by W. W. Jacobs and the story of “ The Third Wish” by Joan Aiken tell us the effects of wishing for something and everything that comes afterwards. In the rising action of both stories they both have a lot in common. The main characters use their second wish to make their wife’s happy. The themes for both stories teach that wishes or other sorcery should not be taken lightly.

In “ The Monkeys Paw” and in “ The Third Wish” the main characters are alike because they are both content with life until they lose a loved one. To identify, Mr. White loses his son, and Mr. Peters loses his wife. On the other hand, the main characters are different because Mr. White used his third wish and Mr. Peters did not. In other words Mr. White used his third wish to make his mutilated son that he wished back to life with his second wish for his wife’s sake, away. Mr. Peters was happy so he never used his third wish.

The setting in both stories was cold at the beginning. To exemplify in the beginning of “ The Third Wish” it states, “ The primroses were just beginning but the trees were still bare, and it was still cold; the birds had stopped singing an hour ago” (pg. 101). In “ The Monkeys Paw” “ The night was cold and wet” (pg. 85). Of course though there are some differences. In “ The Monkeys Paw” the setting is mostly dreary and dark with rarely any parts where the sun shines, but in “ The Third Wish” it has more lightly mooded and sunny settings. Specifically in “ The Monkeys Paw” Mr. White and his wife visit a cemetery and weep for the lost, but in “ The Third Wish” Mr.

Peters is repetitively happy, living in a nice house in the countryside by a stream and a peaceful neighborhood.

The resolutions of these two stories have plenty in common, but there are details that give the difference. The stories are both alike because the ending or resolution is both happy and sad. To identify, in the story "The Monkeys Paw" the thing that is supposedly to be their son at the door disappears making Mrs. White sad, but Mr. White happy. In "The Third Wish" Mr. Peters dies which is sad, but he dies a happy man content with his life. The difference between the endings of the stories is that one is happier than the other. To define, in "The Monkeys Paw" the ending is filled with a little bit of regret and sadness because their son is dead and is never coming back, while on the other hand "The Third Wish" ends with Mr. Peters dying without regret and forever happy.

In conclusion, the main characters, setting, and resolution teach a lot even on their differences. Specifically the main characters taught that you should be happy with what you have. The setting sets the mood to let the reader know what kind of feeling is in the air. The resolution shows that it's always darkest before the dawn. Over all, you should be careful what you wish for.