

"the lottery" by shirley
jackson and "the
lottery ticket" by
anton chekhov



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Comparative Essay " The Lottery" by Shirley Jackson and " The Lottery Ticket" by Anton Chekhov Most people today would define Lottery as the drawing of lots in which prizes are distributed to the winners among persons buying a chance, however these two stories give us a different out look on the word lottery. The stories " The Lottery" by Shirley Jackson and " The Lottery Ticket" by Anton Chekhov are both extremely powerful stories that leave you thinking. People turn on other people for self benefit. In both stories the main character involved turns on their own families for themselves to get ahead in someway.

In The Lottery, the Hutchinson's family receives the slip of paper with a black dot. Therefore the whole family has to draw slips of paper to see who would be choicen for the sacrifice. It happen that the mother in the family, Tessie Hutchinson receives the black dot and will be sacrificed in this years lottery to receive good crops for the community. After she finds out that she is the one with the black dot in her family she immediately protests coming up with whatever she can think of like " You didn't give him time enough to take any paper he wanted. I say you, it wasn't fair. " Also saying that the whole thing needed to be started over and that it wasn't fair her other children didn't pick.

She stooped so low at that moment turning on her own children, hoping for the chance that one of them would be killed instead of her. Ivan Dmitritch, the husband " The Lottery Ticket" was a very well satisfied man starting off but even he started to turn on his wife over her lottery ticket and the excepted winnings that didn't even come through for them. He started to plot out plans for the winning. Property he would buy, debts he would pay off

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and extragarant trips he would go on all by himself. Thinking of how she would only be a burden to him, and how she wouldn't be able to handle all that money.

Turning on her and wanting it all for himself although the ticket wasn't even his to begin with . Tradition played a huge role in The Lottery, the community as a whole believed they must sacrificee a member of the community on June 27th of every year to receive good crops. Lottery in June, corn be heavy soon" is what they followed. There is no changing for their community in these rules although some near by communities have change their ways.

The main attories of this community believe strongly in tradation, contemplating that if they change one thing " Next thing you know, they'll be wanting to go back to living in caves, nobody work any more, live that way for a while. " They believe if they change one thing then people will think everything will need to change. Buying a lottery ticket and playing your luck in the game would be considered choice. In " The Lottery Ticket" Mrs. Dmitritch made the choice to buy a lottery ticket as she did religiously Only thinking about the winnings she could gain and not the consequences would cost her and her husband with or without even winning money. In both stories, The Lottery Ticket and The Lottery both of the main characters don't end up getting what they want or expect by the end of the story.

Tessie Hutchinson was very carefree, showing up to the lottery draw late and not worrying about how she may could be the one picked for the sacrifice. It didn't cross her mind for a minute to worry about how it would affect her family and their lives. She didn't think that it could ever happened to her.

Although on the other hand of things when she was up for the sacrifices, she didn't seem to care too much about her family trying to save them out for herself.

Ending up being stoned to death and selling out her family in the process. Life seemed great both Ivan and his wife figured that they had won big money, started planning their whole new lives, with expensive properties and trips. The only thing is Ivan's plans didn't include his wife, he started to become greedy forgetting about his wife. Only getting into a serious fight with her that may have led to a divorce then realizing that they hadn't even won the money. Therefore they both got nothing that they wanted no money or great life they expected.

It didn't turn out how they wanted, they ended coming out of the whole thing with less because of the greed their relationship was badly damaged, over nothing. Besides Ivan's true character coming out in the way he acted when he thought he was rich. Both stories "The Lottery" by Shirley Jackson and "The Lottery Ticket" by Anton Chekhov are both extremely powerful stories that leave you thinking and give you a deeper meaning about human nature fitting into the aspects of life. Like greed and how it plays such an important role in how people live their lives.