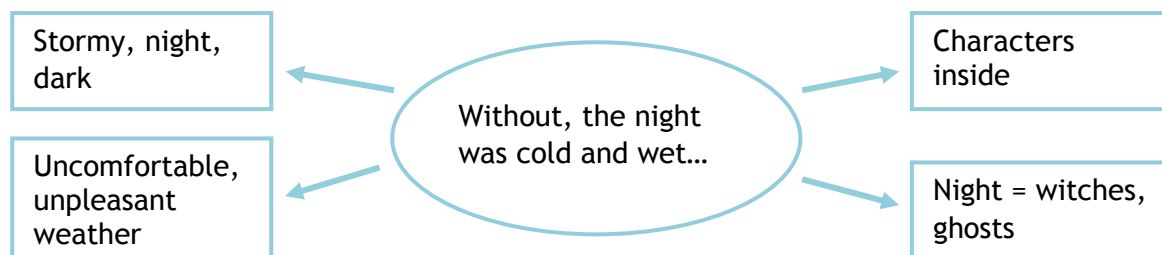


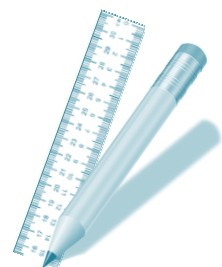
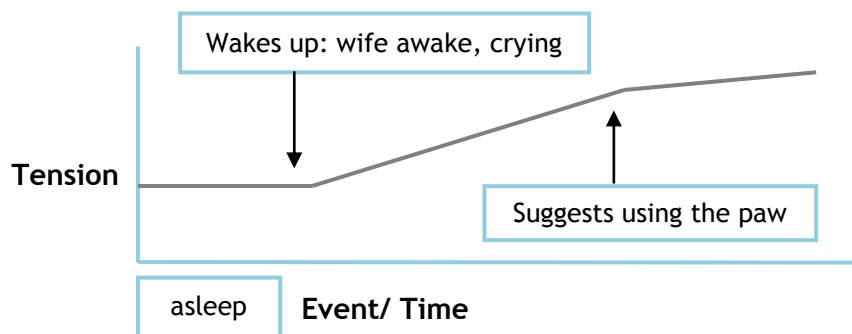
Comprehension questions

1. What is the atmosphere like at the beginning of the story?
2. Choose five words or phrases which help create this atmosphere and draw a spider diagram showing the reasons the words have been chosen by the author. For example:



3. Write a sentence about each phrase and its effect on the reader - why has the author chosen the words specifically?
4. What is your impression of Mr. White?
  - a. How does he treat his wife? Find a word or phrase which shows this
  - b. How does he treat his son? Find a word or phrase which shows this
5. What does the reader expect from the visitor before he arrives? How do you know this? Find a word or phrase that suggests this about the visitor.
6. What is the visitor's name and where has the visitor been? Name three things he has experienced over the previous 21 years. Use a quotation (a word or phrase from the story).
7. The visitor seems unwilling to tell the Whites about the paw - find the words or phrases that suggest this. Explain why the author has chosen these words.
8. Write the story told by the visitor about the history of the monkey's paw in bullet points. For example:
  - a. An old fakir put a spell on the paw to show that fate rules people's lives.
9. If you had three wishes what would you wish for? Explain your reason for each wish. (E.g. *I wish I had all the money in the world because ...* )
10. How do you think each of your three wishes could go wrong? (E.g. *All of the money would be taken away from other people who needed it more than me and so I would have no friends because they would all be poor and I would be incredibly rich. Also money wouldn't mean anything anymore because no one would use it!*)

11. What sort of a relationship do Mr. and Mrs. White have? Do they get on well or not? Do they enjoy each other's company? Find a word or phrase from the story that supports your response.
12. What are the wishes made by the Whites?
13. Write about Mr. White's reaction to the paw moving. Which words do you think best describe his reaction and why?
14. What is the mood in the house the following morning? Use word or phrases from the story to help you explain your ideas.
15. How is the tension and suspense built up before the arrival of the man from Maw and Meggins? Comment on the length of the sentences (longer sentences are often more calming, whereas short sentences can create a sense of tension), language used, character's reaction and reader's reaction.
16. What is **ironic** (use a dictionary if you don't know what this means) about the amount of money given to the Whites following the accident?
17. When Mr. White goes down to the parlour to fetch the paw how does the writer create an air of tension? List the words which create this tension (there are a lot!)
  - Tenderly ..... cares for his wife
  - Dozed fitfully ..... Unable to sleep due to his troubles
  - She cried wildly ..... losing her mind over her loss
  - Started up in alarm ..... Starts to make the reader jumpy
  - And so on!
18. Draw a graph of the tension in this last section like the one below. You'll need plenty of room for this because there is a lot to record!



19. Rewrite the ending. Assume that Mr. White opens the door and Herbert is outside. Describe what he looks like. Try to keep to the language style in the original story- use a thesaurus to help you find interesting and exciting words.