

## Example of a Short Story Analysis: Plan/Outline

### Ex: *Monkey's Paw*

#### Introduction:

- ❖ General statement about the topic
  - The hypothetical situation of being granted three wishes is often discussed between friends. Wishes are pondered for the outcome of happiness. Yet, it is amazing how far people are willing to go for instant gratification.
- ❖ Summary of the story (1 to 2 sentences)
- ❖ Thesis:
  - *The greed of the characters leads them to be tempted and blinded by the monkey's paw despite its negative connotations.*
- ❖ Thesis statement (2 to 3 arguments):
  - Their greed tempts them to take the Monkey's paw – they are blind to the warnings
  - Their greed tempts them to continue making wishes even though they begin to see coincidental consequences (tempting fate)
  - Their greed blinds them to the foreshadowing throughout the story
- ❖ 1<sup>st</sup> Body Paragraph:
  - Transitional sentence
  - 1<sup>st</sup> argument: They have been warned about the negativity of the Monkey's Paw
  - Examples and quotes
  - Link to the thesis and next paragraph
- ❖ 2<sup>nd</sup> Body Paragraph:
  - Transitional sentence
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> argument: They continue to make wishes and face the consequences that may be a coincidence
  - Examples and quotes
  - Link to thesis and next paragraph
- ❖ 3<sup>rd</sup> Body Paragraph:
  - Transitional sentence
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> argument: The characters are blind to all the foreshadowing and continue to make wishes
  - Examples and quotes
  - Link to thesis and next paragraph
- ❖ Conclusion
  - Transitional sentence
  - Restate thesis and arguments
  - End on a convincing note to confirm that you have proven your thesis
    - Lesson learned
    - End result