

The Lottery by Shirley Jackson—Post Reading Reflections



Plot

1. When does the lottery take place?
2. Where does the lottery take place? Describe the setting.
3. What **paraphernalia** is used to conduct the lottery and what attempts are made to keep the traditional ceremony?
4. What role does Old Man Warner play?
5. What is the “procedure” of the lottery?
6. What is the reaction of Old Man Warner to the fact that in the north village, “they’re talking of giving up the lottery”?
7. What does “Lottery in June, corn be heavy soon” mean to the story?

Inferences

1. By now, all through the crowd, there were men holding the small folded papers in their large hands, turning them over and over nervously.” What inference can you make from the men’s nervousness? Why were the men nervous?
2. “The villagers kept their distance, leaving a space between themselves and the stool.” What does this sentence **infer** about the people and how they felt about what was going to happen?
3. “No one liked to upset even as much tradition as was represented by the black box.” This suggests that the villagers were (a) all kind and gentle folk (b) all cruel, violent people (c) sensible, hardworking citizens (d) slaves to tradition