Name:

Date:

Period:

The Lottery Questions

1. Irony is defined as “The opposite of what is expected.” Based on title of the text and the first two paragraphs of the setting, how are these things **ironic**?
2. Foreshadowing is when the author “gives hints or clues about what is to come.” Using direct quotes from the text, **identify 4 examples of foreshadowing**, and explain what they indicated. See example below
   1. “School was recently over for the summer, and the feelings of liberty sat uneasily on most of them”
      1. This indicates that the children are not excited for the start of summer, being uneasy means to be nervous

1. Symbolism is where an object, person, or situation has another **meaning** other than its literal **meaning**. The actions of a character, **word**, action, or event that have a deeper **meaning** in the context of the whole story.

What might the following symbolize?

* 1. The black box
  2. The lottery
  3. The stones

1. "**The Lottery**" written by [Shirley Jackson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shirley_Jackson) first published in the June 26, 1948 issue of [*The New Yorker*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_New_Yorker). The story describes a fictional small town which observes an annual ritual known as "the lottery", which results in the killing of one individual in the town.

"The Lottery" has been described as "one of the most famous short stories in the history of [American literature](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_literature)". It initially received a negative response, which surprised both Jackson and *The New Yorker*. Readers cancelled subscriptions and sent [hate mail](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hate_mail) throughout the summer.

 Many readers demanded an explanation of the situation in the story, and a month after the initial publication, Jackson responded in the [*San Francisco Chronicle*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/San_Francisco_Chronicle) (July 22, 1948):

“Explaining just what I had hoped the story to say is very difficult. I suppose, I hoped, by setting a particularly brutal ancient rite in the present and in my own village to shock the story's readers with a graphic dramatization of the pointless violence and general inhumanity in their own lives.” – Jackson

Based on the information above, why do you believe people reacted so negatively towards this story when it was published? What do you Believe Jackson was trying to **teach** her readers by writing such a shocking story?