

ENGL B50

2 May 2017

This week

Tuesday

- **In-Class:** Reading for final exam handed out.
- **Due:** Second draft and Peer Review
 - submit to turnitin.com

Thursday

- **Due:** Final Draft of Synthesis Essay (**submit to turnitin.com--NO LATE SUBMISSIONS**)
- **Due:** Hardcopy of Synthesis Essay sources used.
- **In-Class:** Discussion of reading and exam prep.

Final Exam

- **Tuesday, 11 May 2017, FINAL EXAM
2:00-3:50 pm**
- In-Class: Essay Exam on assigned reading.
- **BRING AN EXAMINATION BLUE BOOK—
NO BLUE BOOK = GRADE ZERO**

Shirley Jackson

(14 Dec. 1916- 8 Aug. 1965)

Shirley Jackson was born in San Francisco and spent her childhood in nearby Burlingame, California, where she began writing poetry and short stories as a young teenager. Her family moved East when she was seventeen, and she attended the University of Rochester. After a year, in 1936, she withdrew and spent a year at home practicing writing, producing a minimum of a thousand words a day. She died of heart failure.



- Jackson is best known for the short story "The Lottery" (1948), which reveals a secret, sinister underside to a bucolic American village, and for *The Haunting of Hill House* (1959), which is widely considered to be one of the best ghost stories ever written.
- *The Haunting* has been made into films at least twice. First in 1963, starring Julie Harris, Claire Bloom, and Richard Johnson, which met with mixed reviews at the time, but considered a horror classic today.
- It was made again in 1999 as *The Haunting*, starring Liam Neeson, Catherine Zeta-Jones, and Owen Wilson. Critics panned this remake.



“The Lottery” by Shirley Jackson

- Short story written just months before its first publication in the June 26, 1948, issue of *The New Yorker*.
- It has been described as one of the most famous short stories in the history of American literature.
- Initial responses were negative, causing readers to cancel their subscriptions to *The New Yorker* and sending Jackson hate mail.

The New Yorker

Magazine

- An American magazine of reportage, commentary, criticism, essays, fiction, satire, cartoons, and poetry.
- Focus on cultural life in New York City.
- First Published: 1925
- Currently published 47 times annually. (5 issues cover 2 week spans)



“The Lottery” Themes

- Tradition
- Persecution
- Irony

IRONY

- ◆ Jackson's story contains a considerable amount of irony.
- ◆ Be sure you highlight ironic passages in the story and consider the effects on the reader's understanding of the situation.
- ◆ Hint: Even the title is ironic. Why?

What is irony?

<https://literarydevices.net/irony/>

- ◆ Irony is a figure of speech in which words are used in a way that their intended meaning is different from the actual meaning of the words. It may also be a situation that may end up in quite a different way than what is generally anticipated.
- ◆ Simply put: Irony is the difference between the appearance and the reality.

Verbal and Situational Irony

<https://literarydevices.net/irony/>

- ◆ Verbal irony involves what one does not mean. When in response to a foolish idea, we say, “what a great idea!” it is verbal irony
- ◆ Situational irony occurs when, for instance, a man is chuckling at the misfortune of the other even when the same misfortune, in complete unawareness, is befalling him.

“The Lottery” Exam Prep

- ◆ Your final exam question will focus on irony.
- ◆ Be sure that you understand what irony is and that you've located numerous examples of situational and verbal irony in the story.

