“The Lottery” – Worksheet

1.) From the context of the story, who controls the town? Explain.

2.) What do you think about this kind of control?

3.) Is structure of the town and the lottery democratic? Explain. How do you feel about it?

4.) What is one of the themes of “The Lottery”? How does it relate to you?

5.) How were women viewed in the village? What roles did they serve? Give examples from the text to support your answer.

6.) What does Mrs. Delacroix’s extra-large stone say about the loyalty and logic in “the Lottery”?

7.) What does the large stone represent?
8.) How might Mrs. Delacroix justify the killing of Tessie?

9.) How did you feel about the town people's actions in The Lottery?

10.) How does Shirley Jackson trivialize the grave practice of the community’s traditional stoning, and what message might Jackson be trying to convey to the reader through the treatment of the characters’ behavior? How do you feel about this?

11.) What character do you most believe would agree with the need for strong work ethic and why? Support your answer with text.

12.) How is the choice of the lottery foreshadowed?

13.) How does Shirley Jackson’s choice to withhold the ultimate purpose of this tradition until the end of the story prove to be an effective way to communicate with her readers? How did you feel at the end as a result of not knowing?