1. Main Idea: The Monkey’s Paw- looking at the mother Mrs. White
2. Background/ exposition: They are all a happy family- father and son enjoy playing chess together, the mother likes to sit and watch, the son has a job every day, mother stays at home and takes care of her boys. Everyone seems happy and content. When their visitor comes, he changes their lives forever.

i. Topic Sentence: Mrs. White’s life was an American Dream until Sergeant Major Morris came into their lives and caused a snowball of unhappiness.

2. Main Section (transition): sequencing? Then… Until when…

a. Before the Climax Details: The family had dinner together with Morris. The next day, she her boys breakfast, as if it was something she did every day for her boys. The family was joking around about the money and the wish they might the night before. For the rest of the day, Mrs. White was looking out the door and window, waiting for someone to deliver them the money.

i. Textual Evidence: “All of which did not did not prevent her from scurrying to the door at the postman’s knock, nor prevent her from referring somewhat shortly to retired sergeant majors of bibulous habits when she found that the post brought a tailor’s bill (Jacobs 9). – By mentioning the sergeant’s alcoholic habits, Mrs. White is insulting the man’s credibility and alluding to him being a liar. If he said the Monkey’s Paw was ‘magic’ he was probably drunk.

b. The Climax: After waiting around all day, someone finally comes to the door and Mrs. White is ready to answer it. The mannerisms of the man should have hinted to Mrs. White that he did not have good news, but she went to the door with slight hopes of getting her money. When the man came in and finally swallowed this anxiety, he told Mr. and Mrs. White that they son had perished in a work accident and would not be returning home.

i.Textual Evidence: “She broke off suddenly as the sinister meaning of the assurance dawned upon her and she saw the awful confirmation of her fears in the other’s averted face.” – Mother’s typically “know best” and she knew before the man even told her. She knew that her boy Herbert was gone. This shows that she finally got what they wished for, but it was at the cost of her son.

1. After the Climax (transition): Before the man changed their lives forever, Mrs. White was slowly pacing at the door waiting for a message; she did not know that it was going to be so negative.

a.Details: For the 10 days after the funeral, the two were depressed. It wasn’t until later when Mrs. White came up with the idea to use their second wish to bring back their son. Even though her husband was opposed to it, he still made the wish to make Mrs. White happy.

i.Textual Evidence: “Even his wife’s face changed as he entered the room. It was white and expectant, and to his fears seemed to have an unnatural look upon it. He was afraid of her” (Jacobs 13). – The loss of Herbert changed Mrs. White. This shows how before, Mr. White was not afraid of her, but now that she is making morbid remarks about bringing their son back, he is afraid of her. Losing her son changed her.

4. Concluding sentence/ wrap-up: Mrs. White was living the typical American Dream with a happy family. After the Monkey’s Paw comes into her life, she cannot live without her son Herbert, and it drives her to think irrationally. All she can think about now is the loss of her son.