Monkey’s Paw questions and activities-

These can be answered in point form as we will be discussing the answers orally- You must be able to support your answers with a good reason, example and explanation so these all need to be given for your answers.

1. What type of mood is established in the beginning of the story and what happens in the story that helps establish that sense of feeling?
2. What magical ability does the monkey’s paw have? What is it in the story that makes you think this?
3. Why did the fakir place a spell on the paw? What happens in the story that makes you think this?
4. Sergeant Major Morris’s face whitens when he reveals that he has had three wishes. What can you infer (figure out) about the paw based on his reaction? Why do you think this?
5. What is probably upsetting the sergeant-major about the White family's lightheartedness toward the paw? Why do you think this?
6. What was the first man’s third wish? How might this be an example of foreshadowing?
7. Why doesn't Mr. White know what to wish for? What happens in the story that makes you think that?
8. Before making his first wish, Mr. White says “It seems to me I’ve got all I want.” In your opinion, what point is the author making?
9. What is Mr. White’s first wish? Based on what you know about the monkey’s paw do you think this was wise? Why or why not?
10. A situation is said to be ironic when what happens is the opposite of what is expected. What is ironic about Mr. White’s first wish?
11. What does the paw immediately do after the first wish? What can you infer (figure out) from this?
12. What does Mr. White see in the fire the night of his first wish? How is this an example of foreshadowing?
13. What are the family's feelings about the wish in the morning? What makes you think this?
14. How do the Whites come to receive the $200? What does that tell you about the way the monkey’s paw grants wishes?
15. Why does Mrs. White want the monkey's paw? What is the second wish? Do you think it is a good wish? Why or why not?
16. If you were in Mr. and Mrs. White's position, would you wish for Herbert to come back to life? Why or why not?
17. What do you suppose was the final wish? Why do you think so?
18. What do you think happened at the end of the story? Why?
19. What does he mean when Mr. White beg his wife not to let "it" into the house? What is he afraid of? Who or what was outside of the house?
20. In your opinion, what is the most unsettling or disturbing aspect of the story? Explain your answer.
21. Do you think Mr. White's second wish came true? We never see an undead version of Herbert in the story, we only hear someone knocking on the White's door. Can you think of any other explanation for the sound?

Writing assignments

Creative writing assignment #1-Pretend you are one of the characters in the story. In a journal entry explain what has happened in the story, how you felt about it and why. Also explain what you think about what the other characters have done in the story, how you felt about it and why.

Or

Creative writing assignment #2- Write the ending to the story as if Mrs. White’s wish had been granted and Mr. White had not been able to find the Monkey’s paw in time to make his third wish.