

The short story the Monkey's Paw written by William W. Jacobs can teach us about life in modern times in more than one way. The first is that you can ask for something, and you may get it but it may come with a high price, nothing in life is free. For example in the text, the two main characters, Mrs and Mr. White wished for 200 pounds with the monkey's paw, and they did get it as a recompense for their son's death at his workplace. They never would have wished for the money if they knew they would get it underneath the circumstances of their son's death. The other lesson the text can teach us is that we should trust others about things they know more about even when we think that we are right. Like in the text when Sargent Major Morris showed Mr and Mrs. White the paw, warning him of its evils, and not to take, and or wish on it. Mrs. and Mr. White ignored the Sargent's urges and wished on it anyways. If they would have listened to him, they would not have lost their only son. These themes can be applied to the world today because people do bad things, knowing they are wrong and have consequences, but when the time comes, don't want to face the consequences. For example in Mrs. Pedens class, many people use their phones during the lesson, knowing they aren't allowed, then get mad and try to negotiate their way out of the confiscation of their devices. This is like how in the text, Mrs. White was very distressed and torn over the death of her son, even though she wished for the 200 pounds that brought on the consequence of her son's death.

SPENCER

I think the author chose the title 'shattering experience' because it's about a baseball player who broke a window. I also think he chose the title because it has the hidden message that success does not come cheap. At the start of the book the author says "success does not come cheaply" and "every triumph has its price", which is a pretty good lesson to learn. The 'shattering' in the title refers to the shocking revelation that victory does not come without a price, and the 'experience' refers to the event that Kenny (the main character) learns his lesson in. if you really look into the title and theorize you can see that the author put a lot of thought into the title... ~~or not, I don't really know, all I can do is theorize and assume.~~

} This is called foreshadowing

don't put those parts in

Part II

How does the short story teach us about life in modern times? How can the themes be applied to the world today?

The short story A Shattering Experience teaches us to think things through and not to get influenced by your peers. In the story, Kenny had thrown a baseball and smashed somebody's window. When confronted by the owner he froze, like he was conflicted to do the right thing or to run, but since his peers had ran, so did Kenny. Later in the story Kenny and his friends were at the ice cream parlor and they were all having a good laugh over the situation but Kenny wasn't laughing. He knew that he had done something wrong but he didn't want his peers to know that he felt bad over what he had done. Kenny went to the man's house multiple times to offer to pay for the damage or work it off by mowing his lawn because he knew that was the right thing to do. In the world today most people are scared to have an opinion of their ^{own} ~~one~~ because they don't want to be judged. As we get older we need to learn how to make good decisions with our own judgement not to be influenced by our peers.

Reading Analysis

Part one:

1)

yes

I think Donald Honig, the author, did a good job at picking the perfect title for the short story "A shattering experience". I feel the reason he picked this title was because it explains the whole story in just three words. If you really look deep into the story, the words carry two different meanings. The first part of the title is "shattering", I think he used this word in the title because Kenny throws his third knuckle ball under pressure and it goes over the fence and through one of the townhouse windows and shatters it. This is a big part of the story because everything after this is based on the shattering of the window. The second part of the title is "experience", and I think this word in the title is about how everything from that point in this short story becomes a big experience for Kenny. When Kenny recognizes the old man whose window he breaks is the umpire at home base it was a frightening experience for Kenny because he will have to run into him a couple times in the game. Then again at the end of the game, when Kenny gets the winning home run, the old man recognizes him and he has to pay him back all the money he worked for over summer mowing lawns and won at the game, that's a shattering experience. Also, that he ran away and didn't tell the truth about shattering the old man's window and has to face him. These are the meanings behind the title "a shattered experience", and it was a good choice to name the short story by this title.

2)

foreshadowing

I think the title is significant to the meaning of the story because it gives the reader clues about the meaning of the story and also gives the reader an idea of what Kenny is feeling and going through. The story shows us what happens when we run away from your problems and how the future can then be a stressful and fearful experience. I think the title describes how Kenny was having a pretty shattering experience. He did hit any pitches right away in the game, he had to face the old man at the end of the game and when he had to give up all his hard earned money for a new window. This all happened because he didn't face up to his problems right away and get them out of his mind so that he didn't have to worry about anything. I think if Kenny had talked to the old man right away instead of running away he would not have been stressed at his baseball game or he wouldn't have had to worry about running into the old man. He should still just have offered to buy a new window with all or some of his money he worked hard for over the summer, but the old man might have let him off with a warning. It is always better to face our problems, because when we don't the consequences are worse...and in this story they were shattering.