**“The Lottery” by Shirley Jackson**

Critical Vocabulary – Define each word

1. Profusely
2. Perfunctory
3. Petulantly
4. Defiantly
5. Tone
6. Theme
7. Colloquialism

Read the short story “The Lottery” by Shirley Jackson. Then, reread the lines indicated with each question below. Answer each question, citing text evidence.

1. Lines 1–10: Based on the first paragraph, what can you infer about the village and its people? Why?
2. Lines 1-18: Describe the narrator’s tone using textual support.
3. Lines 40-53: Describe Mr. Summers based on his responsibilities and the way that others react to him. Respond using at least 3-4 sentences.
4. Lines 59–79: What is the tone in this section? How does this compare to the tone at the beginning of the story?
5. Lines 59–67: What might the box symbolize? Use evidence to support your ideas.
6. Lines 59–67: What unspoken message might the author want to tell us about the lottery?
7. Lines 100–104: Based on the context of this sentence, what does it mean to “talk interminably?”
8. Lines 105–115: What colloquialisms does Mrs. Delacroix use? What does this suggest about her character?
9. Lines 191–204: How does Old Man Warner feel about the lottery? What does he say and/or do that shows this?
10. Lines 228–243: Describe Mrs. Hutchinson’s behavior and the reactions of the other villagers. Is this what you expected? Why or why not?

Analysis Questions:

1. Mr. Summers distinguishes between a household and a family in lines 237-242. What might be the difference between a household and a family? Explain why you think the author chose to make a distinction between the two.
2. Identify two words in lines 300-306 that changed your understanding of this story. Explain.
3. Why do you think Jackson waited until the end of the story to reveal the true purpose of the lottery? How would the story be less effective if the conflict were revealed earlier?

Language and Style

Re-write the following colloquialisms in standard English.

1. “Horace’s not but sixteen yet… Guess I gotta fill in for the old man this year.”
2. “The kids was gone... I…came a-running”
3. “Some of you fellows want to give me a hand? People ain’t the way they used to be.”

Writing Practice

1. Using the five-step paragraph structure, write one paragraph explaining a theme you see in the story. Use at least one direct quote from the story to prove your point.