

commonlit the lottery answer key

The quest for understanding Shirley Jackson's chilling short story, "The Lottery," often leads students and educators to search

Additional Resources

Here are 9 book titles related to the themes and potential answers of "The Lottery," presented in italics:

1. *_The Haunting of Hill House_* by Shirley Jackson. This psychological horror novel, also by Shirley Jackson, explores the unsettling and often inexplicable events that plague a group of people invited to investigate a notoriously haunted mansion. It delves into the fragile nature of sanity and how environments can profoundly impact the human mind, much like the oppressive atmosphere of the village in "The Lottery." The unsettling experiences within the house can be interpreted as a form of societal control or ingrained dread, mirroring the unexamined traditions of the lottery.
2. *_We Have Always Lived in the Castle_* by Shirley Jackson. Another masterpiece from Shirley Jackson, this novel tells the story of Mary Katherine Blackwood, a young woman living in isolation with her aunt after a family tragedy. The narrative explores themes of ostracism, family secrets, and the construction of a protective, albeit warped, reality. The sense of being an outsider, and the community's judgment, resonates with the fate of Tessie Hutchinson in "The Lottery."
3. *_Lord of the Flies_* by William Golding. This classic novel depicts a group of British schoolboys stranded on a deserted island who descend into savagery as they attempt to govern themselves. It examines the inherent darkness within human nature when societal structures collapse, leading to primal instincts and brutal rituals. The chilling emergence of mob mentality and the arbitrary selection of victims in "The Lottery" find a parallel in the boys' descent.
4. *_The Handmaid's Tale_* by Margaret Atwood. Set in a dystopian society where fertile women are subjugated and forced into sexual servitude, this novel critiques oppressive regimes and the loss of individual freedom. The Gilead regime enforces strict social control through fear and ritual, stripping women of their identities and agency. The book's exploration of a society dictated by rigid, unquestioned rules and the scapegoating of individuals strongly connects to the central themes of "The Lottery."
5. *_Animal Farm_* by George Orwell. This allegorical novella critiques the Russian Revolution and the subsequent rise of Stalinism, portraying farm animals who overthrow their human oppressors only to fall under the tyranny of pigs. It masterfully illustrates how power corrupts and how easily a society can be manipulated through propaganda and rewritten history. The

cyclical nature of oppression and the manipulation of the populace in "Animal Farm" are eerily similar to the blind adherence to tradition in "The Lottery."

6. _Brave New World_ by Aldous Huxley. This dystopian novel presents a future society that maintains order through genetic engineering, conditioning, and the suppression of individuality and emotion. Citizens are kept content and compliant through manufactured happiness and the absence of deep human connection. The theme of a society that prioritizes stability and conformity over genuine human experience, even at the cost of individual lives, mirrors the unsettling tranquility of the village in "The Lottery."

7. _The Lottery Winner_ by Mary O'Hara. This collection of short stories often delves into the lives of ordinary people facing extraordinary circumstances and the often-unseen struggles within communities. While not directly about the same lottery, the title itself evokes a sense of fate and the impact of chance on individuals. The collection's focus on the complexities of human relationships and the unexpected turns of life could offer a contrasting or complementary perspective to Jackson's stark depiction.

8. _The Witches of Eastwick_ by John Updike. This novel follows three women in a small New England town who, through their shared discontent, inadvertently summon a charismatic and devilish figure who disrupts their lives and the town's decorum. The book explores themes of community, conformity, and the hidden desires and resentments that simmer beneath the surface of seemingly placid towns. The subversion of idyllic small-town life and the underlying darkness present in "The Witches of Eastwick" echo the unsettling reality of "The Lottery."

9. _A Good Man Is Hard to Find_ by Flannery O'Connor. This collection of short stories, particularly the titular one, showcases O'Connor's distinctive Southern Gothic style, featuring morally ambiguous characters, grotesque situations, and moments of stark violence and spiritual revelation. The stories often explore themes of grace, sin, and the flawed nature of humanity within the context of rigid social and religious traditions. The unsettling encounters and the sudden eruption of violence in O'Connor's work share a thematic kinship with the shocking climax of "The Lottery."

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