

## The Nature of Suspense

Suspense is created when the reader anticipates the outcome of events in a story, especially as these events affect a character for whom the reader has formed some sympathetic attachment.

Devices Used to create Suspense:

- Conflict – the reader worries whether the hero will win the conflict
- Complications – the reader worries when complications or unexpected events occur which interfere with the plans of the hero
- Setting – the time and place are used to create suspense – wartime, storms...
- Atmosphere – a suspenseful atmosphere is created by the setting, conflict and complications
- Foreshadowing – there is a hint that something fearful or negative will occur
- Sympathetic Attachment to the Protagonist - despite the faults of a character, we often still like him/her and feel sympathy for him as he struggles to escape his problems
- Irony - the opposite of what we expect may occur

## Suspense Paragraph

After reading "The Monkey's Paw", write a well-organized paragraph which explains how the writer has created suspense in the story. Use the paragraph organizer as a guide. Be certain that you have included the following elements:

- A clear topic sentence stating the topic and the three main points you will develop in the paragraph.
- Examples from the text to support each point (Quotations are especially effective)
- An explanation of how each supporting detail proves the point you are making
- A general concluding sentence
- Strong, interesting and effective vocabulary
- Well-constructed, clear sentences

*Paragraph planning organizer*

☆ = Transition words

