*The Lottery* – by Shirley Jackson

**Part A** – Read through the story before answering the following in sentence form:

1. After finishing the story, write down your immediate reactions.
2. What were your first thoughts about the lottery as the story began? What did you think the lottery meant?
3. Why are the townspeople holding the lottery?
4. Why don't they stop?
5. At what point in the story did you realize what it meant to “win” the lottery?
6. Give an example of foreshadowing in the story.
7. Describe the story’s setting.
8. When does the climax, or turning point, in the story occur?
9. Now that you know what the “lottery” ritual means for the “winner”, is it difficult to not make a moral judgment on the townspeople? Explain your answer.
10. Do you know of any sacrifice rituals of other cultures today? If so, discuss them and if not, try to research one or two.
11. Is Jackson’s writing style a type of horror? Explain.
12. What type of atmosphere does Jackson create at first, and how does that change?
13. What themes appear in the story? Use evidence from the story to support your answer

**PART B** - Evaluative Assignment - Using the knowledge of plot and short story elements, write a page long response as to how Jackson creates a sense of horror from the elements of what should be an innocent story about small town America. Comment on the use of withheld knowledge, the irony that can be seen in the names of the characters, and any of the other elements discussed in class.

**Please follow the following criteria for the Part B:**

* All responses must be typed
* Minimum length – 1 full page
* Respond to all parts of the questions using your own opinions supported with evidence from the story.
* Total possible marks - 20