

The Lottery by Shirley Jackson

Symbol



Rising Action:

- All of the villagers must attend.
- Mr. Summers uses a list of households to make sure everyone is present.
- Mrs. Tessie Hutchinson arrives late, forgetting what day it was.

Rising Action:

- The lottery is a yearly tradition, with certain “paraphernalia” and rules.
- Typical (normal) interaction and talk among the gathering villagers.
- Mr. Summers and Mr. Graves set up a 3-legged stool and place a black box on top.

Exposition:

- morning of June 27th
- all the villagers are gathering in the town square for the annual lottery
- town has a population of about 300
- **mood:** pleasant and cheery



Rising Action:

- Tessie Hutchinson protests that her husband didn't have enough time to choose.
- Each member of the Hutchinson family must then draw another slip of paper.

Rising Action:

- Names of heads of families are read off of the list, and each man draws a slip of paper.
- Bill Hutchinson has a black dot on his.

Climax:

- Tessie “wins” the lottery – she gets the piece of paper with the black dot!

Falling Action:

- Tessie protests that it isn't fair.
- The villagers close in on her, and begin throwing stones.

Symbol



Resolution:

- Tessie gets stoned to death by the villagers!
- She is the traditional sacrifice for that harvest season.

CONFLICT:

- Category – **External Conflict:**
 - Man vs. Group / Society
- **Details**
 - Tessie vs. the town / tradition