Fitzgerald

Review of Class Analysis of Rising Action in “The Monkey’s Paw”

* What is the conflict?
  + In the exposition, the reader learns that the father “possesses ideas “radical change” that cause him to put himself in “sharp and unnecessary peril.”
* Identify 3 steps of rising action and explain how each increased the conflict.

Ideas brought up by students included

* + Mr. White angrily complains about living in a beastly, slushy out-of-the way place.” He shows that he is unhappy about his circumstances and seeks change.
  + Mr. White emphasizes that their visitor had been in India for 21 years and says he wishes he could go. He shows that he wishes he had had a more interesting life.
  + Mr. White shows brings up the monkey’s paw and presses the Sergeant-Major to tell its story even when the Sergeant-Major shows he doesn’t want to.
  + When the Sergeant-Major throws the monkey’s paw in the fire after clearly trying to explain how dangerous it is to use, Mr. White scoops the monkey’s paw out of the fire because he wants the three wishes. He desires change so much he is willing to put himself in danger to get it.
* Name one technique used to increase suspense that was used in the rising action we read Friday.

Ideas brought up by the students included

* + Character weakness – the father and mother are old – she is described as a “white-haired old lady,” and he is described as having a “thin, white beard.”, they are isolated (alone) because they live in a “beastly, slushy, out-of-the-way place” and “only two houses on the road are let.”
  + Potential Danger - says he shouldn’t wish to have been in India, doesn’t want to talk about paw, wife pulls away from the paw when she sees it, says paw has a magic spell put on it by an “old fakir” who wished to teach that life is guided by fate and those who interfere with it do so to their peril, Sergeant Major turns white and shares when he talks of his wishes and says that the man with the first three wishes used his third wish to wish for death.
  + Character puts self in danger - father reaches into fire to grab the paw out of the fire, Sergeant Major says he won’t give him the paw and is not responsible if he takes it himself
* What word would you use to describe the type of person the father is? Give one piece of evidence to support your choice.
* On-edge but self-aware - looked up sharply when his wife dismissed his anger at the condition of their road as really being anger over losing, but smiled when he saw his wife and son’s knowing glance; invited the Sergeant Major to visit because very curious about India and the story of the monkey’s paw’s wishes; grabs the paw out of the fire despite the Sergeant Major’s warnings.