

Sample Introductions

1

Want to hear something terrifying? We're all monsters. And as much as you try to hide it, authors know the truth. "The Lottery," a short story by Shirley Jackson, is a frightening story. Members of a small town gather together and draw names out of a box in an annual event built around a tradition upheld for what seems to be forever. Like any good scary story, this one has monsters; but the monsters don't appear in the shape of vampires and werewolves. The monsters in "The Lottery" are the monsters that can be found in nice, average, decent people. People like you and me.

2

Ethnic background, social status, or even age do not prove to be a factor in the relationship of friendship displayed by Huck Finn and Jim throughout *Huckleberry Finn*. The two very different characters serve not only as companions but as best friends throughout the novel. It seems as if differences in the many categories that usually make up friendship showed no signs of affecting the relationship between Huck and Jim. While Huck and Jim had different pasts and different futures, the two found each other on a level of friendship. The same level that doesn't pay attention to race, domestic abuse, or even silly superstitions. True friendship was found between the unlikely characters of Huck and Jim.

3

In William Golding's novel *Lord of the Flies*, boys from a private school traveling by plane crash on a deserted island. With no one to create rules for them, the boys run loose of the island free from the rules society imposes, but also free from nearly any sense of structure or safety. While the characters Jack and Ralph attempt in their own ways to keep order, life on the island quickly falls to near anarchy. All the boys on the island allow themselves to be terrorized by a beast they create. By creating a physical object to represent everything they are afraid of, the boys can base their fears on something external and distant, rather than on something close and personal. Deep down, the boys on the island want the beast to exist.

4

Richard's experience had deeply touched me in ways that I could empathize and reflect my own hardships and experiences with him. I empathized with him through shared characteristics of oppression, hunger, poverty, a lust for knowledge, and a hope for a better life in another place. I was reflecting my experience of how my family and I went to American in search of a better life than the oppressive one that we had suffered in the South of Vietnam under the Communist regime. Richard's experience was similar to mine because he went to the north in search of freedom, the meaning of life, and his desire to escape from the South where fear, anxiety, poverty, poverty, physical hunger, powerlessness, and shame consumed him.

5

The story begins with a little girl, Betty Parris, lying motionless on her bed. Kneeling by her bedside is her father, Reverend Samuel Parris, weeping and praying. On the surface, Reverend Parris seems to have deep concern for his daughter's health. But as the story progresses, we learn that he isn't the worried father he appears to be. We discover that Parris is more concerned about himself.