

Transcript - 3rd Period Discussion

Teacher: Alright, gentlemen. We've done our sentence, our phrase and our word. Now we are ready to discuss how those that you chose illustrate theme in "The Lottery."

Student 1: I think one of the themes in the story is sexism because there is a character in the story who has to choose for her husband. And everyone's a little cautious about saying ok. And there was another part of the story where this lady had her son draw for her and they said, "Well, I'm glad you have a man to draw for you." So that's why I chose sexism.

Student 2: it has to do with the dishes too, right, because she said, "You wouldn't have me leave my dishes..."

Student 1: Yeah...

Teacher: So you think that illustrates sexism, too, Isaac?

Student 2: Yeah, because, stereotypically, women did the dishes and it just goes along with it.

Teacher: Ok

Student 3: I agree with that too.

Student 1: Why do you agree with it?

Student 3: Because, like you just said, the people think a man should draw and that they are glad a man is drawing. It's like, feminist criticism...

Student 1: Right. I agree with that.

Student 2: At the beginning of the story, it said that all the young boys got all the stones, while the girls just stood around. So it seems like women take more of a passive role.

Student 1: Except the women work in the house and the men are outside. That's what it seems like to me.

Student 4: <inaudible>

Student 5: Well, I agree with what you guys just said, because it said that a boy had to be 16 or older to be head of the family and draw for each member, so I agree with what you guys are saying.

Student 6: Yeah, they never said anything about females growing to a certain age where they could draw or anything like that for their family.

Student 7: If you notice, all the important positions in the town or village are held by men. So like Mr. Summers is in charge of running the lottery and Mr. Graves is the postmaster. It doesn't seem like women really had any kind of important position in this.

Student 8: Going back to the whole sexism thing, on page 392 it says, "Clyde Dunbar. That's right, he's broken his leg. Who's drawing for him?" "Me, I guess" a woman said and Mr. Summers looked at her, "Wife draws for her husband," Mr. Summers said. "Don't you have a grown boy to do it for you, Janey?" That tells me that they don't really like the idea of a woman drawing for something that's an important tradition or an important ritual.

Student 9: Like, it makes me think it's back in the older days because back in the older days, not being sexist or anything, but back then I know the women did the dishes and the men went out and got jobs while the women stayed at home. So it makes me think it's early time periods.

Teacher: Ok, so other themes that you found besides sexism?

Student 10: I chose the phrase, "The black box grew shabbier each year," and I chose that because it was representative of the lottery as a whole, saying that the lottery grows shabbier and more of a tradition each year.

Student 11: Like it said in the book, it's lost meaning, so it's not even a ritual. Like it makes me think it was once a ritual, but now it has lost all meaning so it's just a tradition.

Student 12: Yeah, it says over the years they had forgotten parts of the ritual and had lost the original black box, they still remembered to use stones. So it seems like it's more about just killing someone and not what the original meaning behind it was.

Student 7: I agree with that statement.

Student 13: It also talks about how there used to be a chant and that there used to be a band that plays, and it also says the official was supposed to walk among the people, but years and years ago, that part of the ritual had been allowed to lapse...