**The Lottery – Shirley Jackson**

Instructions:

1. Your teacher will decide if you are to read the story together or alone.
2. Complete the Post-Reading questions on lined paper along with the Plot Graph and Short Story Elements. Your teacher will also decide if you are to do this assignment in a group or alone.

**\*\* It is your responsibility to use your time wisely. Work that is not completed during class time needs to be completed for homework and passed in at the start of the next class.**

**Pre-Reading**

1. Based on the title, what do you think this story is about? Define the term *Lottery* in your answer.
2. This story was written in 1948. Do you think the story being over 60 years old will influence the message it contains? How so?

**Post-Reading**

1. **Complete** the **plot graph** for this story on the page provided.
2. **Why** might the title of the story *“The Lottery”,* or the opening description in paragraph 1, be considered **ironic**? **What** are some other examples of **irony** in this story?
3. How does the author start to **foreshadow** the ending in *paragraphs 2 and 3*?
4. **Where** does the story take place?
5. In **what** way does the **setting** affect the story?
6. In **what** ways are the **characters** differentiated from one another? Looking back on the story, can you see why *Tessie Hutchinson* is singled out as the *“winner”?*
7. Take a close look at Jackson’s **description** of the black wooden box (paragraph 5) and of the black spot on the fatal slip of paper (paragraph 72). **What** do these objects **suggest** to you? **Why** is the black box described as “battered”? Are there any other **symbols** in the story?
8. This story **satirizes** (sarcasm, ridicule) a number of social issues, including the reluctance of people to **reject** outdated traditions, ideas, rules, laws and practices. **What** kinds of traditions, practices, laws, etc. might “The Lottery” represent?