EN 10 Literary Studies & Comprehension Name:

**“The Lottery” by Shirley Jackson**

**Part A: Definitions**

**Indicate the part of speech to which the word belongs and write a sentence that clearly demonstrates its meaning.**

1) boisterous -

2) reprimands -

3) jovial -

4) paraphernalia -

5) perfunctory -

1. interminably -
2. petulantly -
3. defiantly –

**Part B: Comprehension**

What is human nature? Merriam­-Webster Student Dictionary’s entry describes it as “the nature of human beings; *especially* the ways of thinking, acting, and reacting that are common to most or all human beings or that are learned in social situations.”

\* Use your reading strategies to highlight and comment in the margins about any connections in the story. Make predictions. Ask questions. Write your opinions. Make inferences (conclusions reached from the basis of evidence and reasoning).

**Read the story carefully and then answer each of the following questions in full sentences.**

1. Describe in detail the setting of story.
2. What is the atmosphere like at the beginning of the story and how does it change?
3. Highlight two conflicts from the story. Be sure to clearly state the type of conflict and to provide examples through textual evidence.
4. Identify three of the subtle ‘hints’ utilized by Jackson to help foreshadow the conclusion of her story.
5. How else does the author build suspense?
6. What seems to have been the original purpose of the lottery? What do people believe about it?
7. Normally, someone is pleased when they win a lottery. How does Bill Hutchinson react when he is not chosen? What is Tessie’s reaction? Are their reactions fair?
8. Is the lottery a collective act of murder? Is it morally justified? Is tradition sufficient justification for such actions? How would you respond to cultures that are different from ours that perform "strange" rituals?
9. What is the significance of Tessie's final scream, "It isn't fair, it isn't right"? What aspect of the lottery does she explicitly challenge? What aspect goes unquestioned?
10. Why don’t the townspeople stop holding the lottery?
11. Define the term “scapegoat.” How is this story an example of scapegoating? What are other examples of this within our society?