

## M. Night Shyamalan's *The Village*

\*Please answer the following on a separate page.

1. Thoroughly describe the setting (time, place, mood, atmosphere). Provide specific examples.
2. What are some of the rules or laws of the village by Covington Woods? At the beginning of the movie, why did the girls bury the flower?
4. In point form, write detailed character sketches for the following people:
  - a) Lucius Hunt
  - b) Ivy Walker
  - c) Noah Percy
  - d) Edward Walker
  - e) Alice Hunt
  - f) August Nicholson
5. What happens to Lucius and who is responsible? Why did this person do what he did?
6. What reasons are given to allow Ivy to make the journey for medicine?
7. Why did the people settle in The Village in the first place?
8. What is the real evil in the forest and beyond?
9. What are three major themes in the movie?
10. Give three examples of how suspense is built in the movie--be specific!

**Application:** Compare this story to Shirley Jackson's *The Lottery*. What are some similarities? Differences? Create a Venn diagram to display your comparison. Similarities go in the intersection, while differences go on the outer edges.

## The Lottery

Handwriting practice lines for the story "The Lottery". The section contains 20 horizontal lines for writing.

Handwriting practice lines for the story "The Lottery". The section contains 15 horizontal lines for writing.

## The Village

Handwriting practice lines for the story "The Village". The section contains 20 horizontal lines for writing.

## The Village

What happens when community beliefs are the very things that scare people? What does it mean when fear causes communities to purposefully blind their members to protect them from perceived dangers? Such are the questions that arise from Shyamalan's *The Village*.

*The Village* portrays a nineteenth-century community founded on purity and safety. We see lists of seemingly odd rules, and villagers telling each other to "Obey the rules of the village, for they will keep us safe":

1. Let the bad colour not be seen. It attracts them.
2. Never enter the woods. That is where they wait.
3. Heed the warning bell for they are coming.
4. One man should hold post in the tower each night.
5. The safe colour should be worn upon approaching the forbidden line.

The rules represent the reproducible code that the people live by. In the film a few protagonists (played by Joaquin Phoenix and Bryce Dallas Howard) question the rules and their relationship to the reality beyond the boundaries of the village. Does evil lurk in the forest that surrounds them? If so, what kind?

The film pushes at the rules' boundaries, walking the line between the village and the evil ones that exist beyond. But the line it walks is not between legalism and anarchy, but rather that of determining which rules and boundaries are appropriate and which are not. What makes a rule or belief believable? What makes it valuable to a community and what makes it detrimental and worth revising? As we approach these questions, it might help if we have a way of understanding how beliefs and rules in a community function.