2202234 Introduction to the Study of English Literature
Semester I, 2016
Wednesday, August 24, 2016
Writing Practice 2

(40 minutes) Write a well-organized essay in response to one of the following five prompts about Shirley Jackson's short story "The Lottery." Give your response a title, if you like.

1. Discuss forces at play in "The Lottery." Consider forces at play in the story. What factors influence behavior, happenings, outcome, or changes that occur? What conditions shape events? Which people determine actions? Consider the ways these players enhance or interrupt another. Also worth noting is the trajectory of such social, personal, familial, natural, or ideological forces in relation to the plot.

2. Discuss the central figure of the lottery. What is "the lottery"? What does it entail? Track its movement throughout the narrative. Consider also its backstory. How and when does it begin? How does it transform along the way? What continuities, shifts, ironies, or inconsistencies do you see in its depiction and role in the story?

3. Discuss kinds of violence in the story. What kinds of violence are in evidence in "The Lottery"? What words suggest or describe violence? Where is violence? How is it presented? What does it do? In what way are the types of violence different? How does each form of violence develop through the story?

4. Discuss fact and fallacy in "The Lottery." What are the facts in the story? What are the fallacies? What are the fallacies about? You might wish to examine, for example, the way truth and mistaken belief are given in the narrative and the extent to which each affect people's knowledge and actions.

5. Discuss names and meanings in "The Lottery." Consider the names and meanings of people, things, and actions in this story. How do words' denotations compare to their meanings and connotations created within the story? What connection or contrast might the characters' names have to their personality, position, or behavior?