



# Discussion Board Post

Student's Name:

Institutional Affiliation:



## Response:

Human society is often fixated on tradition. It could be argued that at one point maintaining traditions served a very important purpose in terms of allowing society to function and survive, such as using methods of hunting and agriculture that were passed down through the generations. Traditions also provide a link to the past, which is important given the reverence that humans place on history. Holiday traditions are used as a way to pay tribute to people from past who made a contribution to human history, such as the day honoring Martin Luther King Jr. Thanksgiving provides families with a chance to get together, enjoy a big meal, and appreciate what they have.

However, traditions can be dangerous when they are passed on without an understanding of their purpose. This was the case with “The Lottery”. The inhabitants has no idea how the practice of stoning a fellow villager to death began, but they continued this practice even though it was clearly irrational and even devastating. Not even the children were protected from this fate, in spite of the fact that they would clearly be the most innocent of victims. Early in the book, it is mentioned that the villagers could not even take it upon themselves to replace the black box containing the lottery slips, as if that would somehow render the practice invalid. The biggest takeaway is that when traditions are maintained for the sake of tradition rather than for any practice purpose, society can find itself exhibiting truly warped behavior.

# References

The New Yorker podcast: A. M. Homes discusses and reads “The Lottery”, <https://www.newyorker.com/fiction/a-m-homes-reads-shirley-jackson>

The Lottery Summary, <http://www.supersummary.com/the-lottery-summary/>

The Lottery and Other Summary and Analysis of “The Lottery”  
<http://www.gradesaver.com/the-lottery-and-other-stories/study-guide/summary-the-lottery>