**Why Tradition Is Dangerous in *The Lottery***

In the story The Lottery by Shirley Jackson, the main idea is that traditions can be dangerous when people follow them without thinking. The story is shocking because it shows how normal people can do terrible things just because it is a tradition. Jackson shows this idea with symbols, irony, and characters.

One big symbol in the story is the black box. The villagers use it every year for the lottery, but they never change it. It is old and broken, but they still use it because they believe it is important. This shows how traditions stay even if they are old and not useful anymore. The stones are another important symbol. At first, the children play with them, but later they use them to kill someone. This shows how normal things can become dangerous when people don’t question their actions.

Another way Jackson shows the problem of tradition is irony. In the beginning, the village is happy, the sun is shining, and people talk normally. This makes the ending more shocking because nobody expects that a person will die. Also, Tessie Hutchinson is excited for the lottery at first, but when she is chosen, she suddenly thinks it is unfair. This irony shows that people only question traditions when they are hurt by them. If Tessie was not picked, she probably would not complain.

The characters also show why tradition is dangerous. The villagers all go along with the lottery because they are used to it. Old Man Warner believes that stopping the lottery would be a bad thing and says that the younger people should not change it. He does not have any real reasons, only that it has always been done. This shows that people defend traditions even when they don’t make sense anymore. Tessie is also important because she does not care about the lottery until she is the victim. This shows that people do not think about unfair traditions until it affects them.

In conclusion, The Lottery shows that traditions are dangerous if people do not question them. The story uses symbols, irony, and characters to show how people follow customs without thinking. Jackson’s message is that people should think about their traditions and change them if they are unfair. This is important because many societies have traditions that are not good, but people keep doing them.