

In the short story 'The Lottery', written by Shirley Jackson, I studied about brainwashing and have learnt that blindly following tradition could be dangerous. The story is set in a New England village, on the 27th of June between 10am and noon. People in the village are doing a lottery. The person who won the lottery will get stoned to death. Mrs Hutcherson, who is a housewife in the story was trying to drag her family into it, when her family got picked so that it would be less chance for her to win the lottery. My purpose is to write about blindly following tradition and brainwashing, and to explain why they can be dangerous.

- 3 I believe that blindly following tradition can be dangerous. You can see that from the lottery the villagers do every year, which is their tradition and has been going on for decades. According to the story, some of their neighbour villages have been having that tradition as well but they had stopped, because they think it's bad. An example of blindly following tradition is on Mrs Hutcherson, who got stoned to death at the end, because she and all the people were blindly following that tradition. We learnt that we shouldn't blindly follow tradition, instead we should think and study about it, and consider if it's good to do or not.

- I've studied about brainwashing. Brainwashing is when someone tries to convince you to listen to their ideas, do what you're told... The old man Warner spread rumours around, saying that it's stupid not to be doing the lottery, since not doing it will bring them bad luck. He was trying to convince the villagers and everyone listened to him. A consequence of this is that there will be a person getting stoned to death every year for committing the lottery.

- 1 In conclusion, blindly following tradition and brainwashing are when you follow other's ideas without thinking if it's right or wrong yourself... An example of brainwashing was in Nazi Germany, where Hitler convinced German people to hate Jewish people. If you were Jewish, you had no human rights and many Jews were killed. An example of blindly following tradition is india, when they used to have a tradition that when a husband dies, the wife would have to get buried alive to show loyalty to him... I think people should be more aware of how dangerous blindly following tradition and getting brainwashed is. Children should be taught about that at school, so that there will be less people doing things that harm themselves or others.

430 words