

## Recommended Reading

### Life With Shirley

READ Shirley Jackson's two fictionalized accounts of life with her own large family, *Life Among the Savages* (1953) and *Raising Demons* (1957), when I was about 13. Now I am 36, much changed from the Pittsburgh kid of 23 years ago, and those two hard-worked paperbacks (now out of print) are still prominent on my bookshelf, along with all of Jackson's other novels and short story collections. Her vision of family continues to make me smile. She wrote with great wit and imagination about her four children without demeaning their lives for the sake of a laugh, and she clearly saw motherhood as a sexy and profoundly creative human condition. These are books for the sunshine, whatever else went on in her life. The prose is easy music; the love shines through.

Jackson is best-known as the author of "The Lottery," but she was not a one-story writer. Her books are like no others. And they all hold up, year after year.

Lindsay E. Edmunds  
Washington, D.C.