

Name:

Block:

"The Possibility of Evil" by Shirley Jackson

Questions /13

1. What is Miss Strangeworth trying to accomplish by sending out her letters? Does she succeed?  
/2
2. How would you describe the story's atmosphere at the beginning? How does this atmosphere help to emphasize the ending? /2
3. Why does Miss Strangeworth start calling Tommy Mr. Lewis? /1
4. Why don't the people ignore the letters they receive? /1
5. Explain the symbolism of the roses? /1
6. Explain the symbolism of the name of at least ONE of the characters in the story. /1
7. This story is about the circularity of evil, that "what goes around, comes around". What mistake does the protagonist make? Why does she get a nasty letter herself in the end? /2
8. By the end of the story, how will Miss Strangeworth's standing likely change in the community?  
/1
9. Give TWO possible explanations of the story's title. /2

## Vocabulary

Define the following words:

1. Daintily (p. 163)
2. Shanties (p. 163)
3. Infatuated (p. 166)
4. Appropriation (p. 167)
5. Negotiable (p. 169)
6. Translucent (p. 171)
7. Proverbial (p. 172)
8. Reprehensible (p. 172)