**“The Possibility of Evil” by Shirley Jackson**

**Vocabulary, During Reading Guide, & After Reading Questions**

**Vocab in Context: As you read, define the following words. They are bolded and definitions are provided for you in the story.**

1. infatuated –
2. rapt –
3. negotiable –
4. degraded –
5. translucent –
6. reprehensible –

**During Reading Guide: As you read, answer the following questions.**

*Stop at the bottom of page 188*

1. Based on the first two paragraphs, describe how Miss Strangeworth feels about the contributions her family has made to the town?
   1. Specific textual evidence:
   2. Explanation of how evidence supports your ideas:
   3. Specific textual evidence:
   4. Explanation of how evidence supports your ideas:

*Stop at line 114 on page 192*

1. Why does Miss Strangeworth take the time to greet so many people? What could be her motivations?
   1. Specific textual evidence:
   2. Explanation of how evidence supports your ideas:
   3. Specific textual evidence:
   4. Explanation of how evidence supports your ideas:

*Stop at line 135 on page 193*

1. What does the anecdote about the tourist mistaking Miss Strangeworth’s house for a museum suggest about the relationship between the main character and the rest of the town?
   1. Specific textual evidence:
   2. Explanation of how evidence supports your ideas:
   3. Specific textual evidence:
   4. Explanation of how evidence supports your ideas:

*Stop at line 278 on page 197*

1. Why doesn’t Miss Strangeworth sign the letters?
   1. Specific textual evidence:
   2. Explanation of how evidence supports your ideas:
2. What effect does the anonymity have on the people who receive them?
   1. Specific textual evidence:
   2. Explanation of how evidence supports your ideas:
   3. Specific textual evidence:
   4. Explanation of how evidence supports your ideas:

*Stop at line 304 on page 197*

1. How does Miss Strangeworth feel about the trouble she has caused for Dave and Linda?
   1. Specific textual evidence:
   2. Explanation of how evidence supports your ideas:
   3. Specific textual evidence:
   4. Explanation of how evidence supports your ideas:

**Vocab in Context: Choose the word in each row that is most different in meaning from the others.**

1. disinterested infatuated lovesick smitten
2. rapt inattentive absorbed immersed
3. negotiable certain indisputable inarguable
4. uplifted elevated honored degraded
5. clear translucent dense transparent
6. reprehensible admirable respectable praiseworthy

**After Reading Questions:**

1. What motivates Miss Strangeworth to write the letters?
2. What is ironic about the description of Miss Strangeworth’s behavior in public, the description of her roses and home, and the letters that she writes?
3. Was Miss Strangeworth’s punishment appropriate? Explain
4. Is Miss Strangeworth an evil person? Explain
5. Explain the title of the story.
6. What social or political issues are reflected in this story?
7. What is the theme?