THE POSSIBILITY OF EVIL

Selection Test A

Comprehension
Read each of the following questions. Then choose the letter of the best answer. (6 points each)

1. Miss Strangeworth stops calling Mr. Lewis “Tommy” when
   A. he receives one of her letters
   B. her father dies
   C. he starts working at the grocery store
   D. he forgets Miss Strangeworth’s tea

2. What troubles Helen Crane about her baby daughter?
   A. The Cranes are spoiling the baby.
   B. The baby does not move around enough.
   C. Helen’s mother does not like the child.
   D. The child seems to cry all the time.

3. Which word best describes Miss Strangeworth’s letters?
   A. anonymous
   B. colorful
   C. helpful
   D. tactful

4. Which sentence from the story best explains Miss Strangeworth’s motivation for sending the letters?
   A. “Many people seemed disturbed recently, Miss Strangeworth thought.”
   B. “Miss Strangeworth never delayed when things had to be done.”
   C. “The town where she lived had to be kept clean and sweet”
   D. “Miss Strangeworth had never had any self-consciousness before the children.”

5. You can infer that Miss Strangeworth mailed her letters after the post office closed because
   A. she was too busy during business hours
   B. she wanted to avoid talking to the postal clerk
   C. she didn’t want people to find out she was sending the letters
   D. she wanted the letters to arrive early the next day
SELECTION TEST A, CONTINUED

**Vocabulary**
Choose the answer that best explains the meaning of each underlined word. (6 points each)

6. What does **degraded** mean?
   - A. hurtful
   - B. corrupted
   - C. depressed
   - D. ignorant

7. A **negotiable** plan
   - A. can be changed
   - B. has unpleasant results
   - C. involves several people
   - D. is well organized

8. What does **infatuated** mean?
   - A. very young
   - B. extremely long
   - C. intensely fond
   - D. rarely right

9. A person who listens with **rapt** attention is
   - A. restless
   - B. daydreaming
   - C. moody
   - D. absorbed

10. A **translucent** bowl
    - A. does not shatter easily
    - B. allows light to shine through
    - C. is very lightweight
    - D. never needs polishing

**Written Response**

**Short Response**  Answer the following questions based on your knowledge of the story. Write a sentence or two on a separate sheet of paper. (10 points each)

11. Why does Miss Strangeworth object when town residents want to put up a statue of the Revolutionary War hero Ethan Allen?

12. Why does Dave Harris decide to deliver Miss Strangeworth’s letter himself instead of putting it in the mail?

**Extended Response**  Answer the following question based on your knowledge of the story. Write one or two paragraphs on a separate sheet of paper. (20 points)

13. Explain how you think the green envelope arrived on Miss Strangeworth’s hall floor. Tell what you think might have happened the night before.