

Name _____

“The Landlady” Assessment

1. “Now and again, he caught a whiff of a peculiar smell that seemed to **emanate** directly from her person.”

What does the word **emanate** mean?

- A. withdraw
- B. teased
- C. come forth
- D. stink

2. How would the story be different if it had been written from the landlady’s first person point of view?

- A. The author would include fewer details about the landlady.
- B. The reader would learn more about the landlady’s intentions.
- C. The author would describe narrative elements of the story in greater detail.
- D. The reader would see more dialogue between the landlady and Billy.

3. Which statement best represents a turning point in the story?

- A. when Billy recognizes the landlady’s intentions
- B. when Billy arrives in Bath
- C. when Billy realizes the parrot is not alive
- D. when Billy finds the guest book

4. Which word best describes the relationship between Billy and the landlady at the beginning of the story?

- A. broken
- B. unstable
- C. strong
- D. friendly

5. “There is nothing more **tantalizing** than a thing like this that lingers just outside the borders of one’s memory. He hated to give up.”

What word means the same as the word **tantalizing** as it is used in the sentence above?

- A. joyous
- B. teasing
- C. angry
- D. sad

6. Identify two words or phrases that the author uses to foreshadow Billy’s fate. Explain how each word or phrase contributes to what happens to Billy in the story.

7. Which phrase in the story best represents a creepy mood?

- A. “Each word was like a large black eye staring at him through the glass...”
- B. “On the carpet in front of the fire, a pretty little dachshund was curled up asleep...”
- C. “...her blue eyes traveled slowly all the way down the length of Billy’s body...”
- D. “I stuff *all* my little pets myself when they pass away.”

8. "Now, the fact that his landlady appeared to be slightly off her rocker didn't worry Billy in the least." (last full paragraph on p. 174)

Why does the author use the idiom "off her rocker" in the sentence above? (An idiom is an expression that means something other than the literal meanings of its individual words.)

- A. to show that the landlady is nice
- B. to show that the landlady is scary
- C. to show that the landlady is crazy
- D. to show that the landlady is kind

9. In what way can the landlady be described as a round character?

Flat – has only one outstanding character

Dynamic – undergoes a change in the story

Round – is complex and multidimensional

Static – does not change during the story

- A. Her character has a minor part.
- B. She is sneaky.
- C. Her character has a major part.
- D. She has many surprising qualities.

10. What does the taste of bitter almonds suggest about the tea?

- A. The tea was rotten.
- B. There was poison in the tea.
- C. There was almond milk in the tea.
- D. The tea contained pickled walnuts.

11. Choose one moment when Billy makes a fateful decision. Describe that decision and explain how it influenced the outcome of the story.