

"Lamb to the Slaughter"

By Roald Dahl

"Lamb to the Slaughter" is an expression that means *in an unconcerned manner, unaware of the impending catastrophe*.



Part I: Vocabulary

Please use your glossary sheets and research information for the following words.

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|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| - slaughter | - bewildered | - spanner |
| - tranquil | - peculiar | - alibi |
| - translucent | - frantic | - chink |
| - placid | - congealed | - exasperated |
| - blissful | - muttering | - hospitality |
| - luxuriate | - premises | |

Part II: Questions

Answer the following questions using complete sentences.

1. At the beginning of the story, what kind of wife does Mary appear to be?
2. What does the third paragraph of the story suggest about Mary's relationship with her husband?
3. Before Patrick breaks the news, what three clues are there to show that this particular evening is going to be a break with routine? How can you tell that Patrick Maloney is preoccupied?
4. What news does Patrick have for Mary? Dahl does not give us details, but what can we infer?
5. What clues does the writer give about how Mary feels as she hears this news?
6. Why does Mary do ahead to make supper after all?
7. What is Mary's first concern as she builds her alibi?
8. Why is Mary talking so much to the grocer, giving him so much information?

9. Do the police seem to suspect Mary as the murderer? How can you tell?

10. Other than the fact that she says she feels sick, why else does Mary want to stay in the room with the police?

11. How are the police doing Mary a favor by eating the leg of lamb?

12. Do you think the murder was "premeditated" or a "crime of passion"? Briefly justify your answer.

13. Do you think Mary Maloney is a normal person? Did she react in a normal way? Briefly justify your answer.

Part III: Analysis

Fill in the following chart using your Irony notes given in class. This narrative is full of dramatic irony, and if you analyze this piece in great detail, you may even find verbal and situation irony!

TYPE	EXAMPLE OF IRONY FROM THE STORY	EFFECTIVENESS IN THE STORY

