

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Lamb to the Slaughter

Answer the following questions using complete, thoughtful sentences.

1. Although she killed her husband, there's plenty of evidence in the story to support the argument that Mary Maloney actually loved her husband very much. Looking back over the text, write down two passages that show her love for Patrick.

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2. The author does not tell us what Patrick says to Mary to explain his reason for wanting to leave. What do you think was Patrick's reason for wanting to end his marriage? Why, do you suppose, the author doesn't tell us the reason? What is accomplished by using this storytelling strategy?

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3. Dahl could have had Mary kill Patrick with a package of steak or a block of ice. Why, do you suppose, he chose the leg of lamb? What might lambs represent symbolically? Why might that be an interesting choice?

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4. Dahl includes a few lines of black humor that hold a bit of dramatic irony for the reader. Look back over the story and write two passages that make the reader chuckle at the dark humor/thick irony of the lines.

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5. What influence does Mary's pregnancy have on the story?

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6. What influence does Patrick's profession have on the story?

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7. Is Mary a sympathetic character?

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Using the **ICE method** discussed in class, answer the following question in a complete paragraph.

1. One theme that could be taken away from this story is that appearances are not an accurate reflection of reality. How does the author demonstrate this theme?

**Quote options:**

- ““This is going to be a bit of a shock to you, I’m afraid,’ he sad.” (Dahl 2)
- ““...acted quite normal...very cheerful...wanted to give him a good supper...peas...cheesecake...impossible that she...” (Dahl 4)
- “All the old love and longing for him welled up inside her, and she ran over to him, knelt down beside him, and began to cry her heart out.” (Dahl 4)

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.