“Lamb to the Slaughter”
*by Roald Dahl (1953)*

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| **Text-Dependent Questions** | **Use textual evidence and analysis to support your answers.** |
| (1) At the beginning of the text, how does Dahl describe Mary’s characteristics?  |  |
| (2) Describe Patrick’s characteristics.  |  |
| (3) Dahl describes the husband’s glass of whisky and ice several times. How is it described? Why do you think he focuses on this object?  |  |
| (4) Describe the ways that Patrick’s demeanor and comments change Mary. Why does Mary undergo these changes?  |  |
| (5) How does Mary’s behavior at the grocery shop contradict what has happened earlier in the story?  |  |
| (6) Reread the paragraph that begins “And now, she told herself as she hurried back…” This paragraph starts off with a long sentence. How does the structure of the sentence reflect her thinking at that moment? |  |
| (7) The police officers do not suspect Mary for the murder. How does her behavior play a role in assuring this didn’t happen?  |  |
| (8) What happens to the murder weapon? How does Dahl assure his readers understand the irony of this event?  |  |
| (9) Notice how the lighting changes during the course of the text. How does this change in imagery reflect the changing character of Mary?  |  |
| (10) Research the allusion to the phrase “going like a lamb to the slaughter.” Why does Dahl title this story “Lamb to the Slaughter?” Who is the “lamb” in the story? Who, or what, is being “slaughtered”? |  |