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**“Lamb to the Slaughter”**

**By: Roald Dahl**

1. **ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS:**
	1. What is the narrative “Lamb to the Slaughter” mostly about?
	2. What narrative decisions did Roald Dahl make as a writer in order to make his story interesting and suspenseful for his readers?
	3. How would the story be different if told from a different character’s perspective?
2. **FIRST READ AND ANNOTATIONS**
	1. Annotate for narrative elements: characters, setting, major plot events, etc.
	2. Annotate for narrative writing techniques: imagery, dialogue, etc.
		1. **First read question: What is “Lamb to the Slaughter” mostly about?** (One sentence summary, one sentence theme.)
3. **ACTIVITY: CLOSE READ FOR COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS**
	1. What perspective is this story told from? How does this impact what the reader does and doesn’t know throughout the story? Give one specific example of something the reader does know, and one example of something they do not.

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* 1. Make an inference: What does Patrick Maloney say to Mary Maloney between paragraphs 20 and 21? Why do you think that?

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* 1. Why is Patrick’s profession (job) important to the story?

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* 1. Why does Mary Maloney insist the police eat the leg of lamb?

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* 1. The line “probably right under our very noses” in paragraph 71 is an example of dramatic irony. Explain why this quote should be funny to readers.

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* 1. Mary Maloney is a complicated character, not all bad, not all good. How is she characterized? What kind of woman is she?

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1. **ACTIVITY: SEQUENCE THE STORY**
	* “For God’s sake,” he said, hearing her but not turning around. “Don’t make supper for me. I’m going out.”
	* “Tired Darling?”
	* “It’s the old story,” he said, “get the weapon and you’ve got the man.”
	* “This is going to be a bit of a shock to you, I’m afraid,” he said.
	* When the clock said ten minutes to five, she began to listen, and a few moments later, punctually as always, she heard the tires on the gravel outside…
	* “Personally, I think it’s right here on the premises.”
	* All the old love and longing for him welled up inside her, and she rean over to him, knelt down beside him, and began to cry her heart out.
	* “Quick! Come quick! Patrick’s dead!”
	* Soon, other men began to come into the house. First a doctor, then two detectives, one of whom she knew by name.
2. How long did it take your group to sequence the events of the story?

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1. What strategies did you use to figure out the order of events?

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1. Did you find this activity challenging or easy? Why?

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1. **ACTIVITY: CREATE A MOCK TRIAL DEFENSE SPEECH!**
* MOCK TRIAL DEFENSE EXEMPLAR:
1. **Introduce yourself professionally**
	* Good morning ladies and gentlemen of the jury, my name is Roberto Magnet and it is my privilege to represent Penelope Granger in this case before you today.
2. **Tell the jury/judge what the prosecutor (your adversary) said, and what the real “truth” is**
	* You have heard the prosecutor explain what she hopes will be proven, but the prosecutor did not tell you **all** the facts.
	* The prosecutor has explained that my client was “identified” as the bank robber, but in fact this supposed eye-witness is a man that has held a grudge against my client for a long time, and he has made many inconsistent statements about the case.
	* The prosecutor has explained that my client was found the next day with over 50 thousand dollars, but none of those bills’ serial numbers was matched to any bank, and my client had the money due to a recent inheritance.
	* The prosecutor has stated that my client confessed to the robbery, but this statement was made to the police under coercion, and my client is mentally ill and didn’t know what he was saying.
3. **State clearly and firmly the action you want the judge/jury to take**
	* So we would ask you to keep an open mind and listen to ALL the evidence, and return a verdict of “not guilty”.  Thank you.
* REFLECT ON THE EXEMPLAR:
1. What did you notice about the exemplar that you want to borrow?
	1. Part 1:
	2. Part 2:
	3. Part 3:
* DRAFT YOUR DEFENSE SPEECH:
	1. Introduce yourself professionally

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* 1. Tell the jury/judge what the prosecutor (your adversary) said, and what the real “truth” is

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* 1. State clearly and firmly the action you want the judge/jury to take

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1. **ACTIVITY: WHOLE-CLASS DISCUSSION**
	1. What narrative decisions (narrative techniques AND elements) did Roald Dahl make as a writer in order to make his story interesting and suspenseful for his readers?

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| Before Discussion: | During Discussion: |

* 1. How would the story be different if told from Patrick Maloney’s perspective?

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* 1. Make an inference: What does Patrick Maloney say to Mary Maloney between paragraphs 20 and 21? Why do you think that?

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* 1. This story is dark and funny. What makes it dark? What makes it humorous?

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1. **ACTIVITY: FORMAL WRITING RESPONSE (A STRONG ACES PARAGRAPH RESPONDING TO QUESTION \_\_\_\_\_)**

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**For Teacher Use Only:**

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