“Lamb to the Slaughter” by Roald Dahl Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
 Dated\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Period\_\_\_\_

1. The title of the story,” Lamb to the Slaughter,” has several meanings when viewed in context with the story’s events.
2. The title is a metaphor that was first used in the Bible and in Chaucer. Thus, it is an ALLUSION or reference to the Biblical or literary meaning.
Write this meaning: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. What person in the story is the lamb being led to slaughter?

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1. Explain why this person’s experience as the “lamb” fits the full meaning of the metaphor.

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1. What events in the story allow us to interpret this metaphor in a LITERAL way?
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2. So, how does the metaphor, when taken literally here, reverse the original meaning?

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1. What makes this reversal of meaning, in the context of the story, so funny?

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1. Why is this reversal of meaning an example of situation irony?

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1. Look for more irony in the story.
2. The story has many examples of dramatic irony. List five of them.
a.

b.

c.

d.

e.

1. Looking at the story from a feminist lens, how do you view the relationship
 between the husband and wife of the story?
2. How is Mrs. Maloney viewed by her husband? Explain how you know using at least one quote from the story.
3. How does she view him? Explain how you know using at least one quote from the story.
4. What roles do Mr. Maloney and Mrs. Maloney each assume in the relationship?
5. Do these roles affect the power balance in the relationship?
6. How do you feel about the actions Mrs. Maloney takes after she commits her crime?
7. How do Mrs. Maloney’s actions after the crime compare to her actions before the crime?
8. What do her actions after the crime reveal to us about her character and how do we change our view of her?
9. What do you think about her choice of murder weapons?
10. Within the context of the story, do you think Mrs. Maloney had just cause to commit murder? Give two reasons for your answer.
11. Was her crime premeditated? How does your answer here affect her answer for number 16 above?
12. How is Mrs. Maloney viewed by the police officers?
13. Do you think Mrs. Maloney deserves to go ‘undiscovered” for her crime?
14. The story was published in 1053. What might Dahl be saying in this darkly comic story about the ways men and women are viewed by society in the 1950’s? Can you comment about how you think society has changed in its views of men and women today? Have any of these views stayed the same?
What are your feelings about your findings? Are you inspired in any way? Angry? Called to act?