

# Lamb to the Slaughter Comprehension Questions

**Directions:** Answer the following comprehension questions over "Lamb to the Slaughter." (use a separate sheet of paper)

1. What do you think Patrick told his wife when she came home?
2. Why doesn't Dahl tell the reader exactly what he said to Mary?
3. Why was it a bad time to tell her this?
4. What do you think the setting of the story is like? Where in the world do you think this takes place?
5. Why is the title of the story important? What does it mean?
6. Describe one symbol from the story that you see:
7. When in the story did you realize that this was a murder story? Why? 11. Do you sympathize with the murderer in this story? Why?
8. What are Mary Maloney's reasons for covering up the crime?
9. In what ways is this story ironic? (Dramatic irony is when the reader knows something that the characters do not. Situational irony is when there is a contrast between what the reader expects to happen and what really occurs.) Give specific details.