

Lamb to the Slaughter Study Guide

Directions: With your assigned partner, complete this study guide over our story. We will review this at the end of the class, so work quickly and efficiently. Anything from this study guide IS FAIR GAME TO BE USED ON OUR UPCOMING TEST!

❖ CHARACTERS

- Protagonist- the main character, struggles against the antagonist
 - The protagonist in Lamb to the Slaughter is:
 - 1.

- Antagonist- conflicting force against the protagonist; can be another character, a force of nature, or the protagonist struggling against him/herself.
 - List at least two antagonists in Lamb to the Slaughter:
 - 2.
 - 3.

- Minor character- a character who only shows up a few times, in movies we would call them “extras”
 - List one minor character in Lamb to the Slaughter:
 - 4.

❖ POINT OF VIEW- the perspective from which a story is told

- Narrator- the “voice” that tells a story; may or may not reflect the opinions and attitudes of the author
- First person- a narrator that uses first-person pronouns (I, me, my, myself, etc) when telling the story; **focuses on the thoughts, feelings, and opinions of a specific character**
- Second Person- a narrator where second person personal pronouns are used (you, your, our). The ‘you’ usually refers to the protagonist
- Third person limited- a narrator that uses the third-person perspective with the third person pronouns (he, she, it, they, etc); observes the action as an outside observer, revealing the thoughts, feelings, and opinions of only **one** character
- Third person omniscient- uses third person perspective; however, this narrator observes the action of **several** characters
 - What kind of narrator do we have in this story:
 - 5.

❖ **THEME**- the main idea, message in the story

- List two possible themes and cite evidence from the text to back each up:
6.

7.

❖ **EXPOSITION**- technique where background information about a character is given. This information can be presented through dialogue, narrator descriptions, flashbacks, etc.

- The exposition of Lamb to the Slaughter includes:
8.

9.

10.

❖ **TONE**- the manner in which words are said, or the manner in which literature is written: sarcastic, ironic, satirical, angry, hopeful, etc.

- **IRONY**- used in writing to show the opposite of what the speaker really means, or to illustrate a situation that seems strange or unexpected
 - **Example:** Banning Fahrenheit 451, a book that discourages the banning of books
- **DRAMATIC IRONY**- irony that is understood by the audience but not grasped by the characters in the play. Our story ends with dramatic irony.
 - Explain it in the space below:
11.

❖ **COMPREHENSION**- after you read a story, it's important to digest it in order to gain a better understanding of the story.

12. What does Mr. Maloney announce? What reaction would you expect from Mrs. Maloney?

13. Do you think the murder was “premeditated” or a “crime of passion?” Explain.

Name _____ Period _____

14. Explain what Mary Maloney does after she murders her husband.

15. Why does the writer concentrate on such detail as “their voices thick and sloppy because their mouths were full of meat?”

16. Mrs. Maloney commits what her lawyer might call “a crime of passion.” Does that justify her crime and what would your verdict be if you were a jury member at her trial?

17. Do you think Mary Maloney is a “normal” person? Did she react in a normal way? Why or why not?